



4th CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP ON MADAGASCAR (ICG-M)
ADDIS ABABA, 6 JANUARY 2010, AT 10:00 AM

COMMUNIQUE

1. At the initiative of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union (AU), Mr. Jean Ping, and as part of the efforts to re-launch the process for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar, the International Contact Group (ICG) on Madagascar held its fourth consultative meeting in Addis Ababa, under the aegis of the AU, on 6 January 2010. In addition to the AU, the meeting brought together high-level representatives of the following organizations and countries: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), United Nations, International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union (EU). Libya, current chair of the AU, and Tunisia, in its capacity as the country chairing the Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the month of January 2010, as well as the African and the permanent members of the UN Security Council also participated in the meeting.

2. The purpose of the meeting was to re-launch the process for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar, following the deadlock in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 November 2009, particularly the distribution of ministerial portfolios between the Malagasy political camps, and in light of the developments that followed, including the meeting of the Leaders of three of the political camps in Maputo, from 4 to 8 December 2009, and the unilateral measures taken by the *de facto* authorities, namely the abrogation of the Transitional Charter and the dismissal of the consensus Prime Minister, alleging that the implementation of the Maputo Agreements and the Addis Ababa Additional Act had become untenable.

3. The participants reviewed the developments in Madagascar since the 4th meeting of Leaders of the political camps in Madagascar, held in Addis Ababa from 3 to 6 November 2009. They noted the efforts made by their respective organizations and countries to support the implementation of the Agreements that had been signed. In that respect, the AU informed the participants of the measures it had taken in the wake of the Addis Ababa meeting in a bid to establish the Follow-up Mechanism provided for under Article 12 of the Addis Ababa Additional Act.

4. The participants listened to a statement by Mr. Joaquim Chissano, Head of the SADC Mediation Team, who coordinated the international facilitation efforts, on the meeting between three of the four Leaders of the political camps in Madagascar, held in Maputo from 4 to 8 December 2009, as well as on the impediments to the implementation of the Inter-Malagasy Agreements concluded in Maputo and Addis Ababa.

5. The participants recalled the cardinal principles which should guide the process for a way out of the crisis and return to constitutional rule, and, in this respect, they urged the Malagasy parties to conclude expeditiously the full agreement on a transitional arrangement, building on what they had already agreed to in the Maputo Agreements of 8 and 9 August 2009 and the Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 November 2009, duly negotiated and signed by the four Leaders of the political camps in Madagascar. They also reaffirmed the determination of their respective organizations and countries to support the Malagasy parties in the implementation of these Agreements in a spirit of reconciliation and compromise.

6. The members of the International Contact Group reaffirmed that the transition, which should be as short as possible, should enable the organization, in a consensual and inclusive manner, of elections that are free, credible and transparent, likely to contribute to a sustainable way out of the crisis. The Malagasy authorities of the consensual and inclusive transition shall agree on the timetable and conditions for the organization, process and supervision of the elections.

7. To that end, the International Contact Group lent its full support to the initiative envisaged on an *ad hoc* basis by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in view of the urgency of the situation and the need to re-launch the process for a way out of the crisis, to elaborate and present to the Malagasy parties a compromise solution on the outstanding issues to resolve the current stalemate. These measures should focus on all transition institutions, including the Government, and on the organisation of elections, and should facilitate the implementation of the Maputo Agreements of 8 and 9 August 2009 and the Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 November 2009. In this context, and in order to lend the full support of the international community to this initiative, it was agreed that the Chairperson of the Commission would rely on a consultative group of ICG-M experts to elaborate the afore-mentioned compromise solutions.

8. The ICG urgently requested the Malagasy parties to forward to the AU Commission, within two (2) weeks, their reactions to the compromise solutions to be submitted to them before 25 January 2010. The ICG shall meet in Addis Ababa after the submission by the Malagasy parties of their reactions.

9. In the meantime, the ICG encouraged the AU Commission to intensify its efforts to finalise the rapid establishment of the Follow-up Mechanism provided for in the Addis Ababa Additional Act. The Mechanism would facilitate the implementation of commitments made, the monitoring of the situation on the ground and the coordination of the efforts to support the process for a way out of the crisis in Madagascar.

10. The participants, once again, highlighted the need for the rapid return to constitutional order via a consensual process involving all Malagasy political stakeholders. They urged the Malagasy political camps to return in good faith to the spirit of compromise and consensus which enabled the negotiations that led to the signing of the Maputo Agreements of 8 and 9 August 2009 and the Addis Ababa Additional Act of 6 November 2009. They also requested them to refrain from any statement and action which could complicate the search for a sustainable way out of the crisis or jeopardise the safety of people and property.

11. The members of the International Contact Group on Madagascar agreed to continue to work together under the auspices of the AU, and in support of its efforts, to promote a rapid settlement of the crisis and the return to constitutional order in Madagascar.

Addis Ababa, 6 January 2010