

## **Talking Points for the Meeting on 24th - 25th July in Seychelles**

The extraordinary SADC summit in Luanda on 1 June 2012 concluded that the transition has reached a stalemate and that a bilateral meeting between H.E. President Marc Ravalomanana and the President of the Transition, H.E. Andry Rajoelina is urgently required. Our country's general interest will be promoted by addressing the following points:

### **1. The Amended Roadmap must be implemented:**

The Roadmap has become the only framework for a transition that is supported by the majority of political movements in Madagascar as well as by the international community. We have said that the Roadmap is not perfect and we trust that in future improvements will be made to some of the critical elements. We have objected several times to the manner in which the Roadmap has been implemented. A dispute about it was referred to SADC on 22 November 2011. (In summary the dispute concentrated on the procedure followed to establish the executive Government and the composition of the Executive. We demonstrated that the transitional President disregarded the Prime Minister's powers and authority and that a foreign government also interfered in the process. We explained the detrimental implications of these violations of the Roadmap for the transition in general). We are also very critical of the fact that some aspects of the Roadmap have not been implemented or are violated (such as the principles of power-sharing, inclusivity, proportionality, etc).

Implementation of a legitimate Roadmap in full compliance with its letter and spirit is the key to a successful transition. While the Roadmap is treated by the transitional authority as a frustrating obstacle for its unilateral rule, we insist that the transition or state institutions will not enjoy legitimacy while consensus agreements about the transition are circumvented or ignored.

We note that this is not only the view of the Mouvanse Ravalomanana but that of the international community and especially the African community also. Due to a lack of progress with the Roadmap they refuse to lift Madagascar's suspension from the AU and SADC and to terminate the sanctions that are applied.

A key to unlocking the current stalemate is my return without any conditions to Madagascar. The condition in the original Roadmap that the political and security conditions must improve to the point that it will be conducive for my return, was amended by SADC in Sandton on 11-12 June 2011 towards an 'unconditional return' (see the Communiqué par. 16). It means that factors such as amnesty, the warrant for my arrest, court judgements against me or security considerations cannot be used against my return. Therefore, closing Malagasy airports on January 21, 2012 to prevent me from arriving in the country is clear evidence of the personal vendetta against me. The transitional authority is expected to remove all the obstacles they have created for my return (see amended Article 20 of the Roadmap).

### **2. Leadership role of SADC Organ troika:**

Madagascar is a member of SADC and therefore accepted that the Organ has a role to play in times of crisis. Since 2009 SADC has taken the lead in crafting a peace process and transition based on the

Roadmap. The Mouvançe Ravalomanana accepts that only the SADC Organ troika can mediate the transition process. The regional organisation informs the African Union's Peace and Security Council of the developments.

### **3. Transitional election:**

We should not expect that an election in Madagascar will solve our country's political problems. We first need a negotiated political agreement about our future. An election will then be able to legitimise the agreement and provide a publicly-endorsed foundation for its implementation.

The Mouvançe Ravalomanana supports the objective to hold an election at the end of the transition. Our support is based on the belief that the election must comply with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007) and the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2004). An election can be held only after full implementation of the transitional framework. We also insist that the electoral commission (CENIT) must be independent and have the capacity to manage the election, and that the electorate must be prepared for the elections in the form of countrywide voter education programmes. It is very important that special arrangements be made to deal with electoral disputes and to prevent electoral violence. It is therefore imperative on all the participants to commit themselves to accept the election results and that the military must be confined to their barracks during the election period.

All the political actors in Madagascar should commit themselves to the authority of an election. It means that the voters will decide and have the final say. Politicians should not try to make arrangements among themselves.

No restrictions should be placed on the right of any Malagasy citizen who has a constitutional right to participation to do so. Any attempt to disqualify a candidate for political reasons should be rejected. Leaders derive their legitimacy from elections and therefore all leaders must accept the authority of the voters. We have to restore constitutionality in Madagascar and therefore any deviation from the universal application of the Constitution to all citizens should be prevented. For the sake of the transition's legitimacy and general acceptance of the election, we call on all political leaders to participate in the elections.

### **4. Security arrangements:**

We have to distinguish between immediate and long-term security arrangements necessary to stabilise the current situation and to create an environment in which an election can be conducted.

*The first immediate requirement* is that the neutrality of the military must be established. They should withdraw from any political involvement in the transition.

*The second immediate requirement* is that all the militia in the country must be disarmed and demobilised. They created a very high risk for security in the country and it must be removed as a matter of priority. Agreement must be reached how the Government can remove this security risk.

*Thirdly*, in accordance with the stated objective that human rights must be established as a prerequisite for a successful election, the personal security of all political participants must be secured. It is a matter that requires a negotiated agreement, including how its implementation will be enforced.