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GENERAL PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL AND “LE MOUVEMENT DES FORCES DÉMOCRATIQUES DE LA CASAMANCE” (MFDC) (THE MOVEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE CASAMANCE - MFDC)

Preamble

The Government of the Republic of Senegal (hereafter referred to as the State) and “Le Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance” (the Movement of Democratic Forces in the Casamance) (hereafter referred to as the MFDC), the two hereafter referred to as “The Parties” in the presence of ambassadors from friendly countries, of representatives from regional, international and humanitarian organisations and NGO’s;

Conscious of the devastating effects provoked by more than twenty years of conflict and fighting in the Casamance, such as the economic regression of the region, the suffering of the population as well as the risks incurred by the presence of anti personal mines;

Conscious of the causes of the failure of preceding agreements and determined to take heed thereof at present;

Convinced of the uselessness of a military solution and that only a solemn commitment on the part of the combatants of the MFDC behind the Abbé Augustin Diamacoune Senghor can put an end to hostilities;

Convinced of the necessity of establishing a climate of trust between the negotiators, responsible and determined to go ahead after two decades of distrust;

Reaffirming the relevance of the frustrations felt by one part of the population of the Casamance, but also the necessity of applying corrective measures through the realization of a specific programme of development in this resource-rich region;

Agree on the following matters:

Clause one: THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT

1. As the law of amnesty is already in force the State engages to provide general security, free circulation of people and goods, in the Casamance as well as in all the rest of the territory, in accordance with the Constitution and to guarantee the exercise of fundamental freedoms in particular freedom of speech and expression in order to favour the political dialogue in the resource-rich region of the Casamance.

2. The MFDC solemnly decides to definitively give up armed combat and the use of violence as a means to conduct the political combat which it wants to conduct.

Clause 2: THE GUARANTEE AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE AGREEMENT

1. In order to supervise the peace process and to settle disputes that might arise in a peaceful way, a Council of Surveillance of the Peace Agreement (CSAP) has been created, composed of representatives from the State, from the MFCD, from the civil society and from all resource organisations. Only the interpretation of the measures of the Peace Agreement and related protocols to the exclusion of penal infringements and manifestly civil disputes come under the competence of this Council. It can take act itself in order to prevent difficulties and can be consulted by any person or structure engaged in the process of peace and reconstruction in the Casamance.

2. The Parties engage to establish an observation group composed of representatives from the Government, militaries, ex-combatants from the MFDC and representatives from the political wing of the MFDC, in charge of carrying out the process of demobilization of the military wing of the MFDC and the stocking of its arms under the control of the C.I.C.R., of the Raddho and the AJAC.

3. The MFDC engages to billet, to disarm and to demobilize its military wing according to the procedures defined by the ANRAC.

4. The Parties will give to the ANRAC all kind of information that could help to facilitate the programme of de-pollution of the region. Within this framework, the general forms of participation of both Parties in this specific part of the reconstruction are to be found in the Memorandum of Understanding (Protocol Agreement) concerning the technical aspects of the peace process.

5. The Parties engage to designate delegates immediately to the Commission of consultation in charge of starting sincere negotiations without delay. The MFDC can ask assistance from any resource person if they find it useful and necessary.

Clause 3 REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS

1. Exceptionally, the State of Senegal accepts to integrate the ex-combatants of the MFDC in the paramilitary corps, according to the principle of voluntary service following the conditions in force.

2. With the help of the “Agence Nationale pour la Relance des Activités économiques et sociales en Casamance, ANRAC (The National Agency for the Stimulation of Economic and Social Activities in the Casamance) the Parties accept the principle to organize the necessary framework for the helping of ex-combatants from the MFDC who wish to do so, to start and finance income generating projects in the sectors that interest them.

3. The Parties encourage the group of Casamance officials, village chiefs and religious leaders in the Casamance to develop dynamics of forgiveness and reconciliation paving the way for the return to and reintegration in their native villages of the MFDC ex-combatants.

Clause 4 STIMULATION OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1. The State encourages the ANRAC to mobilize the NGO's and bodies specialized in de-pollution, together with the Army and the MFDC ex-combatants to immediately start the clearance of landmines in the Casamance in order to facilitate the resumption of economic activities.

2. The State engages to take all measures in order to facilitate the returning home of refugees and displaced persons and to give necessary support in favour of their social reintegration.

3. The State engages to guarantee the reconstruction of the Casamance like it has been stated in the Memorandum of Understanding (Protocol agreement) concerning the technical aspects of the peace process.

CLAUSE 5 FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

The present agreement comes into force at the date of its signing. On the strength of this the Parties have signed it in two original copies.

Ziguinchor, 30 December, 2004.

For the Movement of the Democratic Forces in the Casamance, Abbé Augustin Diamacoune
SENGHOR

For the Republic of Senegal Me Ousmane NGOM, Minister of the Interior

Signed by the President of the Republic H. E. Maître Abdoulaye Wade