



UNOCA

EXPERTS MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN STRATEGY TO ADDRESS THE LRA THREAT

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE AU SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE LRA ISSUE - KAMPALA, UGANDA, 27 JULY 2012

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF MR. ABOU MOUSSA, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CENTRAL AFRICA AND HEAD OF UNOCA

1 - Dear journalists, allow me to thank you for coming and for all that you are doing to sensitize the national and international community on issues related to the LRA threat.

2 - It is important to recall that the lead role in that fight is being taken by the African Union and the governments of the 4-affected countries, namely the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Southern Sudan and Uganda, with the active support of the **United Nations**.

3 - So far, one of the most important achievements has been the endorsement on 29 June by the Security Council, of a regional strategy on the fight against the LRA developed by the United Nations in coordination with the AU and other stakeholders and partners. The endorsement of that Strategy represents a crucial step in the execution of the coordination role assigned to my Office in November 2011 by the Security Council.

4 -The Strategy is the outcome of broad, extensive and inclusive consultations among various stakeholders, including the African Union, other UN Missions, Agencies, Funds and Programmes on the ground, as well as with development partners and non-governmental organizations working on the LRA and on human rights issues.

5 - As you may be aware, the strategy focuses on five key priorities: 1) provision of support to the AU's RCI; 2) the protection of civilians; 3) the expansion of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration (DDRRR) activities to cover all LRA-affected areas; 4) the formulation of a coordinated

humanitarian and child protection response in all LRA-affected areas; and 5) provision of support to the LRA-affected Governments in the fields of peacebuilding, human rights, rule of law and development to address the impact of LRA activities in affected communities.

6 – So, there is need for a multi-dimensional approach to address in a decisive and sustainable manner the activities of the LRA and its long-term impact on the affected countries and communities. Such an approach will no doubt include but not limited to the capture of LRA leaders and the dissolution of the group and its military capability and includes addressing long term development challenges, including, extension of State authority, return of refugees and IDPs to their communities of origin and rehabilitation/reintegration of child soldiers. .

7 – During the last three days we held very constructive discussions in Entebbe to discuss modalities relating to the operationalization of the regional strategy. This was an opportunity to discuss ways to implement the UN strategy to address the LRA threat that I mentioned a few minutes ago. We have identified priority actions that can be undertaken without any financial implications and those that will require the mobilization of additional funds. **In this last case, the support of donors and other strategic partners will be crucial and most welcome if we are to achieve our mission.**

8 - As a result of the Entebbe Meeting, we have now come up with preliminary draft programmatic document that outlines the main projects and gives a clear idea of what is needed to be done without delay.

9 – The LRA has caused and continues to inflict unimaginable suffering to communities in the four affected countries. While reduced in numbers, it remains a serious threat to people in the region as it operates in small and very mobile groups. Bringing an end to the suffering of the affected populations requires increased immediate, coordinated and concerted action..

10 - I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to civil Society Organizations, NGOs, both national and international, donor partners and other stakeholders from the affected countries on the ground for their continued cooperation and partnership.

11. In the same vein, I would like to thank the CAR, DRC and South Sudan for their continued commitment and cooperation in the pursuit of our common goal to put an end to the activities of the LRA.

12 – Lastly but not the least, I wish to thank the Government of Uganda for its hospitality and for its continued support to the fight against the LRA. Our exchanges, yesterday, with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of the Ministry of Defence, including the Chief of Defence Force (CDF), once again helped to underscore the continued commitment of the highest authorities in the pursuit of that fight.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

THE POSITION OF UNOCA REGARDING THE LOCATION OF JOSEPH KONY

Central African Republic authorities used to say that their country is the “epicenter of the LRA”. But some recent reports notice that Joseph Kony is now in Darfur. We are not able to confirm or to invalidate this information. The African Union will be in the position to give us an indication when the Special Envoy for the LRA will have met with Sudanese authorities to discuss this crucial issue. He introduced a request in this regard. While waiting, we would also want to express the hope that, with the expertise of American military advisers deployed in the region in 2011, the real location of Kony will be confirmed very soon.