COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 19 June 2007

11000/07

PESC 797
COAFR 219
ACP 116

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject: Uganda
- Council conclusions

At its meeting on 18 June 2007, the General Affairs and External Relations Council adopted the conclusions on Uganda as set out in Annex.
Council conclusions on Uganda

1. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the ongoing peace talks in Juba between the Government of Uganda and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), aimed at ending the long-running conflict in Northern Uganda, which also has had a devastating impact on the wider region, particularly in terms of the many civilians killed, abducted and displaced. The cessation of hostilities agreement is of fundamental importance for the whole process.

2. The Council welcomes the appointment of former President of Mozambique, His Excellency Joaquim Chissano, as the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for LRA affected areas and commends his efforts to support the mediation process, including through direct intervention with both parties. It also welcomes the contribution of the African Union to the mediation effort and commends the continuing mediation offered by the Government of Southern Sudan, notably through its Vice-President, Dr. Riek Machar, as chief mediator.

3. The Council underlines the continued importance of reaching a peace deal which provides both peace and justice to the local communities, and which is compatible with the wishes of the local communities, national laws and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

4. The Council welcomes the improvements in the security and humanitarian situation in Northern Uganda, whilst recognising that up to one million people remain displaced, and urges the Government of Uganda to continue to address the humanitarian and development needs of the local communities, in fruitful cooperation with the local authorities, NGOs, the UN system and others.
5. The EU reaffirms its commitment to maintaining its significant humanitarian assistance to Northern Uganda and to provide support to the peace process, as appropriate. It urges the Government of Uganda to prioritise its assistance focused on long-term recovery and development in Northern Uganda and offers assistance to the Government's efforts on this regard. The EU will work with the Government of Uganda and the international community to this end.

6. The Council underlines the importance of the Government of Uganda continuing to strengthen the democratisation process and respect for human rights and the rule of law. In this regard, it expresses its concerns regarding certain negative tendencies, including the gradual deterioration of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, manifested most notably through the case against the People’s Redemption Army suspects, and regarding human rights violations in the violent forced disarmament process in the Karamoja region.

7. The Council commends the Government of Uganda for the constructive role that it plays in the region with regard to the establishment of an East African Union, the Great Lakes Conference, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as relations with Rwanda and Burundi. It encourages the Government to maintain a policy of non-interference in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The Council also commends the Government of Uganda for deploying, under very difficult circumstances, an internationally mandated peace-keeping mission in Somalia.