

**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF EXPERTS OF THE
BUREAU OF THE 9TH GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE LUSAKA
AGREEMENT**

Laico Regency Hotel, 15th October 2009

This brief report is presented in the order of the Agenda items.

1. OPENING OF THE EXPERTS' MEETING

a) Welcoming remarks by the Director LATF

The Experts' Meeting commenced on Thursday at 0930 hrs at the Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi. The Director of the Task Force, Mr. Bonaventure Ebayi, gave welcoming remarks. He then invited Mr. Erasmus Tarimo, the representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council of the Lusaka Agreement to give his opening remarks and chair the Experts Meeting.

b) Opening Remarks by the Representative of the President of the 9th Governing Council

In his opening remarks, Mr. Tarimo recognized the presence of all the delegates and officially declared the meeting open.

2. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following Agenda was presented by the Chairman and unanimously adopted by the Experts:

1. Opening of the Experts' Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Presentation of the Progress Report of the Task Force:
 - (i) Administration, Operations, Implementation of the Decisions of the 9th Governing Council Meeting and Programme of Work 2008/2009
 - (ii) Finance, including the Audit Report – Financial Year 2008/2009

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- (iii) Status on the disposal of contraband elephant ivory seized in Singapore

4. Proposals for consideration:

- i. Settlement of unpaid dues to LATF Staff
- ii. Review of Staff Travel Allowances
- iii. Celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of the Lusaka Agreement
- iv. Supplementary Budget – FY 2009/2010 (*to cater for items (i)-(iii) above*)

5. Any Other Business (A.O.B)

6. Drafting of the Report and Recommendations to the BGC meeting

7. Adoption of the Report and Proposals to the Bureau of the Governing Council

8. Closure of the Experts' Meeting

Experts from the following Parties, who are members of the Bureau attended the meeting: Republics of Congo, Uganda and The United Republic of Tanzania.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORTS

The Director of the Task Force and his team presented in detail the Progress Reports of the Task Force for the period October 2008 to September 2009, which included the following aspects:

- (i) Administration, Operations, Implementation of the Decisions of the 9th Governing Council Meeting and Programme of Work 2008/2009
- (ii) Finance, including the Audit Report – Financial Year 2008/2009
- (iii) Status on the disposal of contraband elephant ivory seized in Singapore

The Experts appreciated the efforts made and the positive results achieved by the Task Force, which included successful law enforcement operations, training programmes undertaken for the National Bureaus and awareness workshops and publicity of the work of the Task Force and the Agreement. However, the Experts observed that the reporting was largely qualitative and recommended that the reports should depict both qualitative and quantitative information.

LATF/BGC2/9.3.4

On the review of national legislations, the Expert from Congo confirmed that Congo has since November 2008 adopted a new wildlife Act and are developing regulations for Operationalization of the legislation. Similarly, Tanzania reported that they had just passed a new wildlife Act (Act No. 5, 2009) and they are currently developing regulations to operationalize this statute. Uganda also reported that it is in the process of reviewing its Wildlife Act and putting in place three other laws on wildlife conservation (Wildlife education, wildlife training and domestication of CITES and the Lusaka Agreement).

Concerning settlement of contribution arrears, Congo reported that a mechanism is now in place to progressively clear these dues and they have indeed started remitting the funds. Tanzania indicated that they had already transferred funds to clear their contribution dues for the current financial year. Uganda, while reporting that they had paid a substantial portion of the arrears in the previous financial year, stated that they had made a submission in the domestic arrears, as well as a request for supplementary budget to their Treasury to cater for the annual contributions.

The Experts noted with concern the inactive participation of the Kingdom of Lesotho in the affairs of the Lusaka Agreement. They recommended that the Task Force should be strategic in its sensitization visit to Lesotho so as to focus on officials at key decision making levels and likewise in its drive to attract more members to the Agreement.

On the 6.5 tonnes of contraband ivory seized in Singapore in 2002, the Experts noted the complications surrounding its disposal. . Particular concerns were raised regarding the positions taken by Governments of Zambia (a Party to the Lusaka Agreement) and Malawi who have requested the return of the confiscated specimens to their respective countries. In this regard the Experts recommended that the Task Force continues with widespread sensitization activities with respect to CITES regulations among the concerned Parties and other stakeholders, and thereafter the Task Force should proceed with the implementation of the Governing Council decision on the disposal.

The Experts Meeting then adopted the Progress, Financial as well as Audit reports and recommended for approval by the Bureau of the Governing Council.

4. PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Director of the Task Force and his team presented the following proposals for consideration:

- i. Settlement of unpaid dues to LATF Staff
- ii. Review of Staff Travel Allowances
- iii. Celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of the Lusaka Agreement
- iv. Supplementary Budget – Financial Year 2009/2010 (*to cater for items (i)-(iii) above*)

LATF/BGC2/9.3.4

Settlement of unpaid dues to LATF Staff

The Experts considered and adopted the proposed rate of US\$ 2,000 per child per year used to arrive at the settlement of arrears education allowance and recommended that this rate be applied in the future until otherwise decided. The

Review of Travel Allowances

Following objective deliberations, the Experts adopted the proposal to increase the allowances with amendments. The recommended allowances are as per attached ***Appendix I***.

Celebrations of the 15th Anniversary of the Lusaka Agreement

The Experts adopted the core principle behind the proposal of attracting more members to the Lusaka Agreement as well as fund raising. . Consequently, the Experts recommended that the proposal be implemented in the next financial year 2010/2011.

Supplementary Budget – Financial Year 2009/2010

The corresponding supplementary budget for the above mentioned proposals, except the proposal on the 15th Anniversary celebrations, was adopted with amendments.

5. CLOSURE OF THE EXPERTS MEETING

After usual exchanges of courtesies and vote of thanks, the Chairman closed the meeting at 5:20 p.m.
