

## **Emergency Resolution on the humanitarian and political crisis in Zimbabwe**

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### **Preamble**

Six months before scheduled elections, Zimbabwe is closer than ever to complete collapse. Inflation is between 7,600 per cent (government figures) and 13,000 per cent (independent estimates). The economy is in meltdown after the land reforms of Robert Mugabe the country's president, Unemployment is at 60%, and real income has dropped 75% in 10 years. The results is four out of five of the country's twelve million people live below the poverty line and according to the United Nations World Health Organization, the life expectancy for men is 37 years and the life expectancy for women is 34 years of age, the lowest in the world in 2006. A quarter of the population has fled, mainly to neighbouring countries. A military-led campaign to slash prices has produced acute food and fuel shortages, and conducting business is becoming almost impossible.

### **To South Africa and Other SADC Member States**

YEPP strongly supports calls to South Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to Pursue mediation to obtain ZANU-PF and MDC agreement on constitutional revisions and related legislative and regulatory measures that permit free and fair elections in 2008 consistent with the August 2004 SADC principles and guidelines, including by creating a level playing field for all parties, an independent Electoral Commission, a comprehensive review of the voter roll, and independent adjudication of any electoral disputes that arise.

YEPP also supports calls Establish a team of retired African heads of state and senior military officers to discuss with the ZANU-PF leadership and President Mugabe the terms and conditions for his retirement in 2008 and the guarantees necessary for him and the military establishment to accept democratic institutional reforms.

### **To President Mugabe, the Government of Zimbabwe and ZANU-PF:**

YEPP Urges President Mugabe and his government to declare officially the end of the "Third Chimurenga" (struggle period). And engage without reservation in the South African-led initiative to support reforms in order to provide Zimbabweans with free and fair elections in 2008 and to end the political and economic crisis.

**To the MDC Factions Led by Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara:**

YEPP calls on the MDC factions led by Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara to form a coalition for the 2008 elections agree on a mechanism to choose common presidential and parliamentary candidates and rebuild consensus with civil society organisations on a joint strategy to promote democratic change.

**To the EPP**

YEPP acknowledges the role which the EU can play in international efforts and calls for the EU to support the SADC initiative by publicly clarifying commitments to assist Zimbabwe's economic recovery once democratic reforms are implemented and a democratically-elected government is in place and by refraining from statements undermining that initiative.

Consider taking further action in the event that the SADC initiative fails, including expanding existing limited sanctions, referring the situation in Zimbabwe for discussion before the United Nations Security Council, and further tightening aid controls

*Adopted at the YEPP Council, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008*