

To all to whom these presents shall come:

Recalling that His Excellency **Olusegun Obasanjo**, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, then residing in Abeokuta, Nigeria, was invited in 2020 by the Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) to explore the possibility of an initiative to end the conflict then roiling the Tigray region of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia through negotiations between the parties;

Recalling also that President Obasanjo accepted this daunting mission, despite unsuccessful efforts by others to construct a negotiation process, and that the President worked tirelessly for many months, without an official mandate, with the parties to the conflict and with the most senior leaders of neighbouring countries and with the envoys of other interested countries and international organisations, travelling constantly throughout the region in pursuit of common ground;

Recalling also that, with this exploratory work having been undertaken, the former President was appointed in August 2021 by the African Union to be its High Representative for the Horn of Africa and that, with infinite difficulty, a formal peace process was carried forward and that the parties eventually convened in Pretoria, South Africa during October and November 2022;

Recalling also that an Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities was signed by representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on 2 November 2022, which was also signed by former President Obasanjo as well as by His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the Africa Union Commission, by His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, former President of the Republic of Kenya and by Her Excellency Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa;

Noting with great satisfaction and relief that force-and-force military operations in the theatre of war then stopped and have not resumed;

Concerned that full security and normalisation has still not returned to the areas formerly affected by the war;

Grateful for His Excellency's continuing efforts to ensure that the Permanent Cessation of Hostilities is fully implemented and followed by a wider peace throughout the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

The Foundation Board of the Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue is honoured to acclaim former President Obasanjo for his Mediation for Peace.

Pierre Vimont
Chairman of the Foundation Board

