

Good Morning

On behalf of the proposed Negotiating Council, I extend a warm welcome to all delegates, advisers, distinguished International observers and representatives of the media.

This meeting of the proposed Negotiating Forum follows on the Planning Conference of the 5 & 6 March 1993. The Planning Conference launched the political actors of our country onto a hopeful and optimistic path to resolving our problems.

The Planning Conference mandated the Facilitating Committee to undertake the following tasks:

1. Deciding upon and implementing the steps that are necessary to give effect to this meeting to determine, inter alia:
 - 1.1 Mechanisms and procedures for the Negotiating Process (including name and structures);
 - 1.2 How the CODESA agreements can serve as a constructive foundation for the resumed/commenced Negotiations Process to build on and how to accommodate the views of those participants who were not in CODESA;
 - 1.3 The role of the international community.

This meeting of the proposed Negotiating Forum will:

- * Receive, consider and decide upon reports from the proposed Negotiating Council on the various tasks assigned to it;
- * Discuss issues of major national concern such as the violence which is engulfing our country;
- * Give a mandate to the proposed Negotiating Council to negotiate various constitutional issues.

We are happy to report that, despite many differences among us, the discussions in the proposed Negotiating Council have been extremely constructive and in a co-operative spirit.

It is our shared hope that this spirit will extend to our deliberations over the next two days.

May we remind you that the proposed Negotiating Forum, in addition to receiving and deciding upon reports from the proposed Negotiating Council, this Forum is charged with the responsibility of instructing and supervising the work of the proposed Negotiating Council.

OPENING
ADDRESS
11 APRIL 1993