



#4 Clamart House, 12 Clamart Road, Richmond, Johannesburg, 2092. +27114827442 [info@asc.org.za](mailto:info@asc.org.za) [www.asc.org.za](http://www.asc.org.za)  
*Africa Regional Hub of a global network of individuals and organisations committed to positive action to transform conflict*

**10 October 2013**

## **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE COALITION OF OGA DEN COMMUNITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETIES**

An essential aspect of the ACTION Support Centre's commitment to social transformation is centred on empowerment and solidarity. The ACTION Support Centre realises that linking individuals together, and finding organisations that can support and strengthen initiatives that recognise that freedoms are indivisible, contributes towards generating collective momentum for the achievement of sustainable peace. It also allows for the realisation that respect, as well as the promotion and protection of human and people's rights is a prerequisite to development. Under the auspices of the Solidarity and Transformation Agenda, the ACTION Support Centre works to promote advocacy and generate awareness for the need for a collective effort from every individual committed to sustainable peace, democracy and human rights and for unity in action behind a shared agenda.

The ACTION Support Centre appreciates the key role that the Coalition of Ogaden Communities and Civil Societies has played in collectively advocating for the rights of Ogaden people in the Diaspora and the Ogaden region.

The ACTION Support Centre is disturbed by the marginalization, social intolerance and sporadic violence that the Ogaden people have suffered at the expense of the escalating conflict in the Ogaden region, which has not only forced people into displacement, but also denied them their rights. The ACTION Support Centre therefore affirms its commitment and ongoing effort to support the Ogaden people and to stand by communities that are affected by conflict and violence.

The ACTION Support Centre remains concerned about the ongoing violence in the Ogaden region. Conflict and violence in the Ogaden cannot be separated from the regional context of the greater Horn of Africa. The complex conflict systems across the region demand an integrated multi-stakeholder dialogue process that addresses the human rights violations, the unacceptable violence and the demands of the Ogaden people. Within this context, the ACTION Support Centre supports the call for a dialogue process aimed at transforming the military conflict between the Ogaden National Liberation Front, the Oromo Liberation Front, the G7 and the Ethiopian government and for an engagement that is focused on the pursuit of Human Security and not just the security of the armed forces.

The ACTION Support Centre comes with a spirit of solidarity as it moves towards the achievement of durable peace on the continent, and therefore extends its support to the ongoing efforts of the Ogaden people to advocate for their collective and individual rights. In the spirit of a deep people-to-people solidarity we stand here ready to contribute where we can to ending violence and ensuring an Africa that allows all of us to live and thrive in accordance with our collective needs.