

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Fifth Ordinary Session

4 – 5 July 2005

Sirte, LIBYA

Assembly/AU/Dec.73 –90 (V)

Assembly/AU/Decl.1-3 (V)

Assembly/AU/Resolution 1 (V)

DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTION

**DECISION ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE (CAMEF)
(EX.CL/180 (VII))**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **ENDORSES** the Report and the Declaration of the First Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance;
3. **DECIDES** to institutionalize this Conference which will meet once a year;
4. **MANDATES** the Commission, in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Commission for Africa (UNECA) and development partners, to ensure the preparation of this Conference and report to it at its annual sessions.

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Tony Blair, and his Government for pushing for robust global action in support of Africa's efforts towards growth, poverty reduction and prosperity, through the framework proposed by the Commission for Africa;
3. **EMPHASIZES** that the Commission for Africa Report is supplemental to previous initiatives including NEPAD, the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the G8 Kananaskis Africa Action Plan;
4. **FULLY SUPPORTS** the recommendations contained in the Commission for Africa Report;
5. **FULLY COMMITS** itself to ownership of Africa's direction and development, including on the basic issues of good governance, and peace and security, regional integration and all key development issues;
6. **STRONGLY URGES** the G8 Summit meeting scheduled for 6th to 8th July 2005 in Gleneagles to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
7. **MANDATES** the African Union Commission to follow-up in collaboration with Member States and stakeholders the implementation of the Commission for Africa Report and report to annual sessions of the Assembly.

**DECISION ON ACCELERATING ACTION FOR CHILD SURVIVAL AND
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA TO MEET THE MDGs
(DOC. ASSEMBLY AU/2(V))**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report and **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained therein;
2. **RECALLS** the various blue-prints adopted in favour of improving the well-being of children in Africa, in particular, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) and the African Common Position on the Future of Children – Africa Fit for Children (2001);
3. **DEEPLY REGRETS** that to-date only 35 Member States have ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and **APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so to expedite the ratification process;
4. **AWARE** of the fact that all the MDGs are, directly or indirectly relevant to children **CALLS UPON** Member States to scale up the process of attaining the goals, in particular the fourth goal on Reducing by two-thirds the mortality of under-fives, which can be achieved by low cost, and high impact interventions;
5. **COMMENDS** UNICEF for its Accelerated Child Survival and Development (ACSD) Programme and **REQUESTS** UNICEF and other partners to extend the programme to the whole continent and Member States to mainstream the programme into their national health policies, the Poverty Reduction Strategies and Health Sector Reforms;
6. **URGES** Member States to:
 - a) Reaffirm their commitment to implement pledges made to African children with renewed determination and set up mechanism at national level to ensure integrated child-centered, community-driven implementation of the package consisting: Integrated management of childhood illnesses(IMCI), ante-natal care for mothers and immunization-plus;
 - (b) collaborate with AU, UNICEF and other partners, to elaborate a road-map on MDG 4 for reduction of child mortality and morbidity to be considered at the Mid-term review of the African Common Position at the 2006 Pan-African Forum on Children;
 - (c) within the framework of the Child Survival Partnership and other partnerships, commit national resources and mobilize additional resources to significantly reduce child deaths and suffering.

7. **REQUESTS** the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to lead the child survival agenda in their regions in collaboration with development partners and collaborate with AU Commission to coordinate and harmonize the programmes and strategies.
8. **ALSO URGES** the UN Agencies, International Organisations and Development partners to technically support Member States in the process of strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of child policies; mobilize financial resources to be used at national level; and collaborate with the African Union and RECs in playing their roles
9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to:
 - (a) Convene the Mid-term review of the African Common Position on Children in 2006;
 - (b) Advocate for necessary investments and mobilize international support with partners in order to monitor and review progress on meeting MDG 4;
 - (c) Bring to the attention of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, AU Peace and Security Council, Pan-African Parliament, and ECOSOCC those countries that are violating children's rights and endangering their well-being, through conflict, poor governance, abuse, neglect, marginalisation and other forms of exclusion;
 - (d) Strengthen and support the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in ensuring that the Committee fulfils its responsibility to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;
 - (e) place commitments made by governments regarding children at the heart of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and report regularly to African Leaders on progress achieved in efforts to advance child survival and well-being including new lessons learnt.

DECISION ON THE WORLD SUMMIT ON INFORMATION SOCIETY
(Doc. EX.CL/173 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report presented in this regard;
2. **RECALLS** the various decisions of the African Union on the World Summit on Information Society, particularly the decisions of its 2nd and 3rd sessions held, respectively in Maputo in July 2003 and Addis Ababa in July 2004;
3. **RECALLS ALSO** the UN General Assembly resolutions Nos. 183/56, 238/57 and 220/59;
4. **RECOGNIZES** the growing importance the international community in particular attaches to the 2nd phase of the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis to bridge the digital gap into digital prospects and modern Information and communications technologies as a strategic tool for development;
5. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in preparing for the Tunis phase and the results achieved during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in June 2004 and February 2005, respectively as well as Africa's impressive participation in them. In this respect, African countries are called upon to continue their effective participation in future meetings of the Committee, particularly the 3rd meeting scheduled in Geneva in September 2005 in order to achieve the internationally desired results and to reflect Africa's interests in the recommendations and conclusions of the Tunis Summit appropriately;
6. **COMMENDS** the effective role played by Africa in the preparatory phases of the Tunis Summit at the continental level through the Bamako 2003, Accra 2005 and Cairo 2005 meetings. And **URGES** African countries are invited to continue their coordination and exchange of views at the continental level to ensure fruitful and more effective participation in the preparations for the Summit, particularly in the meeting slated for Dakar in July 2005 to finalise the African common position document on world good governance of the internet;
7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider the organization of a meeting of Ministers of Information and Communication Technology to examine and adopt an African Plan of Action for the culmination of the preparations for the Tunis Summit into results that reflects the aspirations of the African Peoples and the establishment of the best mechanisms for the follow-up and implementation of the African Plan of

Action, thereby ensuring the achievement of the development goals of the Continent;

8. **INVITES** member States and African Governments to participate in the World Summit on Information Society to be held in Tunis at the highest level and also **URGES** the civil society and the private sector to participate in parallel events during the Summit;
9. **FURTHER INVITES** Member States, Governments and Regional and International Organizations to support and contribute to the financing of the Digital Solidarity Fund.

**DECISION ON THE 18TH ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)
(Doc. EX.CL/199 (VII))**

The Assembly:

1. **ADOPTS** the 18th Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
2. **COMMENDS** the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the work accomplished and **URGES** it to pursue its efforts in this regard;
3. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of this Report as well as its annexures in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
4. **REQUESTS** the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to pursue and complete as soon as possible, the brainstorming on the relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.7 (II);
5. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the African Union Commission to provide adequate resources in its running budget for the ACHPR so as to enable it discharge its mandate;
6. **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to present their periodic reports in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MDGs
(Assembly/AU/2 (V))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Commission of the African Union, the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD Secretariat, the RECs and UNDP for the quality of the Report;
3. **ADOPTS** the Common African Position on the evaluation of the MDGs to be presented at the United Nations high level Conference on the MDGs;
4. **MANDATES** the Commission of the African Union, in collaboration with the ECA, the ADB, NEPAD and the RECs to monitor the implementation of the MDGs and continue with the pertinent reflections in order to report to the Assembly at its annual session.

DECISION ON THE G8 FOLLOW-UP

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance on the Common African Position to the next G8 Summit in Gleneagle, Scotland;
2. **MANDATES** the Ministers of Economy and Finance to include on the Agenda of their annual conferences, the follow-up of the G8 commitments to Africa in consultation with the NEPAD Steering Committee;
3. **REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to monitor the implementation and evaluation of the G8 Kananaskis Plan of Action for Africa.

DECISION ON MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
(DOC/EX/CL/188(VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the meeting of Ministers of Trade held in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt from 8 to 9 June, 2005;
2. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** for the efforts deployed by African negotiators in the various bodies of the WTO and by Member States and RECs in the different national and regional fora put up for EPA negotiations;
3. **CALLS ON** developed countries to meet the requirements of developing countries in setting up a credible end date for the elimination of all forms of support to agricultural products;
4. **URGES** all bilateral and multilateral donors to honour their commitment on the development-related aspects of the cotton initiative;
5. **ENDORSES** the Cairo Declaration and Road Map on the Doha Work Programme as well as the AU's Ministerial Declaration on EPA negotiations;
6. **INVITES** Member States, RECs and the Commission to stand guided by those Declarations in order to speak with one voice and safeguard Africa's interests in WTO and EPA negotiations.

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL ON SICKLE-CELL ANAEMIA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** Burkina Faso, Senegal and Congo for their initiative;
3. **RECOGNIZES** that the proper management of Sickle-Cell Anaemia will contribute to an appreciable decrease in mortality from Malaria and the risk of HIV infection;
4. **CALLS ON** the International Community to search for the best treatment for this disease, which necessitates lifelong treatment;
5. **SUPPORTS** the inclusion of Sickle-Cell Anaemia, a genetic disease, in the list of public health priorities, at the next session of the World Health Assembly;
6. **REQUESTS** Burkina Faso, the Republic of Congo and the Republic of Senegal, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission, to take the necessary steps to this end, and submit a report to it at its next session.

**DECISION ON THE RETURN OF THE AXUM OBELISK
TO ITS PLACE OF ORIGIN**

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
2. **COMMENDS** the Government and the people of Ethiopia on the return of the pillaged Axum Obelisk to its place of origin;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the efforts deployed in this regard by the Commission of the African Union to expedite the return of the Axum Obelisk;
4. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** for the efforts deployed by UNESCO and other international partners in the return of this African historical monument to its country of origin;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the cooperation demonstrated by Italy in the return of the Axum Obelisk is a positive step that should be taken as a landmark in the history of cooperation between Africa and Europe in the cultural area;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Government of Italy for ensuring the safe return of the Axum Obelisk in conformity with its commitment and in response to the request made by the OAU/AU in its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
7. **DECLARES** that the return of the Axum Obelisk constitutes a victory for all African countries;
8. **CALLS UPON** all concerned countries to follow this exemplary act and make further efforts to return pillaged cultural property to their places of origin.

**DECISION ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE
AFRICAN UNION - ASSEMBLY/AU/6 (V)**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the merger of the Court of Justice of the African Union (Court of Justice) and the Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Human Rights Court) ;
2. **DECIDES** that a draft legal instrument relating to the establishment of the merged court comprising the Human Rights Court and the Court of Justice should be completed for consideration by the next ordinary sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly and **WELCOMES WARMLY AND WITH GRATITUDE** the offer by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Algeria, Mr. Mohamed BEDJAOUI, former President of the International Court of Justice to contribute to the drafting of this instrument;
3. **ALSO DECIDES** that all necessary measures for the functioning of the Human Rights Court be taken, including particularly the election of the judges, the determination of the budget and the operationalization of the Registry;
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** that the Seat of the merged court shall be at a place to be decided upon by the Member States of the Eastern Region, which shall also serve as the seat of the Human Rights Court pending the merger.

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**
(Doc. EX.CL/201 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 1. Mrs. Reine **ALAPINI-GANSOU** (Benin)
 2. Mr. Musa Ngary **BITAYE**
 3. Mr. Mumba **MALILA** (Zambia); and
 4. Adv. Faith Pansy **TLAKULA** (Ms,) (South Africa)

**DECISION ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND
WELFARE OF THE CHILD**
(Doc. EX.CL/202 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;
2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following members of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the 7th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:
 1. Mrs. Seynabou Ndiaye **DIAKHATE** (Senegal);
 2. Mrs. **KOFFI** Appoh Marie Chantal (Côte d'Ivoire);
 3. Hon. Lady Justice Martha **KOOME** (Kenya);
 4. Mrs. Mamosebi T. **PHOLO** (Lesotho);
 5. Ms. Boipelo Lucia **SELTLHAMO** (Botswana); and
 6. Mr. Moussa **SISSOKO** (Mali).

**DECISION ON THE DANGER OF IMPORTED
SEEDS ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**
(Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (V)) Add.6

The Assembly,

1. **RECOGNISES** the importance of improved seeds as a major input in increasing agricultural productivity quantitatively and qualitatively for the attainment of food security in the Continent;
2. **REALISES** that the seed industry, in its modern integrated sense, is still considered one of the industries dominated by the developed countries when developing countries are so much in need of it for food production and for optimal investment of their natural and human resources;
3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the recent developments in the seed industry and its monopoly through various legal and technical rights protection that allows for the use of seeds only once;
4. **FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES** that the African farmer is prevented from multiple use of these seeds thus resulting in diminished plant bio-diversity which African countries enjoy;
5. **CALLS** for dealing with the challenges imposed by agricultural development and food production conditions in the Continent for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing the number of people suffering from hunger and poverty. This can only be achieved by tackling the challenge of adequate supply of improved seeds at affordable prices to all farmers;
6. **RECOGNISES** that national governments cannot alone confront these challenges and provide the necessary potential for this strategic industry;
7. **STRESSES** Africa's potential for creating its own seed producing industry given its vast potential and climatic diversity;
8. **CALLS** for the exploitation of Africa's material and human potentials for the establishment of a sophisticated seed industry to break its monopoly and to secure it for the achievement of sustainable agricultural development and food security for the peoples of the Continent;
9. **URGES** Member States for the establishment of genetic resource banks for identification and preservation of indigenous plant genetic resources that can be used for the production of improved seeds that are adaptable to local environmental conditions and to prevent the deterioration of plant bio-diversity that the African Continent enjoys;

10. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider all aspects of the issue of seeds, in the light of existing experiments, including the establishment of an African Institution for the production and use of seeds;
11. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to submit a progress report on the implementation of the decision to the 9th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

**DECISION ON THE EXPANSION OF THE FOLLOW-UP
MECHANISM ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council on the expansion of the Follow-up Mechanism on the Reform of the United Nations;
2. **DECIDES** that the Follow-up Mechanism comprising the Core Group of three and a Committee of 10 (two representatives per region) be expanded to include an additional 5 new members selected by the Regions (one per Region);
3. **MANDATES** the Follow-up Mechanism as expanded to negotiate with other regions of the world and stakeholders and to take necessary measures that would permit the attainment of Africa's aspirations as enunciated in the Ezulwini Consensus, bearing in mind the necessity for reciprocal support from other interested groups and within the framework of achieving the provisions of the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration;
4. **FURTHER DECIDES** that whenever the negotiations require flexibility, the Follow-up Mechanism shall consult the Chairperson of the Union and the Chairperson of the Commission on how to proceed, including the need for an Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly

DECISION ON THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENT
(Doc. EX.CL/192 (VII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the Executive Council;
2. **ADOPTS** the new Scale of Assessment as proposed based on the principle of Capacity to Pay of Member States with the ceiling of 15% and without a floor rate;
3. **COMMENDS** the following Member States that have offered to contribute 15% of the regular budget of the Union each, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria and South Africa;
4. **DECIDES** that the adopted Scale of Assessment shall be effective from 1st January 2006;
5. **URGES** the Commission to enforce a strict sanctions regime to ensure prompt full payment of contributions;
6. **FURTHER URGES** the Commission to practice prudent financial management and control of its budgetary and financial affairs;
7. **DECIDES** that the Scale of Assessment shall be reviewed every three (3) years;

**DECISION ON THE EXTRA-BUDGETARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council on the proposed Structure of the Commission and the Budget for the year 2006;
2. **MANDATES** the Executive Council to convene in an Extra-Ordinary Session to consider and adopt:
 - i) the Structure proposed by the Commission;
 - ii) the budget for the year 2006.

**DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UGANDA ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE GREAT
SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **COMMENDS** the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government for the Report;
3. **REAFFIRMS** that the ultimate goal of the African Union is full political and economic integration leading to the United States of Africa;
4. **DECIDES** to establish a Committee of Heads of State and Government to be chaired by President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairperson of the African Union, and composed of the Heads of State and Government of Algeria, Kenya, Senegal, Gabon, Lesotho and Uganda;
5. **REQUESTS** that the Committee shall consider all the ideas discussed during the Summit and others that may be submitted or arise through consultations and submit a report to the next session of the Assembly, including the steps that need to be taken for the realization of this objective, the structure, the process, the time frame required for its achievement as well as measures that should be undertaken, in the meantime, to strengthen the ability of the Commission to fulfil its mandate effectively.

**DECLARATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM
DECLARATION AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
GOALS (MDGs)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 4th and 5th July 2005;

Recalling that the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 was a laudable initiative by the international community in eradicating poverty, accelerating human development, integrating the African continent into the 21st century global economy and making globalization more beneficial to the people of Africa;

Considering that we have devoted our resources and taken far-reaching decisions and policy reforms in the political, social, economic, environmental and cultural domains in favor of eradicating poverty, achieving rapid sustainable and socio-economic development, as well as accelerating the integration of our peoples;

Aware that although some progress has been made in several countries, more needs to be done in order to attain the MDGs within the deadline;

Convinced that the achievement of these goals requires the cooperation of the private sector, civil society, the international community and other stakeholders and solidarity with Africa in various fields;

Conscious of the fact that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for poverty eradication and for the achievement of all other MDGs;

Determined to eradicate poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the peoples of our continent, and having undertaken a review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in order to assess the progress made thus far and the challenges confronting our individual and collective efforts;

Determined further to fulfill our commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs within the deadline;

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the implementation of the Decisions and the Declaration of the 2004 Ouagadougou Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, particularly, youth employment;

Decides to adopt the Common African Position on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to constitute Africa's input into the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in September 2005.

We therefore resolve to:

1. Redouble our efforts at the national, regional, continental and international levels and to strengthen interstate cooperation and joint activities toward meeting the MDGs by the target deadline;
2. Enhance investment and development in Africa by promoting peace and security and create a conducive environment by ensuring good governance in our countries through:
 - a. strengthening and ensuring that regional and continental mechanisms, in particular, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union play a central role in bringing about peace, security and stability on the continent;
 - b. addressing conflict and political instability on the continent, with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010 by prioritizing and allocating more resources to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building and to fully collaborate with regional and continental mechanisms, to ensure the speedy operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Stand-by Force (ASF);
 - c. becoming parties to regional, continental and international instruments relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and landmines, corruption and money laundering and ensuring the effective implementation of such instruments; and
 - d. deepening transparency and effective participatory forms of governance and strengthening democratic institutions and processes in our countries. We URGE all Member States of the Union to join, as a matter of priority, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as soon as possible and to strengthen the APRM process for its efficient performance.
3. Continue to develop and effectively implement economic and social policies which are of benefit to the poor segment of the population through:
 - a) adopting employment-oriented and poverty reduction strategies, in particular the creation of decent work for the youth;
 - b) promoting rural economy and agriculture to raise the level of productivity, improve food security and enhance living conditions in rural Africa;
 - c) promoting the private sector, with particular emphasis on small and medium-scale enterprises;

- d) Pursuit of industrial development strategy;
 - e) Enhancement of the competitiveness of African economies;
 - f) Increased investment required for the development of infrastructure and services of transport, telecommunications and energy;
 - g) Prudent management of natural resources and the environment;
 - h) Mainstreaming of gender into national development strategies and in particular, addressing the persistent and high levels of poverty among women through the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action;
 - i) Mainstreaming trade policy into national development strategies;
 - j) Promoting ICT and enhancing investment in the development of physical and human capital, particularly in science and technology;
 - k) Investment in strengthening health systems including access to reproductive and sexual health services to ensure sustained and long-term improvement in maternal, new born and child health;
 - l) Enhancing social development including by giving priority to improved access and quality education, health and sanitation;
 - m) Combating the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other diseases;
 - n) Designing and integrating social protection and social safety net programmes within broader national social policy frameworks and national development strategies; and
 - o) building of statistical capacity for policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring.
- 4. Mobilize additional domestic resources for financing of MDGs, thus **CALL** on the private sector in Africa to contribute more substantially to development on the continent and to efforts of meeting the MDGs in Africa;
 - 5. Include in the MDGs framework, transport targets and indicators adopted by the African Ministers in charge of transport and infrastructure in April 2005 with a view to accelerating the achievement of the MDGs;
 - 6. Mobilize international support and strengthening partnership with the international community. In this regard, we:
 - a) **CALL ON** the international community, particularly the United Nations and our development partners to complement our efforts, in particular, to fulfill the commitments that they have made in support for development in Africa,

- b) **URGE** the international community especially the G8 to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
 - c) **REQUEST** the developed countries and development partners to expedite the process of total debt cancellation for Africa by the year 2007. In this regard we acknowledge the recent proposal from G8 Ministers of Finance with respect to the cancellation of the debt for 14 African countries and encourage them to extend those proposals to all African countries with regard to all components of the external debt;
7. **FURTHER URGE** the developed countries to improve aid quality through, among others:
- (i) delinking aid from the trade and geopolitical interests of donors;
 - (ii) better coordination, harmonization and simplification of aid operational procedures;
 - (iii) making aid pro-poor;
 - (iv) stronger linkage of aid to the MDGs, the NEPAD programme and the PRSP process;
 - (v) strengthened ownership of aid by African beneficiaries and greater policy space in the utilization of aid;
 - (vi) meeting of the commitment to increase ODA flows to internationally agreed 0.7 percent of GNP with greater predictability; and
 - (vii) reducing the delay between the financial commitment and the effective disbursement.
8. **CALL ON** the international community to establish a fair and equitable trading system and to facilitate Africa's access to their markets, through:
- a. ensuring that multilateral trade rules provide adequate policy space for achieving MDGs;
 - b. the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers;
 - c. requesting the Bretton Woods Institutions to streamline their policies and programmes in Africa to be more MDGs-friendly;
 - d. the elimination of trade distorting subsidies and domestic support especially in agricultural sector;
 - e. assistance to African countries to integrate more effectively with the global trading system through increased support for capacity building, environmental conservation, regional integration, cross-border

infrastructure, and development of pro-poor growth policies and institutions;

- f. provision of assistance and adjustment support to mitigate the adjustment costs of trade liberalization in Africa;
- g. dealing with commodity crises arising from fluctuations and collapse of prices through manufacturing, improving value addition and diversification of production and trade.

WE REITERATE our conviction that the implementation of these strategies will result in Africa achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Done in Sirte on the 5th day of July 2005

**SIRTE DECLARATION ON THE REFORM OF
THE UNITED NATIONS**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Fifth (5th) Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya , from 4 to 5 July 2005;

- **Reaffirming** our strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus;
- **Convinced** of the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations System which takes into account the principles, objectives and ideals of the United Nations Charter for a fairer world based on universalism, equity and regional balance;
- **Conscious** of the need, within this process of reform, to ensure Africa's legitimate rights to a fair and equitable geographical representation;
- **Recognizing** that all the regions of the world must in this new era of globalization, endeavour in a spirit of solidarity to build a world of peace, security, justice, good governance and sustainable development;
- **Persuaded** that the reform of the United Nations should be all-inclusive and encompass all components of the United Nations System, including the General Assembly and the Security Council;

Are determined to ensure the success of the Ezulwini Consensus that clearly spells out the Common African Position on "sustainable development, collective security, conflict prevention and the conditions for the use of force, as well as the institutional reform of the UN", notably:

- the allocation of two (2) permanent seats to Africa with all the privileges, including the right of veto, and five (5) non-permanent seats on the Security Council;
- strengthening the leadership of the United Nations General Assembly to enable it to fully play its role as the most representative and democratic organ of the United Nations System and world parliament;
- strengthening the UN General Secretariat in the sense of greater efficiency and increased representation for Africa;

- the establishment of a Peace Building Commission for the consolidation of peace as recommended by the Secretary General of the United Nations;
- granting ECOSOC the status of a central coordination mechanism for the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations System and its subsidiary organs in the economic, social and cultural domains with a view to enabling it to better discharge its role in attaining the MDGs;
- the establishment of a new Human Rights body, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly based in Geneva, to replace the Human Rights Commission with the same composition on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and with a new non-selective and less politicized mandate, while confirming the universality and indivisibility of human rights;
- the democratization of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Reiterate, to this end, our commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity in the selection, by the African Union, of its representatives in the Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf.

Authorize consequently, the submission of a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly reflecting the Common African Position.

Done in Sirte, on the 5th of July, 2005

**DECLARATION ON THE INTER-SUDANESE
PEACE TALKS IN DARFUR**

The Assembly of the African Union, meeting in its 5th Ordinary Session, in Sirte, from 4 to 5 July 2005, having been briefed on the on-going 5th Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, in Abuja:

- **welcomes** the appointment of Salim Ahmed Salim, as the AU Special Envoy and Chief Mediator for the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, and **expresses its support and appreciation** for the efforts he is deploying with the support of the AU and Chadian Mediation Teams, other African Facilitators and Observers and which culminated in the submission to the Parties of a Draft Declaration of Principles (DoP) ;
- **commends** the Government of the Sudan (GoS) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for their disposition to adopt and sign the DoP as proposed by the Mediation, the Facilitators and Observers;
- **urges** the Sudan Liberation Movement /Army (SLM/A) to join the consensus and accept the DoP, which the International Community considers as the best compromise addressing the legitimate concerns of all the parties, so as to create propitious conditions for the commencement, as soon as possible, of the substantive discussions on power and wealth sharing and on security arrangements.

Done in Sirte on the 5th day of July 2005

RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS REFORM :
SECURITY COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

REAFFIRMING the aims and objectives of the UN Charter;

RECOGNIZING that the international community has welcomed proposals for the reform of the UN as contained in the report of the UN High-level Panel on "Threats, Challenges and Change" and the UN Secretary-General's report entitled "In Larger Freedom -Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for all";

AWARE of the positive reactions of various regions, groups and individual countries to the proposals contained in the two reports, as reflected in the "Draft Outcome Document" released by the President of the General Assembly in June 2005;

NOTING Africa's common position as contained in the "Ezulwini Consensus";

CONVINCED that the three categories of freedom, namely "freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity" are essential for both developed and developing societies and indispensable for peace and stability of the world;

CONSCIOUS that these freedoms can only be upheld and protected by the world community through an effective management of the current UN system;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to strengthen UN institutions in order to enhance the efficiency of the organization, especially its principal organs and, in particular, the General Assembly and the Security Council;

EMPHASIZING the need to strengthen the General Assembly which should be made to function effectively as the main deliberative and representative organ of the United Nations;

COGNISANT of the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the UN Charter;

STRESSING the need to consider the views of all Member States on this all-important issue of the reform of the Security Council with a view to bringing to fruition, ideas which have been the subject of several debates over the years;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for the Security Council to reflect present world realities and be more responsive to the aspirations of all Member States of the UN; bearing in mind the undeniable fact that in 1945, when the UN was being formed, most of Africa was not represented and, as a result, Africa remains to this day the only continent without a permanent seat in the Security Council, which is the primary organ of the UN on matters of international peace and security;

MINDFUL of the need to ensure Africa's effective representation in the Security Council like all the other regions of the world;

REALISING the need to engage fully all regions of the world in the work of the UN and to enlist their support for the progress of humanity;

Resolves to:

1. **enlarge the Security Council** in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improve on its working methods;
2. **accord the new** permanent members the same prerogatives and privileges as the current permanent members, including the right of veto;
3. **grant Africa two** permanent and five non-permanent seats in the Security Council and increase its membership from fifteen to twenty-six with the eleven (11) additional seats distributed as follows:

Permanent Members

Two from Africa
Two from Asia
One from Latin American and Caribbean States
One from Western European & Other States

Non-Permanent Members

Two from Africa
One from Asia
One from Eastern European States
One from Latin American & Caribbean States

4. **amend** the UN Charter accordingly.

MOTION OF GRATITUDE TO HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT BENJAMIN MKAPA OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Assembly:

Conscious of President Benjamin Mkapa's attributes as a statesman and his achievements at the helm of his country, at a time when he is about to relinquish his duties and responsibilities as President of the United Republic of Tanzania after ten years of loyal service, in accordance with the wishes of his people;

Expresses its profound gratitude to President Benjamin Mkapa for the work he has accomplished in his country and his invaluable contribution to the promotion of the ideals of our continental organization;

Expresses further to President Benjamin Mkapa its sincere thanks for his participation in the deliberations of the "Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization" as well as those of the "Commission for Africa", which constitutes eloquent proof of his commitment to the cause of Africa and its political, social, economic and cultural development;

Avails itself of this opportunity to wish him every success in his future endeavours and ask him to kindly continue to make himself available whenever he is needed, as the Ambassador and ardent advocate of our continent's causes that he has always been.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND THE LEADER OF THE GREAT
SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**

The Conference of the African Union meeting at its 5th Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 4 – 5 July, 2005;

1. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the Leader and the People of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for their warm welcome, excellent facilities and generous hospitality extended to all delegations since their arrival in the Jamahiriya;
2. **ALSO EXPRESSES** its gratitude to H.E. Muammar Gaddafi Leader of Al- Fattah Revolution for his tireless efforts towards the promotion and realization of the ideals and objectives of the Union and the search for greater unity and cohesion among our people.

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