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**NON-ASSIMILATION OF NORTH AFRICA TO THE MIDDLE
EAST WITH REGARD TO DENOMINATION, CONTENT
AND CONCEPT**

(Item Proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

**NON-ASSIMILATION OF NORTH AFRICA TO THE MIDDLE EAST WITH REGARD
TO DENOMINATION, CONTENT AND CONCEPT**

Request by the Great Jamahiriya for the inclusion of an item titled “Non-assimilation of North Africa with the Middle East in terms of nomenclature, content and concept” in the Agenda of the 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly slated for Khartoum from 23 to 24 January 2006, with an explanatory note.

I. Item Proposed for Inclusion in the Assembly Agenda

In accordance with Rule 8, subparagraph 2/d of the Rules of Procedure of the African Union, the Great Jamahiriya requests the inclusion in the Agenda of the 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly scheduled to take place in Khartoum from 23 to 24 January 2006 of an item titled: “Non assimilation of North Africa with the Middle East in terms of nomenclature, content and concept”.

This proposal is aimed at reaffirming:

1. Africa’s political, geographical, human, cultural and economic unity based on its belonging to a single space: the African Union.
2. The non-existence of links between the two concepts.

II. Legal Texts Supporting the Request

- First paragraph of the Preamble of the AU Constitutive Act which places emphasis on the ideals which guided the founding fathers of our continental Organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and co-operation among the peoples of Africa and African States.
- Paragraph 9 of the same Preamble which reads: “Guided by our common vision of a united and strong Africa”.
- Article 3, paragraph (a) which defines the objectives of the Union and calls for greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa.
- Paragraph (d) of the same Article 3 which also stresses the need to “promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the Continent...”
- Article 4, paragraph (k) of the Constitutive Act which lays emphasis on the principle of “self-reliance” within the framework of the Union.

III. Explanatory Note

The African Continent with its Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western and Central Regions constitutes a single geographical, human and political entity which accepts neither separation nor its linkage with other entities within the context of the new political and geographical nomenclature currently being advocated in the region. It also constitutes, thanks to its political instrument i.e. the African Union, a single African space.

This new nomenclature aims, in its colonial concept, at introducing certain factors of separation and linkage in the region with the view to dislocating the Continent. It confuses North Africa with the Middle East and removes from the Continent countries which form a whole region and links them with another continent, Asia, under the name "Middle East" thus ignoring a geographical, human and political reality which makes North Africa an integral part of the African Continent.

The geographical, human and political unity of Africa prompts us to reject the concept of linking North Africa with the Middle East and to oppose any separation or linkage of one of Africa's regions with the Middle East within the context of old colonialist designs which are rearing their ugly heads under new names.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union underpinning the above proposal clearly reflects the geographical, human and cultural unity of Africa and the relentless efforts exerted towards achieving this unity.

The Middle East is a dangerous and volatile region racked by serious conflicts and riddled with nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. One wonders to whom belong the disputed territories. Besides, that region forms an integral part of the Asian continent. It is situated in the East of the Mediterranean and has nothing to do with Africa.

To link Africa with the Middle East means saddling Africa with the problems of the "Dirty East"; an explosive and volatile region which represent a big market for all those who promote factors of instability; a region of nuclear bombs, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and liberation organizations. All this will then spread in Africa like a canker which will undermine and destroy the stability of the Continent. Therefore, Africa should dissociate itself from this explosive region if it wants to preserve its homogeneity, unity and stability.

Tripoli, 16/10/2005

**(Prepared by the Office of the Assistant
Secretary of the General People's Committee)**

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Non-Assimilation of North Africa to the Middle East with regard to denomination, content and concept (Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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