RESOLUTION ON THE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XXIX OF THE CHARTER CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF PORTUGESE AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF THE OAU

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Twenty-first Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 18 to 20 July, 1985,

Considering that by its letter dated 16 September 1983, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cape Verde mandated by the Heads of State of the People's Republic of Mozambique and the Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe addressed a request, on behalf of the above mentioned Five States, for the adoption of Portuguese as one of the OAU working languages,

Considering that under Article XXIX of the Charter, "The working language of the organization and all its institutions shall be, if possible, African languages, English and French",

Considering that in order to accede to the request it is necessary to amend these provisions of the Charter,

Considering that according to Article XXXIII, "This Charter may be amended or revised if any Member State makes a written request to the Secretary-General to that effect, provided, however, that the proposed amendment is not submitted to the Assembly for consideration until all the Member States have been duly notified of it and a period of one year has elapsed and that such an amendment shall not be effective unless approved by at least two thirds of all the Member States",

Considering that by Note Verbale No. CAB/GM/35/84.4 of February 1984, the Secretary-General informed all Member States about it, and that a year has already elapsed,

Considering that in its Resolution CM/Res. 931 (XLI) the Council of Ministers made a recommendation supporting the request and that the adoption of Portuguese

will enable African Portuguese speaking States to participate more effectively in the proceedings of the Organization:

1. **AMENDS Article XXIX of the Charter of the OAU and DECIDES that Portuguese shall also be used as a working language of the Organization and its Institutions;**

2. **CALLS UPON the Council of Ministers, when adopting the next budget to make provisions for funds necessary for the implementation of this resolution.**

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