

**TRIBUTE TO MR. KOFI ANNAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS**

We, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in the 7th Ordinary Session of our Assembly, noting that the second term of office of our brother Kofi Annan as Secretary General of the United Nations Organization is drawing to a close, pay special tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan who, as Secretary General, for two consecutive mandates, has presided over the destiny of the world, a globalized world undergoing constant change in which challenges to be addressed formed the daily lot of his preoccupations. He has in these instances demonstrated outstanding competence in finding appropriate solutions to these various challenges.

We have noted with appreciation his initiatives in contributing to the economic and social development of our continent through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Also noteworthy is the daunting dossier he launched for the reform of the United Nations and particularly the Security Council. The reform of the Security Council based on the principles of equity, justice and representation, should enable Africa regain its rightful place in the concert of Nations and above all increase its influence in the world and in the decision-making bodies of the UN including the Security Council.

Mr. Kofi Annan, the illustrious son of Africa, has in his ten years at the helm of the UN, honoured our continent; held high the torch of justice and demonstrated self-abnegation and modesty that characterized his two mandates. He has honoured Africa in all corners of the World, and has been present in the battlefields and in conflict areas where his interventions were exemplary and crucial.

We, therefore avail ourselves of this opportunity to pay solemn and well-deserved tribute to Mr. Kofi Annan and express all our pride in him, an illustrious son of the Continent, a citizen of the World and indeed a great man in the service of the entire humanity.

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