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**HOSTING THE 4TH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF
CHINA-AFRICA COOPERATION FORUM IN 2009**

(Item Proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

**Host the 4th Ministerial Conference of
China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2009**

Under Rule 10, Sub-Paragraph 2 (g), of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Executive Council, the Arab Republic of Egypt has proposed the inclusion of an item on “The Offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Host the 4th Ministerial Conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2009” on the agenda of the 6th AU Executive Council Session, scheduled for 27 – 28 January 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria. This Explanatory Note lays the premises of the Egyptian proposal:

The China-Africa Cooperation Forum was launched in Beijing in 2000. The Ministerial gathering in Beijing adopted the constitutive documents of the forum, most importantly the Beijing Declaration and the Programme for China-Africa Cooperation in Economic and Social Development. The document on procedure for the follow-up mechanism of the forum indicates that the Ministerial Conferences and their preceding Senior Official Meetings shall be held alternately in China and Africa. The document adds that African member countries shall indicate on voluntary basis their desire to host the Ministerial Conference, and that each Ministerial Conference shall agree by consensus on the host country for the next Ministerial Conference. The next Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held in China in 2006, while its preceding Senior Official Meeting will be held in China as well in 2005.

In Beijing, in 2000, Egypt participated in the launch of the China-Africa Forum, which has now developed into a model of South-South Cooperation. As a founding member and active participant of the Forum, Egypt has offered to host the 4th Ministerial Conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2009, and is seeking the endorsement by the African sister countries of this offer. It is in Egypt as well as Africa’s best interest that we set the China-Africa Forum growing, blossoming, and further consolidated in Egypt in 2009.

In general, Egypt has been a staunch advocate and supporter of South-South Cooperation, as a means of promoting mutual aims, based on proximity in circumstances, history, and culture. In Bandung, Indonesia, in 1955, Gamal Abdelnasser, the former President of Egypt, along with a group of other African and Asian immortal leaders, had instituted a set of principles and a process of cooperation between Africa and Asia, based on a vision of independence, peace, justice, and common prosperity. The principles and ideals that were enunciated in Bandung constituted the inspirations and seeds of the Non-Aligned Movement that was later on launched in Belgrade in 1961. Since then, Egypt has been a active founding member and player in the Non-Alignment Movement and the G-77 and China, as main axes of South-South Cooperation.

Egypt enjoys all the organizational and logistical credentials needed for the 4th Ministerial Conference of China-Africa Cooperation Forum to be a success. It also has accumulated a reservoir of experience with such demanding events. Conscious of the basics and dynamics of Chinese-African relations, Egypt is in a position to use its facilitating and negotiating capacity, as a host and chair, in order to draw consensual and mutually beneficial outcomes from the conference deliberations. Alongside, Egypt, the cradle of civilization, offers its mystical wonders and marvels to its African and Chinese friends.

By virtue of geography and history, Egypt has been throughout history an integral part of Africa. It has always paid maximum attention to the problems and aspirations of the Continent, and will always join hands with the African sister countries for the emancipation and prosperity of the Continent and its peoples. It is our faith that, working in unison, we can make our Africa proud of us.

In view of the above, it is the aspiration of the Arab Republic of Egypt that the African sister countries will endorse its offer to host the 4th Ministerial Conference of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum in 2009, especially that Egypt has taken the lead amongst the African sister countries in offering to host the aforementioned Conference, and that the two co-chairs of the Forum, Ethiopia and China, have expressed their support to the Egyptian offer. It is the determination of Egypt to build upon the success achieved in the Second Ministerial Conference held in Addis Ababa in December 2003, and continue the African effort currently led by Ethiopia, towards further consolidation and enhancement of Chinese-African cooperation.

Addis Ababa, 16 December 2004

2005

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