

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone 517 700 Fax : 517844

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Fifth Ordinary Session
23 June – 3 July, 2004
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**EX.CL/96 (V)
Original: English**

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL
OFFICES OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN
THE FIVE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS**

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE AFRICAN UNION
IN THE FIVE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS**

INTRODUCTION

1. This item was proposed by the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya during the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 12 to 16 March 2004.

2. According to the proposal, the regional offices in the five geographical regions would be situated in the following Member States: South Africa, Nigeria, the Great Jamahiriya, Gabon and Ethiopia.

3. Furthermore, in the Explanatory Note on the subject it was stated that such Regional Offices would facilitate the process of communication among the regions of the Continent and forge economic, social and political proximity among the peoples. They would also contribute to the coordination and harmonization of African Union projects and programmes and expedite their implementation and follow up. This would be particularly useful in areas of conflicts and disputes in the Continent. By creating harmony and consensus within the regions, this would enable the African Union to play a more effective role in the Continent by better coordination through the regional offices.

DELIBERATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

4. During the discussions on the item representatives of Member States welcomed the initiative of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which had the potential of further strengthening Continental Unity. However, there were many issues raised in the implementation of the proposal, which necessitated in-depth study before a final decision could be taken.

5. The Executive Council therefore took note of the proposal and mandated the Chairperson of the Commission vide decision EX/CL/Dec.91 (IV) to undertake a study on all aspects and implications of the proposal and submit a Report to the Executive Council at the Fifth Ordinary Session in July 2004.

ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

6. The AU Commission agrees with the concept of having AU offices in each region provided that the offices are rationalised in such a way as to adapt them with the new missions of the Commission.

7. The proposal of the Commission on this issue contained in the Report of The Chairperson on AU Delegations is that Regional Offices should ideally be co-located with RECs or very near to the Headquarters of the RECs. This would create synergy and facilitate coordination, harmonisation and closer working relations between the AU and the RECs. These proposals have been developed with the active participation of and after wide consultations with RECS and other stakeholders.

8. Thus, the Commission wishes to make the following proposals for location of AU Regional Offices, in alphabetical order of the regions: In the case of Central Africa, Libreville, Gabon would be an excellent choice as the Headquarters of the Community of Central African States (ECCAS); For Eastern Africa Region, most of the Member States belong to the Economic Community of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which is headquartered in Lusaka, Zambia. The Commission is, therefore, of the view that it is imperative to open an office in Lusaka, Zambia; For the Northern African Region, the Regional Economic Community is located in Rabat, Morocco. It would therefore appear that the proposal for an office in Sirte, Libya, in the general locality and not far from Morocco could be supported. As for the Office for Southern Africa, the choice that has to be made by the Region has to be between Gabarone, where SADC is headquartered; Lilongwe in Malawi where an AU Office already exists or Pretoria as proposed by the Great Jamahiriya. For Western Africa, the proposal of the Great Jamahiriya for the regional Office to be based in Abuja is in line with the proposals of the commission since the Headquarters of ECOWAS is in Abuja, Nigeria.

9. Accordingly, the proposal of the Great Jamahiriya largely conforms to the proposals made by the Commission.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. In the light of the foregoing, the Commission recommends that the proposal of the Great Jamahiriya be considered against the fine tuning proposed by the Commission in paragraph eight above, namely:

- i. **Central African Region:** The proposal of the Great Jamahiriya for the Regional office to be located in Libreville, Gabon should be accepted as an excellent proposal as it is the Headquarters of the Community of Central African States (ECCAS);
- ii. **Eastern Africa Region:** Most of the Member States in the Region belong to the Economic Community for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which is headquartered in Lusaka, Zambia. The Commission is, therefore, of the view that it is imperative to open an office in Lusaka, Zambia;
- iii. **Northern African Region:** the Regional Economic Community is located in Rabat, Morocco. It would therefore appear that the proposal for an office in Sirte, Libya, in the general locality and not far from Morocco could be supported;
- iv. **Southern Africa Region:** the Region should be requested to consult and recommend whether the Office should be located in Gabarone, where SADC is headquartered; Lilongwe in Malawi where an AU Office already exists or in Pretoria as proposed by the Great Jamahiriya;
- v. **Western African Region:** the proposal of the Great Jamahiriya for the regional Office to be based in Abuja is in line with the proposals of the commission since the Headquarters of ECOWAS is in Abuja, Nigeria.

2004

Progress report of the chairperson on the establishment of regional offices of the African Union in the Five Geographical Regions

African Union

African Union

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/4525>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository