

AFRICAN UNION

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## **ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**Eighth Ordinary Session**

**29 – 30 January 2007**

**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

**Assembly/AU/13 (VIII)**

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN ON THE REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

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OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

1. The Heads of State of the Committee of Ten on the Reform of The United Nations met on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.
2. During its deliberations, the Committee observed that:
  - a) no new development has taken place to affect the Common African Position on the Reform of the United Nations as enshrined in the EZULWINI CONSENSUS and the SIRTE DECLARATION;
  - b) the Committee of Ten on the United Nations Reform should continue consultations with a view to promote and secure support for the Common African Position as mandated by the 6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly in Khartoum in January, 2006.
3. The Committee of Ten also took note of the letter of the President of the United Nations General Assembly, dated 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 which among other things highlights issues such as '**... the size of an enlarged Security Council; categories of membership; the question of regional representation; the question of the veto; and, the working methods of the Security Council and the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly**'<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For ease of reference, the letter of the President of the General Assembly is attached to this Report

**Excellency,**

In my letter of 22 December 2006, I underlined the growing desire of the membership to establish an open and inclusive consultation process to address the issue of Security Council reform. In this regard, I am pleased to confirm that the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and Other Matters related to the Security Council will take place on Thursday, 8 February 2007.

In light of paragraph 17 (c) of the Report of the Working Group [A/60/47 (supp)], this first meeting of the Working Group will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the relationship between the work of the Working Group and the process of implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome. This exchange should also include the mandate and functions of the Working Group, building upon the experience and progress attained by the Working Group since the beginning of its deliberations in January 1994.

Given the wish to the membership to consider Security Council reform in a fresh and creative manner and taking into account the comprehensiveness of the reform process, I propose that we start our deliberations around the following key issues, so that we can have a focused and productive discussion. These issues are: *the size of an enlarged Security Council; categories of membership; the question of regional representation; the question of the veto; and, the working methods of the Security Council and the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly.*

I shall communicate to you soon the names and responsibilities of the five Facilitators who will assist me during the consultation process. I will request them to interact with all Member States in an open, inclusive and transparent way. I encourage you to engage with them in a frank and constructive manner during the various formats in which they will conduct their consultations. I expect them to report back to me on the result of their work in a consolidated manner by end of March 2007, so that we could all have an informed follow-up discussion on the way forward.

I trust we will continue to work on the issue of Security Council reform with a view to reaching general agreement bearing in mind the commitment made by our leaders in the 2005 Outcome Document.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Haya Rashed Al Khalifa

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