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**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN AGENCY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC WATERS
OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

*(Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF TERRITORIAL AND ECONOMIC WATERS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

(Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

I. Title of Proposed Item to be Included in the agenda.

With reference to sub-paragraph(2d) of Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Assembly, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the inclusion of an item titled: "The Establishment of An African Agency For the Protection of the Territorial and Economic Waters of African Countries (Africa Frontex) in the Agenda of the 13th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly scheduled for July 2009 .

II. Explanatory Note for the Inclusion of the Item.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union stipulates in Article 3 (three) (c) thus:

"accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent "It calls also in sub-paragraph (d) of the same Article to "..... promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples" It further calls in sub-paragraph(i) to "..... establish necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy".

In order to attain these goals, the African Union organs embarked on a number of joint actions aimed at defending the interests of the continent at different levels and the exploitation of the resources that African waters are abundantly endowed with so as to improve the living conditions of its peoples. These abundant resources in the oceans and seas off African countries are prone to plunder and violation, aggression and illegal exploration by foreign countries. African peoples were denied this wealth, most of which has been depleted over the years. These acts behoove us to react and take bold and courageous decisions to put an end to the greed of foreign countries and multi-national companies that operate in total indifference in these waters, which constitute one of the sources of livelihood for the populations of the coastal countries in the continent whose protests escalated into the current phenomenon of PIRACY and hijacking of fishing boats and the detention of their crew and charging them with the crime of plundering their wealth, which constitute one of the sources of their sustenance and one of the prerequisites of alleviating hunger and poverty.

In order to protect the economic waters of Africa and to put an end to the unjust and illegal exploitation of this wealth, there is need for Africa to put in place an effective instrument to regulate their exploitation for the benefit of the coastal

populations and the entire African peoples. Such an instrument should meet the that will aspirations of coastal peoples through the protection of their waters and their economies. Against this backdrop, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposes an item titled "Establishment of the African Agency for the Protection of Territorial and Economic Waters of African Countries ". Modalities for its composition, operation and protocol shall be worked out. However, the salient points of the proposed Agency shall be as follows:

1. Protect Territorial and Economic Waters of African Countries by preventing aggression and unjust exploitation of their wealth in accordance with the principle of sovereignty over their economic zones and preserve their wealth as provided for in the law of the sea;
2. Coordinate efforts being made by African countries to preserve water and fishery resources in their respective territories and regulate their exploitation by others in accordance with agreed standards;
3. Endeavour to establish an early warning system to warn Member States against any violation of their territorial and economic waters and exploitation of their wealth;
4. Enact and implement policies for the African Union in the area of joint administration of African marine resources;
5. Provide assistance to Member States in the area of training personnel working in the institutions concerned with the management and protection of coastal zones, exploitation of territorial waters and economic resources as well as preparation of studies and researches on the development of their capabilities in those areas;
6. Provide assistance to Member States under circumstances that may warrant technical and field support to respond to any violation of their territorial economic waters;
7. Once established, the proposed Agency should be affiliated to the African Defence Council;

Whilst expressing its keen interest, like any other countries in the continent, on the need to develop the ongoing efforts to protect African marine resources and safeguard them, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to submit this proposal against the backdrop of African political will, awareness and determination to address the multi-faceted challenges facing the continent as well as the desire to exploit the abundant resources of its waters in order to achieve economic development and provide better life for its peoples.

2009

Establishment of the African agency for the protection of territorial and economic waters of African countries (Item Proposed by The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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