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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
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**HOLDING OF BILATERAL SUMMITS BETWEEN AFRICA AND
CERTAIN STATES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM
TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE SUMMITS**

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

**HOLDING OF BILATERAL SUMMITS BETWEEN AFRICA AND CERTAIN STATES
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM TO
PARTICIPATE IN THESE SUMMITS**

Request by the Great Jamahiriya for the inclusion of an item titled “Holding of Bilateral Summits between Africa and some States, and Establishment of a mechanism for Participating in such Meetings” in the Agenda of the 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly slated for Khartoum from 23 to 24 January 2006, with an explanatory note.

I. Item Proposed for Inclusion in the Assembly Agenda

In accordance with Rule 8, subparagraph 2/d of the Rules of Procedure of the African Union, the Great Jamahiriya requests the inclusion in the Agenda of the 6th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly scheduled to take place in Khartoum from 23 to 24 January 2006 of an item titled:

“Holding of Bilateral Summits between Africa and some States, and Establishment of a Mechanism for Participating in these Meetings”

II. Legal Texts Supporting the Request

- Paragraph 1, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 of the Preamble of the Constitutive Act of the African Union:

“Inspired by the noble ideals which guided the founding fathers of our Continental Organization and generations of Pan-Africanists in their determination to promote unity, solidarity, cohesion and co-operation among the peoples of Africa and African States”;

“Considering that since its inception the Organization of African Unity... has provided a unique framework for our collective action in Africa and in our relations with the rest of the world”; “Determined to take up the multifaceted challenges that confront our Continent and peoples in the light of the social, economic and political changes taking place in the world”; “Guided by our common vision of a united and strong Africa... and determined to take all necessary measures to strengthen our common institutions and provide them with the necessary resources to enable them discharge their respective mandates effectively”.

- The historic Sirte Declaration of 9.9.99 in which we decided to establish the African Union, thereby expressing the political will of African States and fulfilling the aspirations of their peoples to unity and integrity.

- Article 3, paragraphs (d), (e) and (i) on the objectives of the Union: “Promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the Continent and its peoples”; “Encourage international cooperation...”; “Establish the necessary conditions which enable the Continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations”.

III. Explanatory Note

The African Continent constitutes a single geographical space under a single political organization namely the African Union with its policy and executive organs, its specialized commissions, etc. This implies that the African Union should forge relations with other similar structures in the world: continents, regional or international organizations and unions.

The holding of bilateral Summits between Africa and some States, such as the Africa-France, Africa-China and Africa-Japan Summits, does not correspond to the political reality of the Continent which is a single geographical and political entity.

The alternative to the Africa-France Summit and other similar Summits is to adopt a new mechanism that respects Africa, preserves its dignity and is no humiliation to the Continent. However, the correction of such wrong approaches does not preclude continued cooperation with France and other parties on the basis of a new mechanism. For example, the Chairperson of the African Union can meet with the French President; a working group representing the African Union can have a meeting with France, China or Japan. Similarly, a group representing the Continent at the regional level and chaired by an African Head of State.

The Bilateral Summits in their present form and mechanism are humiliating to Africa. After attaining their independence following a protracted struggle and enormous sacrifices, how could 50 African Heads of State go and meet with a Head of State of a given European country at a venue determined by the latter? He may not at times even chair that meeting but will just delegate his Foreign Minister to represent him. Is it normal that 50 African Heads of State meet with the Foreign Minister of China or Japan? How could 50 African Heads of State accept to attend a conference or a Summit chaired by the Prime Minister of Japan? Is there anything more humiliating to Africa than this?

Therefore, within the context of the present bilateral summit arrangements between Africa and other countries of the world, the forthcoming Africa-France Summit should be the last one and thereafter the new mechanism should apply.

Tripoli, 16/10/2005
(Prepared by the Office of the Assistant
Secretary of the General People’s Committee)

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Holding of bilateral summits between Africa and certain States and establishment of a mechanism to participate in these summits (Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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