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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
THIRTEENTH ORDINARY SESSION
24 – 28 June 2008
Sharm El-Sheikh, EGYPT**

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**HOLDING THE MID-YEAR SESSIONS (JULY SESSIONS) OF
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION, IN THE CITY OF
SIRTE OF THE GREAT JAMAHIRIYA STARTING FROM 2010**

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

Explanatory Note

For the request of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to include an item in the Draft Agenda of the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in June 2008

I. The Proposed item to be included

According to the sub-paragraph (2-d) of Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the African Union, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the inclusion in the Draft Agenda of the 11th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union scheduled to take place in June 2008 an item entitled “**Convening the mid-year Sessions of the Assembly of the African Union in Sirte, Libya**”.

II. Explanatory Note

Due to the changes and the increasing challenges the African Continent is experiencing, the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government adopted at its 3rd Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, from 6 – 8 July 2004, Decision No. 53 on the frequency of convening the Ordinary Sessions of the Assembly which, among other things, stipulated that the Assembly should be held twice a year in ordinary sessions. Furthermore, the Assembly of the Union stipulated in Decision 63 adopted by its 4th Ordinary Session that the January Sessions of the Assembly should be held during the last week of January at the Headquarters of the AU, setting a timetable for future Assembly meetings up to 2010.

The convening of the January sessions at the Headquarters of the AU was actually implemented. However, the convening of the mid-year sessions according to the timetable faced a lot of difficulties because of excuses some Member States make concerning the hosting of these sessions due to their special circumstances, which normally lead to reconsideration of new requests for hosting the Assembly.

For the above-mentioned reasons and in conformity with paragraphs 1, 2 3 of Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and in order to ensure the convening of the mid-year sessions at agreed upon venue, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is offering to host them annually in Sirte and wishes to assure in this regard the following:

First: Placing Ouagadougou Conference Centre and all its facilities at the disposal of the Commission and declares its readiness to provide it with all the additional equipments required for convening the Assembly meetings and enabling the Assembly and its preparatory organs to perform their duties effectively.

Second: It undertakes to provide the required facilities for all the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of delegation as well as staff of the Commission and participants at the Assembly, representing regional and international organizations, and

also declares its preparedness to sign a host agreement with the Commission granting privileges and immunities in accordance with relevant conventions in order to allow the participation of all Member States of the African Union irrespective of the type or level of their bilateral relations with the Jamahiriya.

Third: The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya submits this offer of making available the Sirte Conference Centre in an attempt to ensure the success of the policy/decision making organs of the Union and keenness to reduce the cost of hosting such Assembly meetings to adhere Member States of the African Union and for the annual budget of the African Union.

2008

Holding the mid-year sessions (July Sessions) of the assembly of the African Union, in the city of Sirte of the Great Jamahiriya starting from 2010 (Item Proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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