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**EGYPT'S HOSTING THE 25TH SESSION OF THE
FRANCE-AFRICA SUMMIT IN 2009**

(Item Proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

**EGYPT'S HOSTING THE 25TH SESSION OF THE FRANCE-AFRICA
SUMMIT IN 2009**

Under Rule 10, Sub-paragraph 2 (g), of the Rules of Procedure of the AU Executive Council, the Arab Republic of Egypt has proposed the inclusion of an item on "The Offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Host the 25th France-Africa Summit in 2009" on the agenda of the 7th AU Executive Council Session, scheduled for 1-2 July 2005 in Sirte, Libya. This Explanatory Note lays the premises of the Egyptian proposal.

Since its consolidation in Paris in 1972, the France-Africa Summit has drawn an increasing number of African countries, and has provided a flexible forum of North-South dialogue on issues of importance to Africa and political, economic and social challenges the Continent faces. The Summit is held alternately between France and Africa.

Egypt has participated effectively in the activities of France-Africa Summits since its invitation to participate as a special guest in the 8th Summit in Paris in 1981. On this basis, Egypt offers to host the 25th France-Africa Summit in 2009, and in so doing it looks forward to gaining the support of its African sister countries.

Egypt enjoys all the organizational and logistical capacities needed to host the 25th France-Africa Summit with a success that suits the importance of this event in enhancing France-Africa cooperation. It also masters an outstanding reservoir of experience in successfully hosting international conferences and African summits. In addition, none of the Northern African countries hosted the France-Africa Summit since its organization in Casa Blanca in 1988.

Egypt, the Northern gate of Africa, has always been an integral part of the continent, in the center of African events throughout history. She shares with its sisterly African countries that aspirations toward advancement and welfare for the countries and peoples of the continent. Egypt believes that the Summit will provide a valuable chance for African countries to exchange views and ideas with France, one of the most important development partners of the continent.

In light of the above, it is the aspiration of the Arab Republic of Egypt that the African sister countries will endorse its offer to host the 25th France-Africa Summit in December 2009 in Cairo, especially that Egypt has taken the lead amongst the African sister countries in offering to host the aforementioned summit, and that she has not yet had the honour to hosting the summit since its consolidation as a forum of France-Africa dialogue in 1972. It is the determination of Egypt to build upon the successes achieved in the course of previous France-Africa summits, including the last summit in 2003.

2005

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