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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Sixth Ordinary Session  
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Abuja, Nigeria**

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**CANCELLATION OF CUSTOMS BETWEEN THE STATES OF THE  
AFRICAN UNION, HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS  
BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND THE REST OF THE  
WORLD AND THE CREATION OF A POST OF  
A MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE**

*(Item proposed by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)*

**CANCELLATION OF CUSTOMS BETWEEN THE STATES OF THE AFRICAN UNION, HARMONIZATION OF CUSTOMS TARIFFS BETWEEN ITS MEMBERS AND THE REST OF THE WORLD AND THE CREATION OF A POST OF A MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE**

Request by the Great Jamahiriya to include an item in the agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Conference of the African Union, to be held in Abuja, 30-31 January, 2005 and the explanatory Memorandum justifying the inclusion of this item:

**First:** The item, proposed to be incorporated in the agenda of the session. In accordance with sub-paragraph [2/H] of Article 8 of the AU Conference Procedures Regulations, the Great Jamahiriya requests the inclusion of an item entitled (Cancellation of customs between the States of the African Union, harmonization of customs tariffs between its Members and the rest of the world and the creation of a post of a Minister of Foreign Trade) in the agenda of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference, to be held in Abuja, 30-31 January, 2005.

**Second:** The explanatory memorandum explaining the reasons behind the item inclusion.

African States, members of the AU suffer from many problems in the field of external trade, the size of intra-trade and the flow of goods among the Union States despite the existence of regional economic communities and groupings which have existed for sometime. Under these situations, African countries' dealing and transaction with the external world countries in the areas of trade and commercial exchange have become easier and more streamlined than the African inter-State trade. It is worth mentioning that African States cannot secure some products of strategic importance in the field of production and industry such as cotton, coffee, cocoa and others from the producing countries except through direct dealing with the Foreign corporations which monopolize these products or through their prior approval which is often difficult to obtain.

- To tackle all these problems combined, they must be confronted within the framework of African integration the foundations of which were laid by the Constitutive Act of the African Union in its Article 3 sub-paragraph E,H,Z,P Article 13 sub-paragraph A, Article 14, sub-paragraph E pertaining to the establishment of Specialized Technical Committees.

These provisions are consistent with the decision of the Third Summit of the AU related to the approval to incorporate amendments in the Structure of the Commission whereby the Commission becomes the Government of the Union

and its President becomes the President of that Government and the Commissioners become Ministers in their competences respectively.

The cancellation of customs tariffs among the Member states of the Union and the imposition of a unified customs tariff which will govern the relations of the Member States of the Union with the rest of the world in addition to the creation of a post of the Minister of Foreign Trade in accordance with the manner of this proposal, who will represent the Continent on its behalf and will strengthen the bargaining position of the African Continent in its relations with the rest of the world and will enhance the negotiating position effectively on equal terms which will enable the Continent to defend and protect the interests of the Member States and their peoples, This requires:

- **First:** Cancellation of customs between Member States of the Union;
- **Second:** Imposition of a unified customs tariff which will govern the relations of the Member States of the Union with the rest of the world;
- **Third:** The creation of a post of a Minister of Foreign Trade of the Union in the manner set forth in the introduction of this memorandum;
- As Great Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is proposing to incorporate this item in the agenda, it is prompted by the spirit which has stirred the effective political will in the African Continent to establish the Great African Union based on Sirte historic Declaration in 9/9/99, the Durban Summit 2002 and the Maputo Summit 2003 with which the African Union has come into effect;
- This proposal is in harmony with the dictates of the age and the changes currently taking place. It will strengthen and invigorate the institutions of the African Union as a must with which the African Continent will face the challenges imposed on it.

2005

Cancellation of customs between the states of the African Union, harmonization of customs tariffs between its members and the rest of the world and the creation of a post of a minister of foreign trade (Item proposed by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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