

AFRICAN UNION

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Thirteenth Ordinary Session

1-3 July 2009

Sirte, Libya

Assembly/AU/15 (XIII) Add.2

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN DEFENSE COUNCIL

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

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN DEFENSE COUNCIL
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Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)*

I. Title of proposed item to be included:

With reference to sub-paragraph(2 d) of Rule 8 of the procedures of the AU Assembly, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the inclusion of an item titled "The Establishment of African Defense Council" in the Agenda of the 13th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly scheduled for July 2009 .

II. Explanatory Note on the Reasons for the Inclusion of the Item:-

- 1- The Constitutive Act of the African Union stipulates in article 3(three), (b) "defend the sovereignty , territorial integrity and independence of its Member States" . It is stipulated in the same article , (d) "promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples. Article 4(four) (d) provides also the "establishment of a common defence policy for the African Continent" .
- 2- The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council stipulates in article 3(three) (e) "develop a common defence policy for the Union , in accordance with article 4(d) of the Constitutive Act. Article 2(a) of the AU Non-Aggression and Common Defence Charter also stated the need for Member States to cooperate in the areas of Common Defence. While Article 4(a) refers to the commitment of Member States to mutual assistance on matters relating to their defence.

According to the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council and the AU Non-Aggression and Common Defence Charter, there were frameworks where Member States expressed the extent of the importance of Common Defence for the Continent and the need to foil any external attacks against any of its nations. This stems from the backdrop that defending any African country is closely linked with the defence of other African countries . In other words, it implies the defence of the entire African Continent. This , therefore , necessitates the establishment of an African Common Defence Council to become one of the organs of the Union with a proviso that its functions are selected and defined in accordance with a protocol to be designed for that purpose and should include the following:

- a. Formation of a Council composed of a group of Member States to be selected for this purpose and for a specified period. In doing so, due consideration should be given to geographical distribution and rotation of membership, or the membership should include African Ministers responsible for Defence,
- b. Prediction of possible external threats against countries and nations of the continent, and hence the need for vigilance,

- c. Development of common defence strategies for the continent and overseeing their implementation,
- d. Identification of common defence potentials and the mobilization of the necessary logistics for their common defence,
- e. Promotion and implementation of the African Union Charter on Common Defence,
- f. Ensuring collective response to any external threats Africa may face.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya hereby proposes the inclusion of the above item against the backdrop of its keen interest in finding an organ capable of promoting the capacities of the continent to mobilize potentials and efforts for a common defence of African countries and nations. It is confident that this submission will be accorded the importance it deserves from the entire AU Member States. The idea stems from the spirit of sincere effective political will of Leaders of the Continent to respond to the call to establish the African Union and their far reaching desire to support the role of its institutions so that the African Peoples will be capable of resisting any external dangers that may threaten their sovereignty and independence or any elements that may obstruct their socio-economic economic development.

2009-07-01

Establishment of the African defines council (Item proposed by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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