

**AFRICAN UNION**

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**ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION**  
**Seventeenth Ordinary Session**  
**25 – 27 July 2010**  
**Kampala, Uganda**

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**CONVENING OF MID-YEAR SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION (JULY SESSIONS)**

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

**CONVENING OF MID-YEAR SESSIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY OF  
THE AFRICAN UNION (JULY SESSIONS)**  
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**I. THE PROPOSED ITEM TO BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA OF THE SESSION**

In accordance with Rule 8, paragraph 2(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly of the Union the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya requests the inclusion of an item titled: "Convening of Mid-Year Sessions (July Sessions) of the Assembly "in the Draft Agenda of the 15th Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to take place in Kampala, Uganda from 25 to 27 July 2010.

**II. Explanatory Note on the Inclusion of the Item**

- The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly proposed the holding of two sessions of the Assembly per year; one in January and the other in July always held at the Headquarters (Addis Ababa) . That Libyan proposal was adopted by the Assembly;
- Where an Assembly of the Union was held once in the fifth month of the year, in a Member State, that Member State chaired it automatically as the host country;
- Five years after this change, a number of difficulties emerged during the implementation of the new timeframe for holding the Summit. We therefore see the need to revert to the situation that prevailed during the era of the Organisation of African Unity whereby the January Summit was held every year in a Member State on request and in alphabetical order. The host country should automatically chair the Union as was then the case; and Addis Ababa remained the Headquarters of the Union as was the case in the days of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU);

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposes that the July Assembly Sessions be held every year in Sirte where enormous potentials are available in terms of facilities, services, security and excellent serene atmosphere at the Mediterranean city of Sirte. While making this offer to host the sessions, The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya would like also to emphasize its commitment to the following:

- 1) Put the Ouagadougou Conference Complex and all its facilities at the disposal of the African Union, and equip the complex with additional apparatus and fixtures needed for the sessions to enable the Assembly and its Preparatory Organs to carry out their duties effectively. It also emphasises its commitment to the provisions of sub-paragraph 2 of Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to cover all extra costs arising from the hosting of the sessions;

- 2) Provide necessary facilities for Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Heads of Delegation, the Staff of AU Organs, participants in the proceedings of the Assembly and International and Regional Organisations, and enter into an agreement with the competent authorities of the African Union to grant immunities and privileges provided for in the relevant agreements that will make participation open to all Member States of the African Union regardless of the type and level of bilateral relations;
- 3) Lastly, in offering the Sirte Conference Centre for the holding of the Assembly, the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is expressing its genuine desire to ensure the success of the meetings of the African Union policy making organs and the fraternal willingness to alleviate the financial burden of hosting those sessions on sister Member States of the Union and on the annual budgets of the African Union itself;
- 4) Should there be any benefits deriving from convening the Assembly, this should be shared between all Member States and not to be monopolized by only one State. This has been the case in the days of the Organisation of African Unity. Addis Ababa should therefore be content with the fact that it has for many decades been hosting the Summit.

*“We are determined to deal once and for all with the scourge of conflicts and violence on our continent, acknowledging our shortcomings and errors, committing our resources and our best people, and missing no opportunity to push forward the agenda of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction. We, as leaders, simply cannot bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans.”* (Paragraph 9 of the Tripoli Declaration of 31 August 2009).

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# Convening of mid-year sessions of the assembly of the African Union (July sessions) (Item proposed by The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

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