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AU/LIL/HQ/ECO/45

30 October 2006

VERY URGENT !

TO: H.E. Dr. Maxwell Mkwezalamba
Commissioner Economic Affairs
African Union Commission
Addis Ababa

FROM: Prof. R. Omotayo Olaniyan
AU Regional Delegate to SADC
Lilongwe

SUBJECT: **Report On The discussions with the Foreign Minister of Namibia
16 October 2006**

Excellency:

I have the honor to report on the discussions which I had with the Foreign Minister of Namibia, H.E. Mr. Marco Hausiku, M.P. on 16 October 2006 which is part of the process of establishing and building AU relations with SADC member states in the region.

The Regional Delegate to SADC was well received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the company of the Namibian Ambassador for Multilateral Cooperation and other two senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Regional Delegate expressed satisfaction of the AU Office for the important meeting, which is necessary in order to explain the mandate of the Office, which is essentially to act as a catalyst to regional and continental integration and development. To promote and build good relations with SADC and the member states and facilitate coordination in the implementation of AU decisions and declarations that embrace diverse political, economic and socio-cultural issues in the continent.

The Foreign Minister expressed delight at the visit and expressed satisfaction on the relevance of the mandate of the Office. The Minister underscored the importance of

economic development in Africa and sought clarifications and support of the African Union Commission on certain issues. He drew attention to Summit Decision on the integration of NEPAD into the AU expressed the desire to know what specific actions have been taken in this direction. In the view of the Honorable Minister prompt integration of NEPAD into the AU would "...give Africa better start in its development process". In this connection he proceeded further to ask questions on the sources of funding of the AU and NEPAD. Is the continent able to generate sufficient resources to run both institutions and meet their development challenges?

But more importantly the Minister introduced the issue of the expansion of the United Nations Security Council. Namibia he added is a member of the Committee of 10 that was mandated in the AU Banjul Summit to carry out consultations with the Five Permanent members of the Security Council, Great Britain, China, France, Russia, and the USA on their views on the position of Africa on this matter. However, as of now, the members of the Committee of 10 have not met to discuss the modalities for their consultations with the Permanent Five. **The Minister would like to see the AU Commission arrange, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, a meeting for the Committee as soon as possible.** The Minister added that this should be urgently addressed since the Committee is expected to report on its consultations to the next Summit of the AU in Addis Ababa.

The AU SARO Office would appreciate immediate action on this request and also to be informed of this action should there be a need for follow-up from the Office.

The Minister welcomes the suggestion of the Regional Delegate for a possible visit of the Chairperson to Windhoek on the invitation of the President of Namibia. He indicated he would work on this and get back to the AU on this as soon as practicable.

In addition, the Foreign Minister stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would consult with other Ministries in Namibia that cover the activities on African integration and development and arrange for another meeting in which the officials of these ministries and those of AU-SARO could discuss further and more concretely on strategies for cooperation, coordination and implementation of AU decisions and declarations.

Please accept Excellency the assurances of my highest considerations.

CC: Chief of Staff
Bureau of the Chairperson

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