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**PROMOTION OF COOPERATION, DIALOGUE AND RESPECT
FOR DIVERSITY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

(Item proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

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**PROMOTION OF COOPERATION, DIALOGUE AND RESPECT
FOR DIVERSITY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**
(Item proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

1. The promotion and protection of universally recognized human rights constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of the work of the African Union. Ever since 1981, Africa has enjoyed its own regional legal framework in the field of human rights, embodied in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. This instrument, along with other supplementary legal documents, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, represent the continent's regional framework on human rights, reflecting Africa's common vision in this field, which it has always strived to reinforce and promote in various international human rights fora.
2. On this basis, the proposed item aims at reinforcing Africa's commitment to promoting cooperation on human rights issues regionally and internationally, through the application of its longstanding approach in addressing human rights issues in a cooperative and non-confrontational manner. In this context, the item is calling upon Member States of the African Union to work to preserve, strengthen and enhance the integrity of the United Nations Human Rights Council as a forum for dialogue on human rights issues based on the principles of mutual respect, cooperation and objectivity, reflecting Africa's vision in this regard.
3. Of particular importance to our continent, especially in view of the upcoming review of the UN Human Rights Council, is ensuring that the international human rights agenda continues to be characterized by the balance, breadth and depth necessary to reflect the priorities of all regions of the world in this domain, including all human rights issues garnering the attention and support of Africa, such as combating racism and racial discrimination. This approach stands to ascertain the joint ownership, by all, of the international human rights agenda.
4. In addition and in application of Africa's vision of human rights, it is important to reject the divisive nature of efforts seeking to impose controversial concepts, falling outside the internationally and regional agreed legal framework on human rights, in particular regarding social and value systems and matters. This would reaffirm our commitment to preserving the universality of human rights and respecting diversity.
5. In short, this item seeks to consolidate Africa's vision and positions on human rights issues and to put them to work for the benefit of all. This item and the proposed resolution to be considered have no financial implications.

“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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Promotion of Cooperation, Dialogue and Respect for Diversity in the Field of Human Rights (Item proposed by the Arab Republic of Egypt)

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