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Assembly/AU/Resolution 1 (V)

DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTION

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**DECLARATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE MILLENNIUM
DECLARATION AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT
GOALS (MDGs)**

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the Fifth Ordinary Session of our Assembly, in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on 4 and 5 July 2005;

Recalling that the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000 was a laudable initiative by the international community in eradicating poverty, accelerating human development, integrating the African continent into the 21st century global economy and making globalization more beneficial to the people of Africa;

Considering that we have devoted our resources and taken far-reaching decisions and policy reforms in the political, social, economic, environmental and cultural domains in favor of eradicating poverty, achieving rapid sustainable and socio-economic development, as well as accelerating the integration of our peoples;

Aware that although some progress has been made in several countries, more needs to be done in order to attain the MDGs within the deadline;

Convinced that the achievement of these goals requires the cooperation of the private sector, civil society, the international community and other stakeholders and solidarity with Africa in various fields;

Conscious of the fact that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for poverty eradication and for the achievement of all other MDGs;

Determined to eradicate poverty and to improve the socio-economic conditions of the peoples of our continent, and having undertaken a review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in order to assess the progress made thus far and the challenges confronting our individual and collective efforts;

Determined further to fulfill our commitments to the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the MDGs within the deadline;

Reaffirming our strong commitment to the implementation of the Decisions and the Declaration of the 2004 Ouagadougou Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, particularly, youth employment;

Decides to adopt the Common African Position on the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals to constitute Africa's input into the Review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, to be submitted to the UN General Assembly in September 2005.

We therefore resolve to:

1. Redouble our efforts at the national, regional, continental and international levels and to strengthen interstate cooperation and joint activities toward meeting the MDGs by the target deadline;
2. Enhance investment and development in Africa by promoting peace and security and create a conducive environment by ensuring good governance in our countries through:
 - a. strengthening and ensuring that regional and continental mechanisms, in particular, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union play a central role in bringing about peace, security and stability on the continent;
 - b. addressing conflict and political instability on the continent, with the aim of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2010 by prioritizing and allocating more resources to conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and peace-building and to fully collaborate with regional and continental mechanisms, to ensure the speedy operationalization of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and the African Stand-by Force (ASF);
 - c. becoming parties to regional, continental and international instruments relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, transnational organized crimes, drug trafficking, the illicit trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and landmines, corruption and money laundering and ensuring the effective implementation of such instruments; and
 - d. deepening transparency and effective participatory forms of governance and strengthening democratic institutions and processes in our countries. We URGE all Member States of the Union to join, as a matter of priority, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as soon as possible and to strengthen the APRM process for its efficient performance.
3. Continue to develop and effectively implement economic and social policies which are of benefit to the poor segment of the population through:
 - a) adopting employment-oriented and poverty reduction strategies, in particular the creation of decent work for the youth;
 - b) promoting rural economy and agriculture to raise the level of productivity, improve food security and enhance living conditions in rural Africa;
 - c) promoting the private sector, with particular emphasis on small and medium-scale enterprises;

- d) Pursuit of industrial development strategy;
 - e) Enhancement of the competitiveness of African economies;
 - f) Increased investment required for the development of infrastructure and services of transport, telecommunications and energy;
 - g) Prudent management of natural resources and the environment;
 - h) Mainstreaming of gender into national development strategies and in particular, addressing the persistent and high levels of poverty among women through the implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action;
 - i) Mainstreaming trade policy into national development strategies;
 - j) Promoting ICT and enhancing investment in the development of physical and human capital, particularly in science and technology;
 - k) Investment in strengthening health systems including access to reproductive and sexual health services to ensure sustained and long-term improvement in maternal, new born and child health;
 - l) Enhancing social development including by giving priority to improved access and quality education, health and sanitation;
 - m) Combating the HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other diseases;
 - n) Designing and integrating social protection and social safety net programmes within broader national social policy frameworks and national development strategies; and
 - o) building of statistical capacity for policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring.
4. Mobilize additional domestic resources for financing of MDGs, thus CALL on the private sector in Africa to contribute more substantially to development on the continent and to efforts of meeting the MDGs in Africa;
5. Include in the MDGs framework, transport targets and indicators adopted by the African Ministers in charge of transport and infrastructure in April 2005 with a view to accelerating the achievement of the MDGs;
6. Mobilize international support and strengthening partnership with the international community. In this regard, we:

- a) **CALL ON** the international community, particularly the United Nations and our development partners to complement our efforts, in particular, to fulfill the commitments that they have made in support for development in Africa,
 - b) **URGE** the international community especially the G8 to fully embrace the comprehensive recommendations of the Commission for Africa and act expeditiously on them;
 - c) **REQUEST** the developed countries and development partners to expedite the process of total debt cancellation for Africa by the year 2007. In this regard we acknowledge the recent proposal from G8 Ministers of Finance with respect to the cancellation of the debt for 14 African countries and encourage them to extend those proposals to all African countries with regard to all components of the external debt;
7. **FURTHER URGE** the developed countries to improve aid quality through, among others:
- (i) delinking aid from the trade and geopolitical interests of donors;
 - (ii) better coordination, harmonization and simplification of aid operational procedures;
 - (iii) making aid pro-poor;
 - (iv) stronger linkage of aid to the MDGs, the NEPAD programme and the PRSP process;
 - (v) strengthened ownership of aid by African beneficiaries and greater policy space in the utilization of aid;
 - (vi) meeting of the commitment to increase ODA flows to internationally agreed 0.7 percent of GNP with greater predictability; and
 - (vii) reducing the delay between the financial commitment and the effective disbursement.
8. **CALL ON** the international community to establish a fair and equitable trading system and to facilitate Africa's access to their markets, through:
- a. ensuring that multilateral trade rules provide adequate policy space for achieving MDGs;
 - b. the elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers;

- c. requesting the Bretton Woods Institutions to streamline their policies and programmes in Africa to be more MDGs-friendly;
- d. the elimination of trade distorting subsidies and domestic support especially in agricultural sector;
- e. assistance to African countries to integrate more effectively with the global trading system through increased support for capacity building, environmental conservation, regional integration, cross-border infrastructure, and development of pro-poor growth policies and institutions;
- f. provision of assistance and adjustment support to mitigate the adjustment costs of trade liberalization in Africa;
- g. dealing with commodity crises arising from fluctuations and collapse of prices through manufacturing, improving value addition and diversification of production and trade.

WE REITERATE our conviction that the implementation of these strategies will result in Africa achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

Done in Sirte on the 5th day of July 2005

**SIRTE DECLARATION ON THE REFORM OF
THE UNITED NATIONS**

WE, the Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Fifth (5th) Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Sirte, Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya , from 4 to 5 July 2005;

- **Reaffirming** our strong commitment to the Ezulwini Consensus;
- **Convinced** of the need for a comprehensive reform of the United Nations System which takes into account the principles, objectives and ideals of the United Nations Charter for a fairer world based on universalism, equity and regional balance;
- **Conscious** of the need, within this process of reform, to ensure Africa's legitimate rights to a fair and equitable geographical representation;
- **Recognizing** that all the regions of the world must in this new era of globalization, endeavour in a spirit of solidarity to build a world of peace, security, justice, good governance and sustainable development;
- **Persuaded** that the reform of the United Nations should be all-inclusive and encompass all components of the United Nations System, including the General Assembly and the Security Council;

Are determined to ensure the success of the Ezulwini Consensus that clearly spells out the Common African Position on "sustainable development, collective security, conflict prevention and the conditions for the use of force, as well as the institutional reform of the UN", notably:

- the allocation of two (2) permanent seats to Africa with all the privileges, including the right of veto, and five (5) non-permanent seats on the Security Council;
- strengthening the leadership of the United Nations General Assembly to enable it to fully play its role as the most representative and democratic organ of the United Nations System and world parliament;
- strengthening the UN General Secretariat in the sense of greater efficiency and increased representation for Africa;

- the establishment of a Peace Building Commission for the consolidation of peace as recommended by the Secretary General of the United Nations;
- granting ECOSOC the status of a central coordination mechanism for the activities of the specialized agencies of the United Nations System and its subsidiary organs in the economic, social and cultural domains with a view to enabling it to better discharge its role in attaining the MDGs;
- the establishment of a new Human Rights body, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly based in Geneva, to replace the Human Rights Commission with the same composition on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and with a new non-selective and less politicized mandate, while confirming the universality and indivisibility of human rights;
- the democratization of the Bretton Woods Institutions.

Reiterate, to this end, our commitment to preserve Africa's unity and solidarity in the selection, by the African Union, of its representatives in the Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf.

Authorize consequently, the submission of a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly reflecting the Common African Position.

Done in Sirte, on 5 July, 2005

**DECLARATION ON THE INTER-SUDANESE
PEACE TALKS IN DARFUR**

The Assembly of the African Union, meeting in its 5th Ordinary Session, in Sirte, from 4 to 5 July 2005, having been briefed on the on-going 5th Round of the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, in Abuja:

- **welcomes** the appointment of Salim Ahmed Salim, as the AU Special Envoy and Chief Mediator for the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur, and **expresses its support and appreciation** for the efforts he is deploying with the support of the AU and Chadian Mediation Teams, other African Facilitators and Observers and which culminated in the submission to the Parties of a Draft Declaration of Principles (DoP) ;
- **commends** the Government of the Sudan (GoS) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) for their disposition to adopt and sign the DoP as proposed by the Mediation, the Facilitators and Observers;
- **urges** the Sudan Liberation Movement /Army (SLM/A) to join the consensus and accept the DoP, which the International Community considers as the best compromise addressing the legitimate concerns of all the parties, so as to create propitious conditions for the commencement, as soon as possible, of the substantive discussions on power and wealth sharing and on security arrangements.

Sirte, 5 July 2005

RESOLUTION ON THE UNITED NATIONS REFORM :
SECURITY COUNCIL

The General Assembly:

REAFFIRMING the aims and objectives of the UN Charter;

RECOGNIZING that the international community has welcomed proposals for the reform of the UN as contained in the report of the UN High-level Panel on "Threats, Challenges and Change" and the UN Secretary-General's report entitled "In Larger Freedom -Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for all";

AWARE of the positive reactions of various regions, groups and individual countries to the proposals contained in the two reports, as reflected in the "Draft Outcome Document" released by the President of the General Assembly in June 2005;

NOTING Africa's common position as contained in the "Ezulwini Consensus" ;

CONVINCED that the three categories of freedom, namely "freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity" are essential for both developed and developing societies and indispensable for peace and stability of the world;

CONSCIOUS that these freedoms can only be upheld and protected by the world community through an effective management of the current UN system;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need to strengthen UN institutions in order to enhance the efficiency of the organization, especially its principal organs and, in particular, the General Assembly and the Security Council;

EMPHASIZING the need to strengthen the General Assembly which should be made to function effectively as the main deliberative and representative organ of the United Nations;

COGNISANT of the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security under the UN Charter;

STRESSING the need to consider the views of all Member States on this all-important issue of the reform of the Security Council with a view to bringing to fruition, ideas which have been the subject of several debates over the years;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for the Security Council to reflect present world realities and be more responsive to the aspirations of all Member States of the UN; bearing in mind the undeniable fact that in 1945, when the UN was being formed, most of Africa was not represented and, as a result, Africa remains to this day the only continent without a permanent seat in the Security Council, which is the primary organ of the UN on matters of international peace and security;

MINDFUL of the need to ensure Africa's effective representation in the Security Council like all the other regions of the world;

REALISING the need to engage fully all regions of the world in the work of the UN and to enlist their support for the progress of humanity;

Resolves to:

1. **enlarge the Security Council** in both the permanent and non-permanent categories and improve on its working methods;
2. **accord the new** permanent members the same prerogatives and privileges as the current permanent members, including the right of veto;
3. **grant Africa two** permanent and five non-permanent seats in the Security Council and increase its membership from fifteen to twenty-six with the eleven (11) additional seats distributed as follows:

Permanent Members

Two from Africa
Two from Asia
One from Latin American and Caribbean States
One from Western European & Other States

Non-Permanent Members

Two from Africa
One from Asia
One from Eastern European States
One from Latin American & Caribbean States

4. **amend** the UN Charter accordingly.

MOTION OF GRATITUDE TO HIS EXCELLENCY
PRESIDENT BENJAMIN MKAPA OF THE
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The Assembly:

Conscious of President Benjamin Mkapa's attributes as a statesman and his achievements at the helm of his country, at a time when he is about to relinquish his duties and responsibilities as President of the United Republic of Tanzania after ten years of loyal service, in accordance with the wishes of his people;

Expresses its profound gratitude to President Benjamin Mkapa for the work he has accomplished in his country and his invaluable contribution to the promotion of the ideals of our continental organization;

Expresses further to President Benjamin Mkapa its sincere thanks for his participation in the deliberations of the "Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization" as well as those of the "Commission for Africa", which constitutes eloquent proof of his commitment to the cause of Africa and its political, social, economic and cultural development;

Avails itself of this opportunity to wish him every success in his future endeavours and ask him to kindly continue to make himself available whenever he is needed, as the Ambassador and ardent advocate of our continent's causes that he has always been.

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE PEOPLE AND THE LEADER OF THE GREAT
SOCIALIST PEOPLES LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA**

The Conference of the African Union meeting at its 5th Ordinary Session in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from 4 – 5 July, 2005;

1. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation to the Leader and the People of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for their warm welcome, excellent facilities and generous hospitality extended to all delegations since their arrival in the Jamahiriya;
2. **ALSO EXPRESSES** its gratitude to H.E. Muammar Gaddafi Leader of Al- Fattah Revolution for his tireless efforts towards the promotion and realization of the ideals and objectives of the Union and the search for greater unity and cohesion among our people.