

DRAFT DECLARATION OF THE FIRST AFRICAN DIASPORA SUMMIT

WE, the Heads of State and Government of *the* African Union and the Caribbean;

RECOGNIZING *the important presence of Heads of State and Government from Latin America and representatives of the African Diaspora; (NEW)*

EXPRESSING our appreciation to H.E President Thabo Mbeki, the Government and People of the Republic of South Africa for the warm reception and for hosting this Conference;

TAKING COGNIZANCE *of* the dialogue carried out between Africa and the representatives of various regions of the world in which the African Diaspora are located;

RECALLING the Constitutive Act of the African Union that is guided by a common vision of a united and strong Africa based on a partnership between governments and all segments of society in order to strengthen cohesion and solidarity among its peoples;

ALSO RECALLING the Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted by the First Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2003, and in particular Article 3(q) which invites the African Diaspora to participate as an important component in the building of the African Union;

FURTHER RECALLING relevant African Union Decisions including Decision EX.CL/Dec. 5 (III) on the Development of the Diaspora Initiative adopted by the Third Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Maputo, Mozambique, in July 2003, Decision EX.CL/Dec. 221 (VII) *on the Africa-Diaspora Process adopted* by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in January 2006 and Decision EX.CL/Dec. 406 (XII) *on the First African Union Diaspora Ministerial Conference* adopted by the Twelfth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2008 on the modalities for Diaspora participation in the organs and activities of the Union and Decision Ass/AU/Dec.205(XI) adopted by the Eleventh Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2008 on the Africa Diaspora Summit.

TAKING INTO account the need to put African history in its proper perspective and to rebuild the global African family; **(move)**

RECALLING the commemoration in 2007 of the bicentennial of the trafficking in Africans and the need to remember the legacy of history, particularly the era of colonialism and slavery, and the enforced separation of African people as a result of that experience;

RECOGNIZING the need to build sustainable partnerships between the African Continent and the African Diaspora through sustainable dialogue and effective collaboration with governments and peoples of different regions of the World in which the Diaspora population are located;

COGNIZANT of the fact that culture informs all facets of development and **ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to celebrate and preserve the shared heritage between Africa and persons of African descent in the African Diaspora;

BEARING IN MIND that the African Diaspora represents a historical and evolving experience which calls for an approach that is sensitive to the specificities of the different regions;

AFFIRMING the need to promote South-South Cooperation as a framework for enhancing mutual development as well as Pan-African Solidarity;

LAUDING the efforts thus far to support Africa and African Diaspora process including organizational efforts, measures and strategies pursued by the Commission of the African Union;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT, the First and Second Conferences of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD I&II) held in Dakar, Senegal and Brasilia, Brazil in 2004 and 2006 respectively, the outcomes of the First AU-South Africa-Caribbean Conference held in Kingston, Jamaica in 2005 and the various Regional Consultative Conferences held in different regions of the world in 2007 to consolidate the results;

NOTING with appreciation the work of the Ministerial meeting which took place in Midrand, South African from 16 to 18 November 2007 ***and in Johannesburg, South Africa on 9 October 2008;***

CONVINCED of the need to build on these efforts and outcomes as the basis for establishing a solid foundation for the rejuvenation of the global African community as an instrument of wider renaissance;

REALIZING the imperative of a sustained and coordinated approach and ownership of the African Diaspora related programmes and projects so as to promote their effective implementation and impact;

COMMIT to cooperate in the political, economic and social areas outlined in this Programme of Action (Annex I), its Short-Term Action (Annex II) and implementation modalities (Annex III).

Done at Johannesburg, South Africa 11 October 2008