

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY JOAQUIM ALBERTO
CHISSANO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MOZAMBIQUE AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE
AFRICAN UNION ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 3RD AU SUMMIT

ADDIS ABABA, 6TH JULY 2004

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CHISSANO PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
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YOUR MAJESTY

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YOUR EXCELLENCIES

HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AU

HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**YOUR EXCELLENCY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AU
COMMISSION**

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

DISTINGUISHED COMMISSIONERS

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE PRC

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

INVITED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO DELIBERATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR ORGANIZATION IN THIS BEAUTIFUL AND HOSPITABLE CITY OF ADDIS ABABA, THE CRADLE OF THE OAU, IN A CLIMATE OF FRATERNITY OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA, WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ACCORDED TO US WHENEVER WE COME TO THIS COUNTRY.

ALLOW ME THEREFORE ON BEHALF OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DELEGATIONS, TO CONVEY OUR

GRATITUDE TO OUR BROTHER, PRIME MINISTER MELES ZENAWI, AND THROUGH HIM TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA.

WE ARE MEETING JUST AFTER CRUCIAL EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF OUR ORGANIZATION HAVE TAKEN PLACE. HOWEVER, THE RECENTLY HELD ACP SUMMIT AND THE 10TH NEPAD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, IN MAPUTO, AVAILED US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE STOCK OF THE IMPACT WHICH WILL BE FELT IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH THE INVOLVEMENT OF OUR PARTNERS.

THE 10TH NEPAD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE HAS ENABLED US TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH A VIEW TO THE GS SUMMIT, A KEY PARTNER IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NEPAD. BUT LOOKING BACK TO THE RESULTS OF THIS SUMMIT WE CAN CONCLUDE THAT OUR EXERCISE WAS WORTHWHILE.

THE ACP SUMMIT HELD ON 21 TO 24 JUNE, IN MAPUTO, HAS NOT ONLY DESIGNED COMMON STRATEGIES FOR THE ACP IN THEIR COOPERATION RELATIONS WITH EUROPE, BUT ALSO CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERACTION AND FOSTERING OF TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE STAKEHOLDERS. THE ACP COULD ALSO EXPLORE OTHER COOPERATION VENTURES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS OUR ORGANIZATION MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS. THE VISION OF THE AFRICAN LEADERS TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE AU RELEVANT ORGANS AIMED AT MATERIALIZING THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLES, CONTINUES. AS A MATTER OF FACT IN MARCH 2004 WE LAUNCHED THE PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT, AN ORGAN WHICH SHOULD ENSURE THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA IN THE SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TO RESOLVE THE VARIOUS CHALLENGES AFRICA IS FACING. THE PROCESS OF INTEGRATION OF THE CONTINENT IN THE FULFILMENT OF THE MANDATE OF THE MAPUTO SUMMIT, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SESSION, DURING ITS 4TH ORDINARY SESSION, ELECTED THE

COMMISSIONERS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS THUS CREATING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ORGAN ESTABLISHED DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW IS THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL, PRECISELY ON 25TH MAY, THE AFRICAN UNITY DAY. AS WE MAY ALL KNOW THIS ORGAN IS INTENDED TO STEER THE AFRICAN AGENDA IN THE AREA OF CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION.

THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY HELD ITS FIRST SESSION AT THE LEVEL OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND IMPORTANT DECISIONS WERE MADE, NAMELY THE DEPLOYMENT OF CEASEFIRE MISSION TO DARFUR, THE SUDAN.

WE EXPECT THIS SUMMIT WILL ADOPT THE STATUTES OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL, AN INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CIVIL SOCIETY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA.

A MAJOR CHALLENGE IN OUR EFFORTS TOWARDS ATTAINING DEVELOPMENT IS HOW TO OVERCOME TENSIONS AND CONFLICT SITUATIONS STILL PREVAILING IN PARTS OF THE CONTINENT.

WE, THEREFORE, SHOULD TAKE PRIDE OF THE CURRENT TENDENCY TO REDUCE HOTBEDS OF CONFLICT IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS TO THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK ACHIEVED FOR RESOLVING CONFLICT IN THE SUDAN, BURUNDI, LIBERIA, DRC AND SOMALIA. ALLOW ME TO MAKE REFERENCE TO OUR OWN PRINCIPLE WHEREBY OUR MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY SOURCES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE AU. PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS SHOULD BE VIEWED ALSO IN THIS CONTEXT AND AS SUCH IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE EXPLORE OUR COMPARATIVES AND ADVANTAGES IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE FUND.

IN THE SAME VEIN, THE ROLE OF THE RECS IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS FOR CONFLICTS STILL PREVAILING IN OUR CONTINENT IS WORTHY. WE ALWAYS STRIVED TO ESTABLISH DIRECT AND REGULAR CONTACTS WITH THE RECS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE CASES IN LIBERIA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, DRC, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE AND GUINEA BISSAU. OUR FIRST PEACE-KEEPING MISSION, THE AFRICAN MISSION TO BURUNDI (AMIB) WAS SUCCESSFUL; THIS SUCCESS NOT WITHSTANDING, COULD HAVE BEEN GREATER HAD ALL MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTED.

WHILE COMMENDING OUR SUCCESS IN BURUNDI, WE SHOULD ALSO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE UN FOR FINALLY ASSUMING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THAT COUNTRY, FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO DEPLOY A UN PEACE-KEEPING OPERATION IN BURUNDI (ONUB).

WE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE ORDERLY ELECTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MALAWI, GUINEA BISSAU, SOUTH AFRICA AND THE COMOROS. ALL THESE PROCESSES ARE VITAL FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY IN THESE COUNTRIES. FURTHERMORE, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE IN ANGOLA AND SIERRA LEONE.

DESPITE THESE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS, WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY THE PEACE PROCESS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE. WE THEREFORE URGE ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED TO OVERCOME THEIR DIFFERENCES WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AU, ECOWAS AND THE UN.

WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT IN THE DRC AS WELL AS THE RESURGENCE OF THE PHENOMENON OF MERCENARISM IN THE CONTINENT. WE THEREFORE REAFFIRM OUR DETERMINATION TO STRICTLY OBSERVE THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIVE ACT, THE DECLARATIONS OF ALGIERS AND LOMÉ ON ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE MY PERSONAL APPEAL FOR THE ADOPTION OF PUNITIVE AND DISSUASIVE MEASURES AGAINST MERCENARISM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK

OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL INSTRUMENTS TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

FURTHERMORE, I REAFFIRM MY APPEAL FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE VARIOUS LEGAL INSTRUMENTS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SIGNED BUT NOT YET RATIFIED. THIS APPLIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS RELATED TO THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN.

DESTINY OFFERED ME THIS RARE PRIVILEGE TO SEE, HERE AND NOW, TWO STREAMS OF MY LIFE INTERWEAVING: TO BE MY PEOPLE'S SERVER AND MOTHER AFRICA'S SERVER. I DO FEEL, THEREFORE, SWATHED IN AN EMOTIONAL SHIELD THAT IS DIFFICULT TO DESCRIBE. I THEREFORE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND HOPE THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT NO MAN CAN REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN SUCH A PRESENT MOMENT OF THE HISTORY.

I THEREFORE BEG YOUR INDULGENCE BECAUSE I CANNOT RESIST TO THE WISH TO THINK AND REVISIT THE PAST. A PAST THAT IS STILL VIVID IN MY MEMORY. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO NOR MUST I TAKE YOUR PRECIOUS TIME WITH FACTS OF MY PERSONAL LIFE. HOWEVER, I FEEL AS A DUTY AND OBLIGATION TO OFFER MY WITNESS OF THE GLORIOUS LIBERATION EPOPEE, AS I LIVED IT; AS I UNDERSTOOD IT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

OUR ORGANISATION'S HISTORY MINGLES WITH OUR OWN HISTORY. IT WAS HERE AT THE OAU AND MOZAMBIQUE'S BUSHLANDS WHERE WE GREW UP. IT WAS HERE WHERE WE FORGED OURSELVES AS OUR PEOPLES' FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

IT WAS IN THIS SCHOOL, THE OAU AND ITS CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF AFRICA WHERE, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MONDLANE, WE LEARNED THE VERY FIRST LIBERATION ALPHABET LETTERS OF OUR CONTINENT.

HERE IN ADDIS ABABA, FIRST IN THE LOBBY HALLS, AND LATER IN THE CONFERENCE ROOMS, WE LEARNED ABOUT THE DIPLOMACY AND NEGOTIATION CIRCLES IN THE SEARCH FOR LEGITIMACY AND SUPPORT FOR OUR INDEPENDENCE.

WE WERE MOVED BY PROPER YOUTH STRENGTH AND DRIVEN FORWARD BY CONFIDENCE ON THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF OUR CAUSE, WE SET FOR TO WORK ASSURED THAT WE WOULD FOUND A SAFE REARGUARD IN THE OAU. WITH THE STRUGGLE WE GREW AND GREW UP, WE HELPED FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR CONTINENTAL ORGANISATION, FOR FROM CHALLENGE TO CHALLENGE, THE OAU BECAME INDISPENSABLE INSTRUMENT FOR LIBERATION AND ASSERTION OF AFRICAN PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

TO OURSELVES WE REMAINED WITH THIS MANNER OF BEING YOUTH, STRUGGLING. IT IS AN EXPERIENCE THAT WE ARE NOT REGRETTED ABOUT BUT RATHER. IT RENDERED SENSE TO OUR LIVES AND GAVE LIFE TO MANY PEOPLE. WE ARE DEEPLY PROUD OF BEING PART OF A FIGHTING GENERATION, OF BECOMING GRADUATES AT THIS BIG UNIVERSITY' WHICH WAS THE LIBERATION PROCESS. IT WAS NOT BY ANY CHANCE THAT, REPLYING TO A QUESTION MADE BY A JOURNALIST ON HIS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION, THE LATE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL PROMPTLY SAID: "TEN YEARS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMED STRUGGLE".

HOWEVER OUR SCHOOLING CAME LONG PATH AWAY. BEFORE THE TEN YEARS OF STRUGGLE IT CAME FROM THE SUFFERING OF OUR PEOPLE AND OTHER AFRICA'S PEOPLES. CLASSROOMS STRETCHED ALONG MANY HANDS THAT LINKED THE OAU AND THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALL OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED OUR STRUGGLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF OUR HUMAN DIGNITY.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES,

OUR MAIN CAUSE OF STRUGGLE WAS TO FREE THE LAND AND MEN FROM THE COLONIAL RULING AND EXPLOITATION. FOR THIS CAUSE TO TRIUMPH, WE GAVE THE BEST OF OURSELVES: OUR YOUTH, OUR LIVES. THUS WE CONTRIBUTED TO BUILD UP

THE GLORIOUS PAST OF OUR CONTINENT OF WHICH WE ARE ALL PROUD.

HOWEVER, THE CONTINENT'S FATE DOES NOT LAY IN THE PAST, BUT RATHER IN THE FUTURE. IT IS IN THE ANSWER THAT THE TODAY AND TOMORROW'S GENERATION WILL GIVE TO THE CHALLENGES LAYING AHEAD AFRICA. INDEED, THE NUMBERS TALK ALOUD: WITH 10% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION, OUR CONTINENT HAS ONLY A 1% OF OVERALL GDP AND ABOUT 2% OF WORLD TRADE; OUR POOR ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE 34 AFRICAN COUNTRIES RANKED AS LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCS), OUT OF THE 49 COUNTRIES RANKED TO THIS POSITION. IN THE ABSOLUTE POVERTY INDEX, 40 OF THE POPULATION SURVIVE ON US\$ 1 PER DAY.

THE REALITY MIRRORED BY THESE FIGURES ARE APPALLING AND BRING ABOUT DESPAIR FOR AFRO-PESSIMISTIC.

HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DESPAIR AND BECOME DISAPPOINTED. WE HAVE COMMITMENT WITH HISTORY. WE ARE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE OUR FATE AND THAT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS. OUR ANSWER, THEREFORE, TO THE CHALLENGE IS A TWOFOLD DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT NEPAD'S PROGRAMME. IN NEPAD WE ENCOUNTER STRATEGIES THAT WILL ALLOW US TO ATTACK ABSOLUTE POVERTY, MISFORTUNE AND TO DISEASES.

MORE THAN A PROGRAMME, NEPAD IS A TRUE REVOLUTION OF OUR APPROACHING PHILOSOPHY TO DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, AS WELL AS OUR WAY TO LINK UP OUR IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS.

DRIVEN BY A TOP LEADERSHIP AND ASSOCIATING THE ABUNDING CONTINENT'S RESOURCES TO OUTLINED STRATEGIES, NEPAD HAS GIVEN PROOF TO ENTER THE HISTORY AS A BEAM LIGHT SHOWING THE WAY TOWARDS AFRICA'S ECONOMIC RENASCENCE.

FROM WHAT I HAD THE CHANCE TO WITNESS, AS A MEMBER OF NEPAD'S IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, I LEAVE FULLY

CONVICTED THAT THERE ARE NO CHALLENGES THAT AFRICA IS UNABLE TO OVERCOME. I ALSO LEAVE ASSURED THAT WHEN THE CURRENT CENTURY HISTORY IS WRITTEN, THERE WILL BE AN ACCOUNT THAT AFRICA HAS EMERGED FROM DIFFICULTIES AND CONQUERED ITS SPLENDOUR AND THE POSITION THAT BELONGED TO IT EVER SINCE.

WE DO HAVE IN THE AFRICAN UNION AN IDEAL FORUM TO STRENGTHEN OUR ACTION AND PURPOSE UNITY, RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT AND TAKE STEPS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ALL STATES AND PEOPLES OF AFRICA'S PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.

FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE VISION I COMMIT MYSELF TO CONTINUE WORKING AND GIVING THE BEST OF MYSELF. I WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP EFFORTS IN ORDER TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR MATERIALISATION OF THE UNDERTAKINGS THAT WE DEVELOPED TOGETHER TOWARDS AFRICA'S SUCCESS.

DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUES,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I FEEL MYSELF HONOURED FOR HAVING STUDIED AT THIS SCHOOL. I TAKE ALONG WITH ME THE BEST MEMORIES OF THE LONG INTIMACY WITH YOUR EXCELLENCIES, OF LONG AND WINDING BUT GRATIFYING MOMENTS THAT WE HAVE TOGETHER, BUILDING UP CONSENSUS ON VITAL ISSUES FOR CONTINENT. THESE WERE PRECIOUS LEARNING MOMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE GROWTH.

I LEAVE WITH THE FEELING THAT I HAVE FULFILLED MY DUTY AND RENDERED MY MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO CAUSE OF FREEDOM, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE AND AFRICA.

I WILL EVER REMEMBER WITH VIVID MOVE YOUR UNCONDITIONAL SOLIDARITY AND VALUABLE SUPPORT, WITHOUT WHICH THE SUCCESSFUL BIG UNDERTAKINGS

DEVELOPED IN MOZAMBIQUE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.

IT IS IN THIS EARNEST WAY THAT I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE ON THE RECORDS MY WHOLEHEARTEDLY THANKS FROM THE MOZAMBIKAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
A LUTA CONTINUA!