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### KONARE APPEALS TO AU MEMBER STATES TO RATIFY AU CONVENTIONS

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Prof. Alpha Oumar Konare has appealed to Member States to ratify African Union Conventions and to settle their assessed contributions to the African Union.

Speaking at the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Sirte, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005, Prof. Konare noted that Member States ought to ratify OAU/AU Treaties in order to have the Union running on its feet by the rule of law and to meet their financial commitments to the Organization of which at the moment is owed a total arrears of US\$35 million.

"Although, Africa he said had some limitations, in spite of that, achieving success would depend on unifying the Continent, through ensuring free movement of people, goods and services and expediting the process of issuing an African passport".

Prof. Konare appealed to Africa's friends and partners which have made promises of financial assistance to the AU and NEPAD to honour their pledges in order to hasten the transformation of the African Union into an effective instrument of social and cultural development.

The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, who chaired the Ministerial opening session, underscored the importance of this session of the Executive Council, and said that it offered an opportunity for Africa to adopt Common Positions, including those relating to, among others, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the reform of the United Nations.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Shalgam, Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, urged Africans to focus their efforts towards achieving Peace and Security in Africa.

**Sirte, Libya Arab Jamahiriya,  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2005**