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**OPENING OF THE 11TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES' COMMITTEE OF
THE AFRICAN UNION IN KHARTOUM, THE SUDAN**

The 11th Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) of the African Union began on Monday, 16 January 2006 in the Sudanese Capital Khartoum under the theme "Education and Culture."

The Meeting will be followed by the Executive Council and that of the Assembly (Meeting of Heads of State and Government). It has on the Agendas a large number of items related to the situation in Africa at the social, cultural, political and economic levels as well as the life of the African peoples.

The PRC Session that opened on 16th January, under the Chairmanship of the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, constitutes the first phase of the 6th Summit that include beside the PRC, the 8th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (20 and 21). The Summit will end with the Assembly that will take place on 23 and 24 January.

The PRC includes Ambassadors of the Member States of the African Union will, over two days, consider the items on its Agenda, focusing on health and particularly HIV/AIDS, the Right and Welfare of Child, Women and Gender issues, animal Resources and Trade and Industry.

The Institutional Transformation of AU Commission as well as the merger of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Court of Justice are also among the items to be discussed by PRC.

The meeting will discuss also issues related to Culture, Solidarity and African Renaissance, as well as the rationalisation of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other questions scheduled on its agenda.

The PRC, after adopting its Report, will submit it to the 8th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for 20 – 21 January 2006.