

**Khartoum Declaration
on the Establishment of the Council of African Political Parties
(Khartoum, Sudan, April 28, 2013)**

Inspired by the African values of solidarity and togetherness;

Cognizant of the imperative of mobilizing the continent's resources to confront the challenges of the 21st century;

Mindful of the efforts by the African peoples to build a peaceful and prosperous Continent and the need to reinforce these efforts;

In furtherance of Africa's civilizational role and its contribution to humanity;

Recognizing the objectives set by the Founding Fathers whose establishment of the first Pan-African body, the OAU, is celebrated this year;

Reaffirming the need to translate into deeds the African Union summit decision declaring 2013 as the year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance;

Reaffirming further and in particular the central role of the African Political Parties in the advancement of the African Continent and the achievement of its goals and aspirations;

We, the African Political Parties Representatives gathered together in a Constitutive Conference held in Khartoum, Republic of Sudan during 27-28 April 2013 at the kind invitation and initiative of the National Congress Party in order to deliberate on the challenges and preoccupations of Africa, with emphasis on the role of its political parties in the fulfillment of desired objectives through creating a new political space with relevant mechanisms to that effect.

1. The Conference was unprecedentedly attended by diverse and large numbers of African Political Parties, reflecting the importance they attach to their historic and expanding role in the service of Africa and its objectives. The attendance in the Conference by various non-African Political Parties from various regions further reflected their commitment to forging beneficial partnerships with the Continent of Africa at these turbulent times of international relations. The Conference deliberations were rich and productive, asserting the imperative of enhanced coordination and cooperation among African Political Parties and its promising impact on the entire Continent. The holding of the Conference while Africa celebrates the 50th anniversary of the OAU was an opportunity for participants to reaffirm their unflinching commitment to achieve the economic liberation and integration of Africa following realization of the political liberation and bearing in mind the Continent's huge and abundant resources in the economic, social, cultural and human resources domain.

2. The Conference expressed gratitude to H.E. President Omer Hassan Ahmad Albashir, President of the National Congress Party for his visionary statement before the conference on the role of African Political Parties in Africa's renaissance.

3. The Conference deliberated in depth on four working papers namely (1) A Conceptual Paper outlining the nature and objectives of the Conference (2) the Role of African Political Parties in Enhancing Democracy Development and Integration (3) Africa and the Information and Technological Revolution (4) Statute of the Council of African Political Parties. In the ensuing

debate, interventions and contributions by participants largely reflected wider representational nature of the various regions of Africa.

4. At the conclusion of its deliberations, and following comprehensive discussions and debates at the level of the various Committees characterized by genuine spirit and utter enthusiasm, the Conference took the following decisions :-

5. Participants reaffirmed the importance of the holding, timing and objective of the Conference.

6. Participants reaffirmed in no uncertain terms the central and vital role of the African Political Parties in translating the motto of 2013 as the year of Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance.

7. Participants endorsed and adopted in this connection the Statute of the Council of the African Political Parties, and accordingly agreed to establish a Council for African Political Parties, with Sudan as its permanent Headquarters and Secretariat.

8. The Conference further elected its necessary organs pursuant to the relevant Articles of the Statute.

9. The Conference recommended that the Council of African Political Parties plays its role in the formation of and support to the Continent's strategies for conflict resolution; peace-building; deepening of culture of peace and democracy; good governance; eradication of poverty, diseases and illiteracy; women empowerment; food security through a green revolution; industrialization; sea, land and air connectivity; human resources development; education. Participants called for the settlement of African conflicts by the Africans and condemned use of violence and force in the settlement of disputes.

10; Participants attached equal importance to the need for reforming international systems of governance as current decision-making structures and processes fall below the expectations of Africa and developing world. Participants stressed the imperative of the Security Council reform in light of the African Common Position represented by the Ezulwini Consensus. Africa should make its voice loudly heard in the international decision – making institutions.

11. Participants rejected phenomenon of politicizing justice and human rights issues as a pretext to meddle in the internal affairs of African nations.

12. Participants reaffirmed that unilateral sanctions and measures against states and the debt problems constitute serious impediments and burden to the developmental efforts by African countries particularly countries emerging from conflicts. The Conference called for the end of sanctions and unilateral measures and the solution of the debt burden without selectivity, while taking necessary measures to avail necessary and additional resources for the socioeconomic development of the Continent. The Conference further called for easing the accession to WTO by countries particularly the LDCs.

13. Participants underscored the need for new tools and approaches in addressing global issues in areas of trade, environment, social and humanitarian through constructive and transparent dialogue without pressure or conditionality.

14. Participants expressed appreciation and gratitude to Africa's partners in development and valued the presence in their midst of friendly political parties from these countries at this historical meeting. The Conference directed its Executive Committee and Secretariat to actively engage with and

participate in the activities and events organized by the councils of political parties in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and other friendly organizations.

15. The Conference extended at the end of its deliberations warmest thanks and gratitude to the leadership, people and the National Congress Party of the Sudan for hosting the historic Constitutive Conference of the Council of African Political Parties. The Conference greatly valued the brotherly African reception and hospitality accorded to all delegations throughout their stay and participations in this landmark Conference.

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