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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

Letter dated 11 December 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I wish to apprise you of the Secretariat's efforts relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/1 (2005 World Summit Outcome), in which Member States broadly addressed themselves to meeting the special needs of Africa and agreed to the development and implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union.

In furtherance of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and I signed in Addis Ababa, on 16 November 2006, a Declaration entitled "Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union" (see annex). The signing of the Declaration was the outcome of extensive consultations between the African Union Commission and United Nations agencies and departments. The United Nations side included the Economic Commission for Africa, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa and other United Nations field presences at the African Union (AU).

The Declaration builds on previous agreements between the United Nations and the African Union and the Organization of African Unity before it. It reflects the common commitment of the United Nations and the African Union to maintaining peace and human security, promoting human rights and post-conflict reconstruction and advancing Africa's development and regional integration. Finally, it provides a holistic framework for United Nations system-wide support to the capacity-building efforts of the AU Commission and African subregional organizations (the regional economic communities).

Both sides have agreed on strategic priorities and political aspects of the United Nations-African Union relationship within the framework of the 10-year programme of cooperation, based on African Union priorities and United Nations comparative advantage. They also determined United Nations programmatic



priorities and goals with respect to United Nations interaction with the African Union, including, but not limited to, capacity-building.

Members of the United Nations team also agreed on United Nations representation at the African Union and coordination of United Nations assistance to the African Union. I should like to inform you that, on that occasion, Mr. Konaré, while welcoming existing United Nations-African Union cooperation, expressed very strong views about the need for the United Nations and other partners to act in ways that would enhance and promote African integration, including by helping the AU Commission to become a “real executive body”. Mr. Konaré emphasized that if the African Union had the capacity to undertake certain tasks on the African continent, it would unburden the United Nations.

I should like to draw your attention to the fact that United Nations-African Union cooperation within the framework of the 10-year capacity-building programme covers a much broader spectrum than that which existed between the United Nations and the defunct Organization for African Unity. As the scope of AU activities has increased, so have the needs for United Nations assistance. For the objectives outlined in the Addis Ababa Declaration to be achieved, adequate funding will be essential. In this context, I would like to solicit your support and that of the General Assembly as a whole for its endorsement and the legislative authority for its implementation. I would also like to request the Assembly to consider providing, as needed, additional resources that may be required by the Secretariat and other United Nations agencies engaged with the African Union in the fulfilment of the objectives defined by the World Summit with respect to meeting the special needs of Africa.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Kofi A. **Annan**