FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

1st SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE GULF OF GUINEA
(LIBREVILLE, 25 AUGUST 2006)

Their Excellencies:

• Mr TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;

• Mr JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS, President of the Republic of Angola;

• Chief OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

• Mr FRADIQUE BANDEIRA MELO DE MENEZES, President of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Principe;

• Mr EPHRAIM INONI, Prime Minister, representing His Excellency Mr PAUL BIYA, President of the Republic of Cameroon;

• Mr RODOLPHE ADADA, in the Ministry of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Francophonie, representing His Excellency Mr DENIS SASSOU NGUESSO, President of the Republic of Congo;

• Mr JEANNOT TSHOHA LETAMBA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, representing His Excellency Mr JOSEPH KABILA KABANGE, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo
Met in Libreville, on 25 August 2006, under the chairmanship of the Head of State of Gabon, His Excellency, El Hadj Omar BONGO ONDIMBA, to discuss issues relating to the setting up and functioning of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

In his opening remarks, President El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, after welcoming his colleagues, expressed his satisfaction with the commitment shown by Member States to see to the establishment of the organs of this important sub-regional institution.

The Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations, referred to the resolutions of the Libreville Summit held on 2 and 3 July 2001, devoted to the signing of the Treaty establishing the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Member States of 3 August 2006, noted, with real satisfaction, the entry into force of this Treaty in accordance with its Article 26.

The Summit considered the items on the agenda, namely: the choice of the Executive Secretary, the drawing up of a Budget, and the choice of place for the headquarters of the Commission.

On these issues, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations decided, by consensus, the following structure, for a period of three (3) years, renewable once, in accordance with Article 16 of the Treaty:

- One (01) Executive Secretary: São Tomé and Principe;
- Two (02) Deputy Executive Secretaries:
  - Nigeria;
  - Equatorial Guinea;
  - One (01) Director of Administration: Gabon;
  - One (01) Director of Financer: Congo.

Similarly, they unanimously chose Angola to host the headquarters of the Commission.

As regards the functioning of the Commission, the Heads of State, Government and Heads of delegations discussed issues relating to the organs of the Commission and its budget.
The Heads of State noted with satisfaction the proposal from Angola to make available the facilities for the headquarters and to pay for the operating budget for a period of one (01) year.

Further, they mandated the newly appointed Executive Secretary to propose a Plan of Action as well as other necessary organs for the proper functioning of the Commission.

The Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations then reconfirmed their determination to develop close and multifaceted cooperation amongst Member States, and to establish relations based on mutual understanding for sustainable development and well being of their peoples.

During the session, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations welcomed the final resolution of the border dispute between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroon on the Bakassi peninsula.

Similarly, they applauded the orderly manner that characterized the presidential elections in Sao Tome and Principe, and congratulated their counterpart, His Excellency Mr Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes on his re-election.

They welcomed the satisfactory way in which the first round of general elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo was conducted on 30 July 2006, and invited the candidates to respect the verdict of the polls, both in the first and the second round of voting.

The Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations condemned the violence that followed the publication of the results of the first round of voting in the presidential elections and called on politicians to stop these acts of violence and promote dialogue.

Similarly, they launched an appeal for calm to all the Congolese political class, in order to have a happy ending to the process of transition.

The Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations expressed their serious concern over the continuing hostilities in Sudan, particularly in the Darfur region. They launched an appeal to the Sudanese Government
and all stakeholders to take necessary steps to ensure that peace returns to Darfur.

They also called on the Sudanese Government to cooperate with the United Nations.

On the crisis in the Middle East, particularly the crisis between Israel and Lebanon, the Heads of State and Government and the Heads of delegations welcomed the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1701 which calls for a ceasefire, among other decisions, and its immediate implementation on the ground.

At the end of the meeting, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations paid a glowing tribute to Their Excellencies El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of Congo, as initiators of this project.

They specially congratulated His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba for his dedication to the creation of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

Furthermore, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of delegations thanked the Government and people of Gabon for the fraternal welcome and hospitality extended to them during their stay in Libreville.

They decided to hold the next session of the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Libreville (Gabon), under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba.

Done in Libreville, on 25 August 2006.

H.E. El Hadj Omar Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic;
H.E. Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea;
H.E. Mr José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola;
H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
**H.E. Mr Fradique Bandeira Melo de Menezes**, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe;

**H.E. Mr Ephraim Inoni, Prime Minister**, representing **His Excellency Mr Paul Biya**, President of the Republic of Cameroon;

H.E. Mr Rodolphe Adada, Minister of State, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Francophonie, representing H.E. Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo;

**H.E. Mr Jeannot TSHOHA LETAMBA**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, representing H.E. Mr Joseph Kabila Kabange, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo.