STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY

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AT THE SEVENTH C-10 SUMMIT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

21ST SEPTEMBER 2025

- **Your Excellency, Chairperson of the African Union,**
- **Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government of the Committee of Ten,**
- **President of the 80th United Nations General Assembly,**
- **Secretary-General of the United Nations,**
- **Chairperson of the African Union Commission,**
- **Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I am honoured to welcome you to the **Seventh Summit of the African Union Committee of Ten on Security Council Reform** — a gathering of great historical significance.

2. We convene at a critical moment in our collective fight for justice and equity in global governance.

3. This year marks twenty years since Africa's leaders adopted a **Common African Position**, articulated in the landmark **Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration of 2005**.

4. Then, Africa spoke with one voice: demanding no fewer than two permanent seats with all the rights and privileges of current permanent members — including the veto — and two additional non-permanent seats.

5. This was not a plea for favour. **It was, and remains, a demand for justice** — to correct a historic wrong.

6. When the UN was founded in 1945, most of Africa had no voice.

7. Today, Africa remains the only continent without permanent representation, despite African issues dominating the Council's agenda.

8. This exclusion, a relic of a bygone era, is a profound injustice. Decisions about Africa must no longer be taken without Africa.

EXCELLENCIES,

9. Over the past two decades, guided by the **Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration**, the C-10 has been the custodian of Africa's demand.

10. We have carried Africa's voice to every region, every forum, and every negotiation.

11. **Our greatest achievement has been our unity.**

12. Despite our diversity, **Africa has remained steadfastly aligned behind a single, principled position.**

13. **That unity is our strength.** No reform can succeed without a united Africa.

14. Through tireless advocacy, Africa has secured recognition of its case as both a priority and a matter of urgency.

15. This recognition is firmly enshrined in UN outcome documents, including the **2024** ***Pact for the Future***.

16. The C-10 has built strong global partnerships. Today, Africa's inclusion is universally acknowledged as indispensable to any credible reform.

17. Even the **Permanent Five** have, in different ways, publicly affirmed Africa's legitimate claim.

18. Recently, the **Freetown Retreat** and **Lusaka Ministerial Meeting** produced the **African Union Reform Model** — a comprehensive, unified, and actionable framework for structured dialogue in the **Intergovernmental Negotiations**.

19. These accomplishments reflect Africa's resilience, solidarity, and determination.

20. **For twenty years, no African State has broken ranks.** That unshakable unity has transformed Africa's once-marginalised demand into the centrepiece of the global reform debate.

EXCELLENCIES,

21. The hard truth is that our ultimate objective has not yet been achieved.

22. Eighty years after the establishment of the **United Nations**, the **Security Council** still operates under a structure that excludes Africa.

23. This not only undermines the Council's credibility but also challenges the universality of the UN as a whole.

24. Today, therefore, I must restate Africa's clear and legitimate demand.

25. To the Permanent Members: I reiterate that recognition should be accompanied by a genuine political willingness to take action.

26. To Member States involved in the Intergovernmental Negotiations: let us use the structured dialogue to build consensus on outcomes rather than recycle entrenched positions.

27. **To the wider UN membership:** As the UN marks its 80th anniversary, let us not allow another milestone to pass with words alone.

28. The ***Pact for the Future*** gives us the mandate. The **African Union Reform Model** provides the blueprint for reform.

29. The momentum is here. The time for action is now. Africa will continue to engage constructively.

30. Let there be no doubt: **our demand is legitimate, non-negotiable, and just.**

31. Equal representation for Africa is not only an African imperative — it is a global necessity.

32. It is essential for the credibility, effectiveness, and legitimacy of the United Nations in this century.

33. As we commemorate twenty years of **Ezulwini** and **Sirte**, let history record that Africa stood together — firm and resolute — to claim its rightful place.

34. Let this generation of leaders be remembered for correcting an injustice that has been endured for too long, and for ensuring that the Security Council reflects the current state of the world, rather than how it was in 1945.

I THANK YOU.