EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Third Ordinary Session
4 – 8 July 2003
Maputo, MOZAMBIQUE

MARITIME SECURITY IN AFRICA
(Item proposed by the Republic of Ghana)
The Government of Ghana has decided to submit an agenda item on **Maritime Security in Africa** for consideration at the forthcoming Executive Council Meeting of the AU.

It is recalled that at the “**Fourth Meeting of Cluster, Governance, Peace and Security of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)**” held in Addis Ababa, from 13 to 15 May 2003, it was recommended that a new agenda item on maritime security be included in the agenda items to be considered at the next AU Summit.


The Code and the SOLAS Convention prescribe measures for implementation by contracting states in order to enhance maximum maritime security for international trade. For example, the instruments require contracting states to conduct port and ship security assessment and develop security plans of these facilities for implementation.

These instruments were adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in December 2002 following the 11th September tragic incident in the United States of America.

Since maritime transport plays a critical role in the flow of Africa’s international trade upon which the Continent is largely dependent, it has become necessary to focus on a common approach to safeguard this vital interest and therefore the need to introduce the agenda item on maritime security for consideration by the AU Summit.

In this connection, Ghana, which is currently a member of the Governing Council of the International Maritime Organization, has decided, in collaboration with the Organization to present the new agenda...
item for consideration as mentioned above and urge Member States of the AU to ensure early implementation of the provisions of the relevant international instruments.

In view of Ghana’s position on the Council of the IMO, and as host country of the Regional Office of the International Maritime Organization, she has always played a lead role in promoting cooperation for the implementation of maritime development programmes in Africa, and is pleased to sponsor the above proposal for consideration by the Executive Council at its next Session in Maputo as an agenda item.