

4 June 1997, Harare

- **Mr. Chairman,**

- **Your Excellencies the Heads
of State and Government and
Heads of Delegation,**

The day before yesterday, the 2nd of June 1997, you decided to confer on me a third mandate as Secretary General of our Organization. I thank you most sincerely, for the confidence your august Assembly has thus reposed in me. I also wish to express my deepest gratitude to **all** our leaders for having, once again, given me the honour and privilege of serving our Continent. I am particularly gratified and moved by the spirit of unity, understanding and transparency which prevailed on the occasion of my election. I thank all those who contributed to that.

As I embark on a third term at the helm of the General Secretariat of our Organization, I am, indeed, conscious of the challenges facing me in ensuring that no stone is left unturned in our collective efforts to make our Organization more relevant and more responsive to the needs and demands of our peoples and Continent as we approach the threshold of the new millennium. I

pledge that I will do my utmost to live up to the confidence you have reposed in me in the discharge of my duties. I pledge to defend the interests of our Organization and Continent to the best of my ability and to continue to work hand in hand with our Member States in a spirit of partnership towards strengthening further our Organization and for the advancement of peace, democracy and development of our Continent. I also pledge to promote the ideals and objectives of our Organization, and preserve its integrity. In my endeavours, I shall continue to be guided by the ideals of unity, solidarity and Pan-Africanism and to be inspired by the vision of the Founding Fathers of our Organization.

I thank you.