

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

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ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Fifth Ordinary Session

4 – 5 July 2005

Sirte, LIBYA

Assembly/AU/Dec.73 –90 (V)

Assembly/AU/Decl.1-3 (V)

Assembly/AU/Resolution 1 (V)

DECISIONS, DECLARATIONS
AND RESOLUTION

**DECISION ON THE RETURN OF THE AXUM OBELISK
TO ITS PLACE OF ORIGIN**

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
2. **COMMENDS** the Government and the people of Ethiopia on the return of the pillaged Axum Obelisk to its place of origin;
3. **FURTHER COMMENDS** the efforts deployed in this regard by the Commission of the African Union to expedite the return of the Axum Obelisk;
4. **EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE** for the efforts deployed by UNESCO and other international partners in the return of this African historical monument to its country of origin;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that the cooperation demonstrated by Italy in the return of the Axum Obelisk is a positive step that should be taken as a landmark in the history of cooperation between Africa and Europe in the cultural area;
6. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Government of Italy for ensuring the safe return of the Axum Obelisk in conformity with its commitment and in response to the request made by the OAU/AU in its Resolution AHG/Dec.184 (XXXVIII) of July 2002;
7. **DECLARES** that the return of the Axum Obelisk constitutes a victory for all African countries;
8. **CALLS UPON** all concerned countries to follow this exemplary act and make further efforts to return pillaged cultural property to their places of origin.