

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SEVENTEENTH SUMMIT OF THE COMMITTEE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM [APR FORUM]

14TH JULY 2012, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1. The 17th Summit of the Committee of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism [APR Forum] was held on 14 July 2012 at the African Union Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Summit was chaired by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, in the absence of H.E. Meles Zenawi, Chairperson of the APR Forum.
2. The following Heads of State and Government attended the Summit:
 - i. H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal;
 - ii. H.E. Ahmed Ouyahia, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
 - iii. H.E. Boni Yayi, President of the Republic of Benin;
 - iv. H.E. Blaise Compaoré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso;
 - v. H.E. Thomas Thabane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho;
 - vi. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia;
 - vii. H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger;
 - viii. H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania;
 - ix. H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; and
 - x. H.E. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa.
3. Angola, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Togo, and Zambia were represented at the Summit by National Focal Points of the APRM, Ministers, Officials and Heads of Delegations.
4. All the members of the Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel) were present: Professor Amos Sawyer (Chairperson), Barrister Julienne Ondziel Gnelenga, Barrister Akere Tabeng Muna, Ambassador Mohamed Ashraf Rashed, Madam Baleka Mbete, Dr. Mustapha Mekideche, Ambassador Fatuma Ntangiza Nyirakobwa and Ambassador Professor Okon Edet Uya.
5. The Chief Executive Officer a.i. of the APRM Secretariat, Mr. Assefa Shifa, and other Officials from the APR Secretariat were also in attendance.
6. The Opening Ceremony of the Summit was marked by three statements. On behalf of His Excellency Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the APRM Forum, His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, welcomed his peers and presented the major items on the Agenda: *The Peer Review of Zambia; Consideration of*

Progress Reports on the Implementation of the National Programmes of Action of Algeria, Uganda, Nigeria and Burkina Faso; Signing of MoU by acceding countries; and APRM Administrative Issues – Vacancy for the Ninth APR Panel Member; Consideration and Adoption of the Revised APRM Questionnaire and a Report on Fast-tracking the integration of the APRM into the African Union.

7. Following the postponement of the peer review of Kenya, as requested by the Government of Kenya, and in the absence of the Presidents of Zambia, Ghana and Nigeria, the Forum agreed to peer-review Progress Reports on the Implementation of the National Programmes of Action (NPoA) of Algeria, Uganda and Burkina Faso.
8. Professor Amos Sawyer, Chairperson of the APR Panel, presented a Progress Report on APRM activities since the 16th Summit with a focus on Country Review Processes and Administrative Matters. He commended the APRM for the progress achieved so far and thanked the Heads of State, Focal Points and the Strategic Partners for their continued support to the APRM. He informed the Forum that the number of APRM Member States stood at 30, pending the integration of Cape Verde, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Tunisia, which had expressed interest in joining the APRM. He further informed the Forum that 15 countries have been peer-reviewed. The presentation of Zambia Country Review Report would have brought the reviewed countries to 16. He further noted that Tanzania had received the Country Review Mission and that Djibouti and Gabon were programmed for Country Review Missions in the last quarter of 2012.
9. The Chairperson of the APR Panel informed the APR Forum that the process of undertaking second generation reviews had also begun with Kenya being the first country to receive the Second Review Mission last year. He disclosed that Ghana, Nigeria and Rwanda are programmed for Second Review Missions in 2013. The Forum's attention was also drawn to a backlog of activities, including NPoA Reports and Country Review Reports that are yet to be considered by the APR Forum.
10. The possibility of organizing an Extraordinary Summit of the APR Forum to address the outstanding issues was proposed to the APR Forum for consideration.
11. The commemoration of the 10th APRM Anniversary featured prominently in the Progress Report and the Forum was adequately informed about the preparations initiated by the APRM Secretariat in collaboration with the Focal Points and Strategic Partners of the APRM.
12. The new Members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons were introduced to the Forum as follows:
 - (i) Madam Baleka Mbete (South Africa);
 - (ii) Ambassador Ashraf Rashed (Egypt);

- (iii) Ambassador Fatouma Ndangiza Nyirakobwa (Rwanda);
- (iv) Dr. Mustapha Mekideche (Algeria); and
- (v) Ambassador Professor Okon Edet Uya (Nigeria).

They joined three predecessors: Professor Amos Sawyer from Liberia (Chairperson of the Panel), Barrister Akere Tabeng Muna (Cameroon) and Barrister Julienne Ondziel Gnelenga (Republic of Congo).

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for accession to the APRM

13. President Mahamadou Issoufou signed the Memorandum of Understanding whereby his country, Niger, became the 31st Member Country of the APRM.
14. Explaining the motive for his country's membership of the APRM, President Issoufou recalled the objectives and principles of the Mechanism and emphasized that the APRM objectives and the thematic areas covered are similar to the objectives of good governance, promotion of political stability, high economic growth and continental integration pursued by his country as part of the "Niger Renaissance Programme".
15. He assured the Forum of Niger's commitment to submit to the peer-review after the initial self-assessment exercise and the related activities.
16. The Forum thanked the Government and People of Niger for the laudable initiative taken in joining the APRM.
17. The Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Thomas Boni Yayi, thanked the Government and People of Ethiopia for hosting the 17th APR Forum. He paid tribute to H.E. Meles Zenawi's able leadership of the APR Forum and wished the Chairperson of the APR Forum speedy recovery.
18. He congratulated H.E. Macky Sall on his election as President of Senegal and commended the new Panel Members for their appointment. He referred to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and reiterated the important role of the APRM in promoting peace, stability and security through good governance on the continent.
19. He urged the stakeholders of the APRM to ensure the practical implementation of the adopted APRM Operating Procedures, which he considered as an important input in moving forward the APRM.
20. The Chairperson of the African Union welcomed the proposal on the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the APRM and called on his peers to throw their weight behind the event

to ensure their full ownership of the Event. He also appealed for increased resources from the Member Countries to support the work of the APRM.

Presentation of Progress Reports on Implementation of National Programmes of Action (NPoA)

21. Three countries - Algeria, Burkina Faso and Uganda - presented periodic progress reports on the implementation of their NPoA.

Algeria

22. Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia of Algeria presented the Second Progress Report on the implementation of the NPOA with a focus on the high importance accorded to the role of women, the policies and programmes implemented for the youth and the significant progress recorded in the fight against unemployment.

23. The Forum was informed that the Government of Algeria has taken measures to strengthen structures for good governance. It has ensured an increase in women's representation in the Public Service, promoted multiparty participation in elections through political reforms especially in the judicial sector, in addition to the initiatives taken to fight corruption and money laundering in the country, among other measures.

24. Algeria is reportedly diversifying its economy, carrying out macro-economic structural reforms, as well as land and industrial reforms with a view to reducing environmental pollution and youth unemployment and promoting affordable housing for the Algerian people.

25. Algeria has made tremendous progress in Social Policy implementation, in terms of housing, and notable achievements in the field of infrastructure building. The dialogue between the Executive and other stakeholders, including the Civil Society, has been consolidated.

26. President Jacob Zuma from South Africa commended Algeria for the strides made in promoting youth employment, Press Freedom and economic growth. H.E. Macky Sall also congratulated Algeria on its insightful report.

Uganda

27. Uganda's Second Progress Report was presented by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni. He informed the Forum that his country's socio-economic transformation calls for private sector promotion, increased market for local products, development of infrastructure such as electricity, roads, railways and Information and Communication Technology.

28. He elaborated on progress made in the area of access to global markets, human resource capacity building through the development of appropriate skills, value addition through local processing of raw materials, export-led growth strategy, the training and use of national experts in the oil industry, democracy and good governance.
29. According to President Museveni, Army building is important to governance in Uganda, as it helps to control insurgencies and other practices destabilizing Uganda in particular, and Africa in general.
30. The Forum was informed that Uganda has discovered oil and gas, and the country is planning to build an oil refinery locally to avoid exporting crude oil.
31. President Jacob Zuma commended Uganda for presenting the Second Progress Report. He congratulated Uganda on its peace-keeping initiatives in the East African Region and applauded the Government of Uganda for the efforts it is making to boost oil production through research and the establishment of relevant institutions for petroleum studies. He encouraged his peers to learn from Uganda's local capacity-building programmes.

Burkina Faso

32. The President of Burkina Faso, H.E. Blaise Compaoré, presented his country's Third Report on Implementation of the NPoA with emphasis on progress made in the development of the country's mineral resources, modernization of agriculture and on the significant achievements in the Health and Education sectors and in the computerization of career management in the Public Service.
33. It was reported that Burkina Faso has established democratic institutions such as the Ministry of Human Rights and a Council of Civil Society Organizations, in addition to revamping the Judicial Sector, as part of the efforts to enforce human rights and the rule of law and to promote good governance in the country.
34. Also highlighted were Burkina Faso's mediation efforts in the area of conflict resolution, particularly in West Africa, as well as the Government's initiatives aimed at promoting accelerated economic growth especially in the export sector.
35. African countries with expertise in mining, such as South Africa, were called upon to assist Burkina Faso to develop its Mining Sector.
36. South Africa and Algeria pledged their readiness to collaborate with Burkina Faso.

37. President Blaise Compaoré was congratulated on his excellent presentation and his country was commended for the important role it has been playing in conflict mediation, particularly in West Africa. The establishment of the Burkina Ministry of Human Rights and the economic reforms cited in the Report were also emphasized as commendable practices worthy of emulation by other Member Countries.

Revision of the APRM Questionnaire

38. Professor Amos Sawyer presented the highlights of the Revised APRM Questionnaire with a focus on the Context and Background, the Revision Process, Main Changes in the Revised Questionnaire and Key Changes per Thematic Area.

39. The Forum noted that the Revised APRM Questionnaire is more focused and responsive to the country-specific issues.

40. The Revised APRM Questionnaire was adopted as presented by the Chairperson of the APR Panel.

Vacancy for the Ninth Panel Member

41. On this Agenda Item, the Forum was informed that the Curricula vitae of various candidates had been received and circulated to the competent authorities for consideration. The Forum therefore decided to appoint the Ninth Panel Member at its next Summit.

Host Country Agreement and related matters

42. The Forum heard a Report on Fast-tracking the Integration of the APRM into the African Union, presented by Mr. Assefa Shifa, the Chief Executive Officer a.i. of the APRM Secretariat. The Report included the modalities of APRM integration into the African Union as well as the renewal of the Host Country Agreement (HCA) between the African Union Commission and the Government of South Africa.

43. The APR Forum acknowledged the need to fast-track the integration of the APRM into the African Union System. It called for a speedy integration process that guarantees the status of the APRM as an autonomous entity in the African Union system and structures.

44. A Draft Decision on the Integration of the APRM into the African Union was endorsed by the APR Forum, and decided to present it to the Assembly of the African Union for consideration at its next Summit.

45. The Draft Decision provides for the autonomy of the APRM and paves the way for the negotiation and conclusion of another Host Country Agreement between the African Union Commission and the Government of South Africa.
46. The 17th Summit of the APRM Forum was preceded by the 56th Meeting of the APR Panel (11 July), the 6th Meeting between the APRM and its Strategic Partners (UNDP, UNECA and AfDB), Meetings of APRM Focal Points Committees (12 & 13 July) and the Pre-Summit Meeting between the APR Panel and the National Focal Points of the APRM (13 July).

Date and Venue of the Next Summit of the APR Forum

47. The APR Forum decided to hold its 18th Summit at a venue and on a date to be communicated subsequently.

Appreciation

48. The APR Forum thanked the Heads of State and Government who attended the 17th Summit in Addis Ababa and expressed its appreciation to the Government and People of Ethiopia for their hospitality and for the excellent arrangements they made to ensure the success of the Summit.

ISSUED ON 14 JULY 2012 IN ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA