

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

26 MAY 2013, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

1. The 19th Summit of the Committee of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism [APR Forum] was held on 26 May 2013 at Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Chairperson of the APR Forum, presided at the Opening Session of the Summit.
2. The following Heads of State and Government attended the 19th APR Summit:
 - (i). H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the APR Forum;
 - (ii) H.E. Abdelmalek Sellal, Prime Minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
 - (iii) H.E. Idriss Déby, President of the Republic of Chad;
 - (iv) H.E. Hon. Mothetjoa Metsing, Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho;
 - (v) H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia; and
 - (vi) H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal.
3. Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda 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) attended the Summit: Professor Amos Sawyer (Chairperson), Barrister Julienne Ondziel Gnelenga, Barrister Akere Tabeng Muna, Ambassador Mohamed Ashraf Rashed, Madam Baleka Mbete, Dr. Mustapha Mekideche, Ambassador Fatuma Ndangiza, Ambassador Professor Okon Edet Uya and Mr. Joseph Tsang Mang Kin.
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 Summit was opened with welcome remarks by His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the APR Forum.
7. He thanked them for accepting the invitation to hold the 19th Summit of the APR Forum in the form of a Working Dinner Session due to time and space constraints connected with the commemorative activities of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which is now the African Union (AU).
8. He reiterated that 2013 marks the 10th Anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which was created to assist in fostering good governance practices and promote peace, stability and socio-economic development as well as continental

integration. He noted that, over the past ten years, the APRM has made significant achievements beyond the imagination of its remarkably foresighted founders.

9. H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn highlighted the timeliness and importance of the APRM 10th Anniversary Colloquium hosted on 23 May 2013 in Addis Ababa, which brought together various stakeholders from the academia, government officials, civil society organisations, youth, women, and other network organisations, to celebrate the APRM as the most innovative, people-centred initiative on the continent. The Colloquium offered an opportunity to reflect on the challenges facing the Mechanism and put forward strategies to strengthen it in the years ahead.

10. The Chairperson of the APR Forum expressed the hope that Member Countries celebrating the APRM would do so with renewed commitment to re-energise the peer review process and also bring to the fold the rest of the AU Member States that are yet to join the Mechanism.

11. He congratulated the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire on its expression of interest to join the APRM. He indicated that the final procedures would be concluded when His Excellency Alasane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, signs the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Accession at the next Summit of the APR Forum.

12. H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn commended the Government and People of Côte d'Ivoire for deciding to accede to the Mechanism. He wished them success in the collective endeavour to promote good governance and fast-track the socio-political and economic development of the continent.

13. The Chairperson of the APR Forum presented a three-item Agenda to enable the Peers to consider some of the most pressing issues of prime concern to the Forum at the Working Dinner Session, pending their deliberations on others in subsequent meetings. The Forum adopted the Agenda as follows:

- **Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the APR Forum**
- **Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons**
- **Adoption of the Structure of the APRM Secretariat.**

14. Commenting on the Agenda of the Summit, H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn recalled that, at the 18th Summit of January 2013, the APRM Focal Points were tasked to hold discussions and make recommendations on the election of the Chairperson of the APR Forum, in line with the APRM Operating Procedures. He thanked the Peers for the trust they had placed in his country by choosing Ethiopia to lead the important Mechanism. He also paid tribute to H.E. Meles Zenawi for his stewardship and reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to the APRM process.

15. The Chairperson of the APR Forum reminded the Peers that three members of the Panel would be completing their four-year term in January 2014. He therefore called on the Member States to work on their replacement without delay. He also stressed the need for the appointment of a new Chairperson of the APR Panel to replace Professor Amos Sawyer, whose tenure had come to an end.

16. His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn emphasized that the endorsement of the APRM Secretariat Structure, as approved by the Committee of Focal Points, would enable the APRM Secretariat to immediately commence the recruitment process required for better functioning of the Mechanism.

17. He urged the Peers to help sustain the APRM process through their commitment to entrenching the APRM values and principles in the Member Countries and tackling the emerging governance problems facing Africa. He finally called for a revival of the APRM momentum to make the APRM project people-centred for the renaissance of Africa.

18. The Forum adopted the Agenda of the Summit as presented by the Chairperson.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the APR Forum

19. H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn recalled the Forum's deliberation on this item during the 18th Summit and informed the Forum that two countries – Senegal and Liberia -- had presented candidates for the Chair of the APR Forum.

20. The Forum elected Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, as the new Chairperson of the APR Forum, following the announcement of the withdrawal of Senegal's candidacy by H.E. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal.

21. The Forum decided to appoint its new Vice-Chairperson at a subsequent Summit.

22. H.E. Ellen Sirleaf thanked the Forum for electing her as its new Chairperson. She called for greater commitment on the part of the Peers and for their joint efforts in addressing the challenges facing the APRM to enable it to fulfill the mandate entrusted to the Continental Mechanism. She pledged her continued support to the functions assumed by President Macky Sall in his capacity as Chairperson of NEPAD. Thereafter, H.E. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson took over from H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn to chair the proceedings of the 19th Summit.

Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons

23. The Chairperson of the APR Forum, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, informed the Forum about the end of the tenure of H.E. Professor Amos Sawyer as Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons. On behalf of the Forum, she thanked Professor Sawyer for his able leadership of the Panel and for the work he did for the APRM during his term of office. She emphasised the role of the Panel in enhancing the integrity of the APRM and in promoting its credibility through the review missions conducted by the Panel.

24. The Forum appointed Barrister Akere Tabeng Muna from Cameroon as the new Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, and Ambassador Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza from Rwanda as Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons.

Adoption of the Structure of the APRM Secretariat

25. The Forum discussed the new Structure of the APRM Secretariat, comprising 45 posts, as presented by H.E. Newai Gebreab, Chairperson of the APRM Committee of Focal

Points. H.E. Newai Gebreab explained that the Committee of Focal Points held a series of meetings and deliberated extensively on the proposed Structure based on the technical organizational design expertise provided by South Africa. Finally, the Committee of Focal Points unanimously approved the Structure for onward submission to the Forum for adoption.

26. The APRM Focal Point for South Africa provided the Forum with background information on the processes leading to the finalization of the Structure. She reiterated that the Structure was approved by the Focal Points Committee of the Whole at its Fourth Meeting that was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 19 to 20 March 2013.

27. The Structure of the APRM Secretariat was adopted on a provisional basis to enable the APRM Secretariat to meet its operational and staff requirements. The Forum requested the Secretariat to produce versions of the Structure in all the principal working languages of the APRM and circulate them to the Policy-making Organs of the APRM before the next Summit of the APR Forum.

Date and Venue of the Next Summit of the APR Forum

28. The Forum decided to hold its 20th Summit on the margins of the January 2014 Summit of the African Union on a date to be communicated subsequently.

Appreciation

29. On behalf of the APR Forum, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Chairperson of the APR Forum, thanked the Heads of State and Government and all the Delegates who attended the 19th Summit of the APR Forum. She also expressed the Forum's appreciation to the Government and People of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their hospitality and for the excellent arrangements they made to ensure the success of the Summit.

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