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STATUS REPORT ON THE REVITALISATION OF THE APRM

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I. Introduction

1. The APRM is at a turning point in its history. Under the leadership of the Chair of the APR Forum, H. E. President Uhuru Kenyatta, who was elected Chairperson at the 23rd APR Forum Summit in June 2015, the APR Forum convened a Special Summit on APRM Revitalisation on 29 January 2016. The Summit appointed a fully-fledged CEO, the first permanent CEO in over seven years. Heads of State and Government deliberated on the challenges of revitalisation in the following six key areas:

- i) *Revisiting the philosophy of the APRM:* The Summit underlined the relevance of the Mechanism, as good governance is more critical today than ever before globally. In view of the new policy discourse and the political and economic environment of the APRM, it is imperative to revive the Mechanism, using the possibilities afforded by the AU Agenda 2063, and the Common African Position on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- ii) *Revising the review methodology:* While the ideals that led to the formation of the APRM are as relevant now as they were in 2003, a reappraisal after so many years is timely. Democracy, good governance and socio-economic transformation cannot be contracted to external parties, and this philosophy remains at the core of the APRM. The APRM should foster dynamic practices aimed at improving governance, while correcting shortcomings in the conduct of the reviews;
- iii) *Ensuring compliance with APRM principles:* The APRM is a dynamic and fully capable institution governed by principles such as accountability, transparency, inclusiveness and peer learning;
- iv) *Resource mobilisation:* The Forum noted the need to translate political will into concrete contributions to sustain the Continental Mechanism;
- v) *Integration of the APRM into the AU system:* The way forward for the APRM, includes integrating the Mechanism into the AU as an autonomous entity and increasing the number of AU States participating in the APRM so as to ensure rationalisation of resources; and
- vi) *The role of the APRM in monitoring of AU agenda 2063 and the post- 2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs):* The Forum underlined the necessity of mainstreaming the APRM National Programme of Action into National Development Plans, and ensuring that the APRM contributes to the achievement of the socio-economic objectives of Agenda 2063 and the

SDGs, through a role as the monitoring mechanism for achieving these visions.

2. Following the Special Summit on revitalisation, the CEO assumed office and immediately embarked on a Revitalisation Strategy that was guided by the instructions from the Special Summit. The Revitalisation strategy for the APRM was developed, implemented and included as a key part of the draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020. The three pillars of the Revitalisation Strategy are Restoration, Reinvigoration and Renewal of the APRM. During the restoration phase, the APRM work program is being implemented with five review missions scheduled for 2016 including two already completed in the first half of 2016, to Chad and Senegal. APRM Day was marked on 9 March with the Chair of the AU, President Déby, during the review mission to Chad.

3. An *Experts Group Meeting on "Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): Strategizing, Planning and Developing Improved Review Methodologies"*, to assist APRM with the revitalization strategy and the development of a Strategic Plan was held from 29-30 March 2016. The meeting was jointly organized by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Secretariat, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission (AUC). It was well attended by APRM Focal Points, Experts from AU Organs, ECA, AfDB, UNDP, Regional Economic Communities and key stakeholders involved in the APRM. The main objective of the Experts Group Meeting included providing a platform to discuss the elements of a robust Revitalization Strategy for APRM from an expert's point of view.

II. Draft APRM Strategic Plan 2016-2020

4. The Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which is based on the three-pronged revitalization programme for restoration, reinvigoration and renewal of the Mechanism, is guided by the deliberations and instructions from the Special Summit and draws further inspiration from the original vision and mission, values and guiding principles of the APRM while taking into account the new and emerging realities on the Continent, including the AU Shared Values and Agenda 2063, as well as the UN 2030 SDGs. Development of the strategy was assisted by the outcomes of the Experts Group Meeting held from 29-30 March, as well as an APRM Secretariat retreat on the strategic plan held from 29-30 April 2016. The strategy includes a baseline study on where the APRM is today, its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies operational priorities, methods and implementation modalities for the next five years.

5. The APRM has identified eight priority areas that encompass the Draft Strategic Plan 2016-2020. These are:

1. Shared Values Advocacy and Communication;

2. Review and Implementation of the APRM Core Mandate;
3. Resource Mobilisation and Financial Management;
4. Human Resource Capacity Development;
5. Development of Monitoring & Evaluation Frameworks and Systems;
6. Enhancement of Research & Development Capacity and Improvement of Operational Tools;
7. Intra-APRM Coordination and Harmonisation;
8. APRM integration into the AU, Universal Accession, and enhanced support to Africa's regional integration agenda.

III. Meeting of the APRM Revitalization Committee

6. The APRM Revitalization Committee met in Nairobi, Kenya from 09-10 May 2016. The Committee, (i) deliberated on the six-point revitalization priorities identified by the Special Summit; (ii) considered the Draft APRM Strategic Plan 2016-2020 presented by the CEO of the APRM Secretariat, which elaborated the manner in which the strategic plan has built on the six-point priorities of the Special Summit; (iii) Considered the proposed Draft Statutes for the integration of the APRM into the AU structures and processes in accordance with the Malabo Decision of 2014; and (iv) Considered the proposed terms of engagement for the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons:

7. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the high-quality of the Draft Strategic Plan, the proposed Draft Statutes for APRM integration into the AU systems and processes and the proposed panel terms of engagement presented by the CEO of the APRM Secretariat. The Committee also noted its concern at the dire state of the APRM finances and the urgent need to launch a broad-based, sustained and well-orchestrated resource mobilization campaign, including the recapitalization of the APRM Trust Fund while ensuring the operational independence of the Mechanism. The Committee urged Strategic Partners to recommit themselves to the vision, mission and operational objectives of the APRM and proposed raising the level of national contributions from the current USD 100,000.00 to USD 300,000.00 per annum, while endorsing a proposal to add the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to the list of APRM Strategic Partners. The Committee also endorsed the draft APRM Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and the draft Statutes and requested the APRM Secretariat to submit a draft Declaration to the July 2016 AU Assembly meeting with which AU Member States can renew their commitment to the vision, mission and operational objectives of the APRM.

IV. Draft Statutes for the APRM

8. The APRM has developed Draft Statutes for the APRM, as recommended by the AU Legal Counsel, and endorsed by the Revitalization Committee on 9 May 2016. The Draft Statutes are submitted to the Forum for consideration at the 16 July 2016 Summit. If approved, the Statute will be submitted to the AU Assembly.

V. Other APRM Meetings and Missions

9. As part of the revitalisation process, the APRM has undertaken missions to Member States and undertaken other revitalisation activities in the first half of 2016 including:

- Marking APRM Day on 9 March 2016;
- Resource Mobilization Missions to Member States and Strategic Partners;
- Review Missions to Chad in March and Senegal in April;
- Support Missions to Liberia (February) and Cote D'Ivoire (May);
- Presenting APRM Reports and Progress Report at the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) at its May 2016 session;
- Convening an APRM Experts Group Meeting (29-30 March 2016);
- Convening a Workshop on the APRM National Structures, Standards and Tools, 21-23 May 2016.

5.1 Marking APRM Day – 9 March 2016

10. The APRM Secretariat marked the APRM Day at the national and continental levels by launching the main celebrations in Ndjamena, Chad on 9 March 2016, under the theme “**Restoration, Reinvigoration and Renewal of the APRM.**” The main objectives of these celebration were, among other, (i) To raise awareness on APRM as an African instrument for promoting good governance; and (ii) To reinvigorate and reenergize the momentum of the APRM;

5.2 Country Review Missions to Chad and Senegal

11. The APRM fielded review missions to Chad from 04 to 23 March 2016, and to Senegal from 11 to 27 April. The Lead Panel Members for these missions will present the review reports during the 24th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government scheduled for 16 July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda:

- *The Country Review Mission (CRM) to Chad* was conducted, from 4 to 23 March 2016, by Hon. Joseph TSANG MANG KIN, member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, responsible for Chad. The Mission was composed of 13 African experts drawn from 8 AU Member-States, selected according to their competences and experience in the area of governance. The CRM met with all stakeholders in the capital as well as four regions including officials from more than 14 ministries, elected officials, including from the Governorate and City of Ndjamena, representatives of the legislative and judiciary bodies, the private sector, the civil society, trade unions, youth movements, women's organizations, groups of disadvantaged people and local elected officials. Press briefings in national and African written and televised media were held during the mission, especially since the Review Mission coincided with marking APRM Day in Chad on 9 March 2016.
- *The Country Review Mission (CRM) to Senegal* was conducted, from 11 to 27 April 2016, by Dr. Mustapha MEKIDECHE, Chairperson of APR Panel of Eminent Persons, responsible for Senegal. The Mission was composed of 18 African experts drawn from 14 AU Member-States, selected according to their competences and experience in the area of governance. The CRM was received by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Macky SALL. It was also received by the Prime Minister Mr. Mahammed Boun Abdallah Dionne. During its stay in Senegal, the CRM met with all the actors involved in and concerned by the APR process in Senegal, particularly heads of institutions, elected officials, notably the Mayor of Dakar, the leader of the parliamentary group of the presidential Alliance, leaders of the opposition. The CRM also met with representatives of the legislative and judiciary bodies, religious organizations, semi-public enterprises, decentralized communities, political parties, employers' organizations and the private sector, the civil society, trade unions, youth movements, women's organizations, groups of disadvantaged people and local elected officials. Press briefings in national and African written and televised media were held during the mission.

5.3 Country Support Missions to Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire

- The Lead Panel Member in charge of Liberia, Hon. Brigitte MABANDLA, led a Country Support Mission to Liberia from 22 to 24 February 2016. The Country Support Mission culminated with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Head of State of Liberia, H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and the Lead Panel Member, which officially launched the

country review process in Liberia. The Mission concluded with a Press Conference as well as a Road Map for the final review of Liberia.

- The Lead Panel Member in Charge of Cote d'Ivoire, Professor Mahamoud KHAYAL, Vice-Chairperson of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, accompanied by the CEO of the APR Secretariat, Prof. Edward MALOKA, led a Country Support Mission to the country from 13 to 18 May 2016. The Mission met with the Focal Point and the National Commission for APRM, the Ivorian authorities, Technical and Financial Partners, civil society, political parties and other stakeholders to obtain a better understanding of the evolution of the process in Côte d'Ivoire and provide support to the Ivorian authorities.

5.4 National Structures Meeting – 21-22 May 2016

12. One of the main issues to be addressed as part of revitalisation is the need to harmonise and coordinate national and continental APRM structures. To this end, a meeting of National Focal Points, Members of National Governing Commissions and Representatives of National African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Secretariats from Member Countries was held from 21 to 22 May 2016 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The workshop considered documents and related guiding inputs from the Secretariat including, inter alia:

1. *Supplementary Document to APRM Guidelines for Country Review: The APRM National Structure;*
2. *APRM Draft Strategic Plan: 2016-2020;*
3. *Draft Statutes of the APRM;*
4. *Proposed APRM Communications Plan.*

13. Workshop participants reached the following major decisions, inter alia, on each of the documents and related presentations. On the *Concept Note and the Guidelines for APRM National Structure*, the workshop agreed that each country retains the autonomy to organise national structures in accordance with the overall framework contained in existing documents and requested that further guidance on National Structures be provided through the sharing of information and exchange amongst country Focal Points. On the *proposed APRM Communications Plan*, the workshop noted the good work and ideas that have been put forward by the Secretariat and officials from some of the attending representatives on having a coherent and synergised communication initiative and recommended that further resources be mobilised to support much deeper and substantive communications on the APRM. On the *Report Back of an Ad-Hoc Workshop Committee on structural issues confronting the*

APRM, the workshop endorsed the Committee's proposal that a working sub-structure of the APRM Forum and related Focal Point Meeting should be comprised of eight (8) members, with a composition of five (5) regional representative and Troika of three (3) members as follows: the former Chairperson; the actual current Chairperson; and the future Chairperson; recognised the need to balance the complexity of APRM Country Reports with the imperative to encourage robust and meaningful Head of State debate on the issues raised in country reports; and agreed that an interim committee comprised of regional representatives, the Chairperson of the Focal Points Committee and the CEO of the APRM Secretariat will meet in mid-June to finalise preparations for the July 2016 AU Summit. Regional country representation will come from: Liberia, Chad, Egypt, South Africa and Uganda.

VI. Conclusion

14. The APRM is reaping the fruits of revitalisation since the Special Summit on Revitalisation met on 29 January 2016. In the six months since the Special Summit, the APRM has experienced a surge in positive results and activity including the appointment of a permanent CEO, the fielding of two review missions, convening meetings of national structures to discuss renewed coordination and communication, and the elaboration of a Draft Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 which will consolidate the realised gains. The Draft Strategic Plan which is to be adopted at the 24th APRM on 16 July 2016 in Kigali, will allow the APRM to work seamlessly as part of the AU in meeting citizen's expectations of an AU that will meet the goals of Agenda 2063, leading to sustainable development and the Africa We Want.

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