

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 517 700

Fax: 5130 36

website: [www. www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION
Twenty-Fourth Ordinary Session
30 – 31 January 2015
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA

Assembly/AU/15(XXIV)
Original: English

REPORT OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

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Background

1. At its 21st Session held in June 2014 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, the APR Forum resolved to transform the APR Secretariat to a state that would ensure a strong administrative capacity to effectively support APRM programmes.
2. To ensure implementation of some of the decisions which would bring stability at the Secretariat, the APR Forum approved the appointment of the current CEO of the NEPAD Agency to act as the Interim CEO for the APRM Secretariat pending the recruitment of a substantive CEO.
3. The Forum also tasked the Committee of Focal Points to work with Dr. Mayaki and the interim management team in putting together a clear reform agenda for the APRM, including an institutional assessment and the recruitment of a team of capable staff to run the Secretariat.
4. With the adoption of the Forum recommendation for the integration of the APRM into the AU Structure and Processes by the AU Assembly of Heads of State, the Forum commissioned a review of the practical modalities leading to the integration. The Forum had therefore anticipated a report of the progress on the integration, and the other key issues and outcomes at its 22nd Summit in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.
5. This brief report provides snapshot of the various pre-summit events and key decisions taken by the Heads of State at the 22nd Summit. The key highlights of the Summit were the following:
 - Presentation of National Plan of Action Progress Reports from Benin;
 - Presentation and adoption of the Report of the Committee of Focal Points on Transitional Management of the APRM, and Recruitment;
 - Presentation and adoption of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the APRM;
 - Election of a Vice- Chair of the APR Forum;
 - Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat;
 - Appointment of new members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons;
 - Extension of the mandate of the Chair and Vice Chairperson until June Summit.

Key Events

January 26-27th, 2014- Meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel)

6. **Purpose:** The APR Panel's work is predominantly conducting reviews of member countries governance and democracy practices. They met to track progress and firm up on their work plans.

January 27th 2014- Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment

7. Purpose: The Ad Committee on Recruitment was appointed in March 2014 by the Committee of Focal Points to implement the decision of the Malabo Summit of the APRM on the recruitment of a Chief Executive Officer and Four Divisional Heads of the APRM Secretariat. The Committee was convening to receive the recruitment of Fusion Consulting, an independent recruitment agency hired by the Ad Committee to facilitate the recruitment process

January 28th 2014- Meeting of the Committee of Focal Points

Purpose:

8. The committee of Focal Points convened to receive the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment and to deliberate and reach a decision on the report. The Committee also convened to receive the report of the Transitional Management of the APR Secretariat and update on the finances and the contributions of member states. The committee was to also entertain a progress report on the practical modalities for the integration of the APRM into the African Union Structures and processes.

January 28th 2014- Pre-Summit Meeting

Purpose:

9. The Panel of Eminent Persons and the Committee of Focal Points convened to discuss the agenda for the Summit and to receive briefings on the update of the Administrative and Financial Position of the APRM. The committee was also briefed on the Presentation of National Plans of Actions by Benin.

January 29^h 2014- Meeting of the Heads of State & Government Participating in the APRM (APR Forum)

Purpose:

10. The APR Forum was convened to deliberate on the recommendations and decisions of the Committee of Focal Points meeting and the Pre-summit meeting. The Summit also addressed recommendations from the meeting of the Panel of Eminent Persons.

KEY DECISIONS at the 22nd Summit of the APRM

- The Ivory Coast finally acceded to the APR Forum with the signature of the accession document by President Alassane Ouattara, Head of State of Ivory Coast;
- The Forum voted unanimously the recommendation of the Committee of Focal Points for the adoption of the Ad Hoc Committee on Recruitment Report;
- Consequently, the Forum has directed the Chair of the Committee of Focal Points to immediately inform Mr. Adebayo Olukoshi and the four divisional

heads on their preferment and tender an offer letter, following which a standard AU contract would be issued;

- The Forum adopted the Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines as presented by the Panel of Eminent Persons;
- The Forum appointed two new Panel members in person of Madame Bridgette Sylvia Mabandla of South Africa and Chief Mrs. Chinyere E. Asika from Nigeria. The Forum has therefore requested the Chair, Her Excellency Ellen Johns Sirleaf to officially inform the two panel members of the appointment to the APRM Panel;
- The Forum unanimously decided to extend the tenure of the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Panel to June, to allow for the election of new Chair and Deputy Chairpersons;
- Based on the mandate of Malabo AU Summit, consultations between Secretariat and the AUC culminated into the adoption of a five-point Roadmap for the integration of the APRM into the AU structures and processes. The Forum expressed appreciation of the progress made so far on the integration process encouraged the Secretariat to continue the rollout;
- The Republic of Kenya was unanimously elected Vice Chairperson of the APRM Forum;
- The Forum unanimously adopted the Transitional Management Report as presented by Interim CEO Dr. Ibrahim A. Mayaki.

Participants

- 3 Heads of States – South Africa; Cote d’Ivoire; and Equatorial Guinea;
- Other countries that attended the Forum were represented by Cabinet Ministers;
- Strategic Partners were also in attendance as usual, those are – UNDP, UNECA, AfDB, UNOSSA, and AU.

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