

## DECLARATION ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

**WE**, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the 30<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 to 29 January 2018;

**Recalling** Assembly Decision on the Revitalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanism Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII), which among others looked “forward to the celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the APRM in 2018, and directs the AU Commission to prepare a draft Declaration in this regard for the consideration of the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2018”.

**Further recalling** our commitment to the fundamental principles and objectives of the African Union, as enshrined in the Constitutive Act, the founding instrument of the African Union and comprising, inter alia, the promotion of democratic principles and institutions, popular participation, good governance, human and peoples’ rights; the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent; and the acceleration of the political and socio-economic integration of Africa;

**Reaffirming** that the principles and objectives of the APRM are themselves intrinsic to the afore-mentioned principles and objectives of the African Union;

**Recalling** that at the Inaugural Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in July, 2002, in Durban, South Africa, we adopted a Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which we articulated the same said principles and objectives of the APRM, as well as declared that the AU Member States had separately agreed to establish the APRM on the basis of voluntary accession;

**Inspired** by the vision of the APRM as an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in the pursuit of the highest possible standards of good political, economic and corporate governance as well as broad-based and sustainable socio-economic development;

**Recognizing** that the primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration;

**Recalling** that the mandate of the APRM is to encourage participating States in ensuring that their policies and practices conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and to achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

**Reaffirming** the commitment to the APRM Base Document AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II of July 2002 in which the APRM is described as an instrument voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union and as an African self-monitoring mechanism; and convinced of the imperative need for the APRM to consolidate itself as the authoritative institution on Governance within the African Union;

**Reaffirming** our commitment to the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance of January 2007, and particularly its principal objective to promote adherence to the universal values and principles of democracy and respect for human rights, thus building on the core principles of the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

**Recalling** that the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance stipulates that the States Parties shall promote and deepen democratic governance by implementing, inter alia, the principles and core values of the APRM;

**Acknowledging** that the adoption of the APRM Statute at meeting of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government of 26 August 2016 marked a historic step to put the Mechanism on solid legal basis and secure its future as an institution central to our enduring pursuit of transformative governance on the continent;

**Stressing** that this celebration provides an opportunity for the APRM to take stock of its achievements and the challenges that it has encountered over the past 15 years in the promotion of good governance in Africa;

**Reiterating** that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by thirty-seven (37) Member States representing 67% of AU Member States, more than half of whom twenty-one (21) have undergone the review;

**Encouraged** by the progress on the Operationalisation of the APRM Expanded Mandate emanating from the Institutional Reforms led by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and the Assembly Decision on the Revitalisation of the APRM;

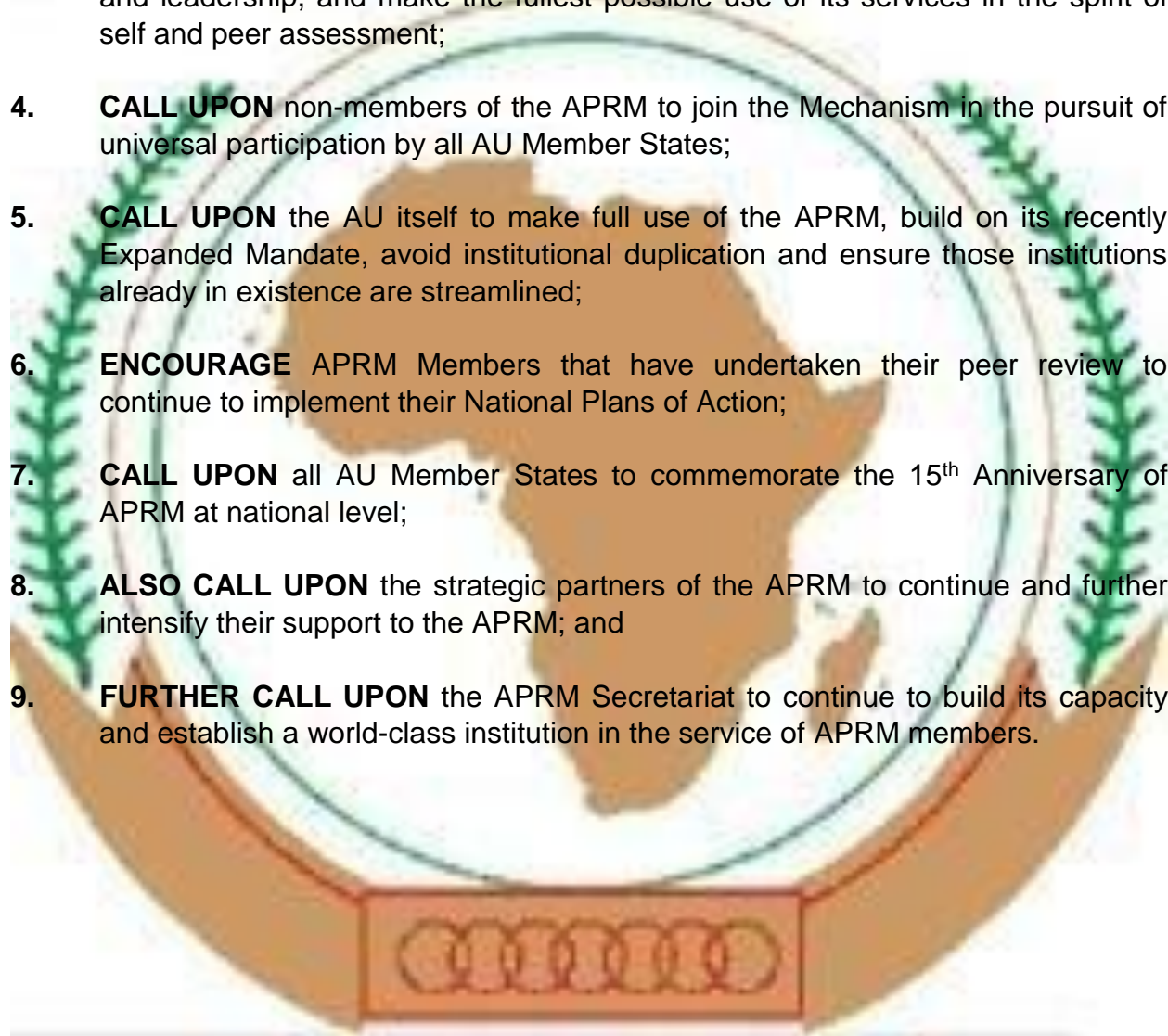
**Welcoming** steps undertaken to position the APRM as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between the APRM, the African Peace and Security Architecture, and the African Governance Architecture;

**Guided by** the vision of our Union and affirming our determination to build an Africa of good governance, we:

1. **WELCOME** the accession of The Gambia and The Comoros as new members of the Mechanism;



2. **REDEDICATE** ourselves to the cause of good governance in all its four manifestations of good political governance, sound economic governance and management and corporate governance and inclusive and broad-based socio-economic development;
3. **CALL UPON** all members of the APRM to enhance their participation, pay their annual contributions, safeguard the APRM and maintain its African ownership and leadership, and make the fullest possible use of its services in the spirit of self and peer assessment;
4. **CALL UPON** non-members of the APRM to join the Mechanism in the pursuit of universal participation by all AU Member States;
5. **CALL UPON** the AU itself to make full use of the APRM, build on its recently Expanded Mandate, avoid institutional duplication and ensure those institutions already in existence are streamlined;
6. **ENCOURAGE** APRM Members that have undertaken their peer review to continue to implement their National Plans of Action;
7. **CALL UPON** all AU Member States to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of APRM at national level;
8. **ALSO CALL UPON** the strategic partners of the APRM to continue and further intensify their support to the APRM; and
9. **FURTHER CALL UPON** the APRM Secretariat to continue to build its capacity and establish a world-class institution in the service of APRM members.



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# Declaration on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the African Peer Review Mechanism

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