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**REPORT OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM),
BY H.E. CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH AFRICA AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSON
OF THE APR FORUM**



REPORT OF THE 29TH AFRICAN PEER REVIEW FORUM OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF PARTICIPATING STATES OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM [APR FORUM]

8 FEBRUARY 2020, ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

INTRODUCTION

1. The 29th Forum of Heads of State and Government Participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) was held on 8th of February 2020 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His Excellency Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad, Outgoing Chairperson of the APR Forum presided over the opening session of the Forum. His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Incoming Chairperson of the APR Forum presided over the closed session.

2. The following Heads of State and Government of the APRM Participating States attended the APR Forum: His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the APR Forum; His Excellency Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of the Republic of Chad and Outgoing Chairperson of the APR Forum; His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Chairperson of the African Union; His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti; His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe; His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana; His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia; His Excellency, Vincent Meriton, Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles.

3. The following Participating States were represented by Ministers and Heads of Delegations: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia.

4. The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E Moussa FAKI MAHAMAT and the following members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons: Professor Ibrahim Agboola GAMBARI (Outgoing Chairperson), Professor Fatima Zohra KARADJA (Incoming Chairperson), Ambassador Mona Omar ATTIA, Ambassador Ombeni Yohana SEFUE (Incoming Vice-Chairperson), Bishop Don Dinis Salomao SENGULANE, Dr. Ali Abdel-Rhamane HAGGAR, attended the APR Forum.

5. Also in attendance was Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof. Edward Maloka.

HANDOVER OF THE APRM LEGACY REPORT TO THE FORMER APR FORUM CHAIRPERSON

6. On behalf of the APR Forum, the Chairperson of the APR Forum, President Idriss DEBY ITNO, presented the APRM Legacy Report of the Former APR Forum Chairperson, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, to the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Kenya. The Report highlights the key achievements of President Uhuru Kenyatta during his tenure as Chair of the APRM Forum from 13th June, 2015 until 27th January 2018.

ACCESSION OF NEW MEMBERS

7. The APR Forum welcomed with appreciation the accession of Republic of Zimbabwe and Republic of Seychelles to the APRM. In his statement to the APR Forum, His Excellency Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, revealed that Zimbabwe has introduced reforms meant to enhance and consolidate democratic principles and good governance thus the decision of the Government of Zimbabwe to join of the APRM. The Vice President of the Republic of Seychelles emphasized significant strides made by the country by putting legislative measures to strengthen its governance framework which in principle necessitated the decision of the Government of Seychelles to join the APRM.

ELECTION OF THE NEW TROIKA OF THE APR FORUM

8. The APR Forum elected H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa as the Chairperson of the APR Forum for a period two (2) years. The APR Forum elected the Republic of Chad, the Outgoing Chair of the APR as a member of the Troika. The APR Forum decided that the Incoming Chair of the APR Forum shall be an Incoming Chairperson of the AU unless otherwise unattainable.

9. H.E. President Idriss DEBY ITNO, President of Chad handed over to H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, as the Chair of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government. The new Chair of the APR Forum, H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa commended H.E. President Idriss DEBY ITNO for his exemplary leadership of the APRM during his tenure. He thanked President Idriss Deby Itno for the achievements made during his term of office and accepted the honour of leading the APR Forum towards advancing good governance at national, regional and continental levels.

10. In line with APRM's core values of transparency and accountability, the new APRM Forum Chair informed his peers that ownership of the APRM does not rest in the Continental Secretariat alone but it is vested in all of Participating States. He emphasised that the APRM must be seen for what it is: a driver for change. H.E

President Cyril Ramaphosa assured the Forum that his country South Africa will play its part to deepen the review processes and upscale the implementation of plans of action that are needed to improve governance in the APRM Member States. He asserted that it is the wish of all APRM Participating States that all African countries should join the APRM, which has already proven its worth and benefit to the people of Africa.

CONDUCT OF THE PEER REVIEW OF EGYPT

11. Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, the Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Lead Panelist of the Arab Republic of Egypt presented the Country Review Report of Egypt. He presented the key finds of the review including cross-cutting issues, best practices and recommendations. His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, welcomed the Country Review Report of Egypt. He elaborated on the reforms introduced, including but not limited to right to form political parties, participation of women in Egypt and electoral laws.

12. The APR Forum welcomed with appreciation the Country Peer Review Report of Arab Republic of Egypt and congratulated H.E Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Republic of Egypt for his steadfast and sustained leadership in promotion of good governance in his country and on the continent.

13. The APR Forum encouraged the Arab Republic of Egypt, to take into account observations of Members States on the country review presented to the 29th APR Forum as well as the recommendations contained in the report on the development and implementation of the National Programme of Action as a necessary step in furthering the goals and objectives of the APRM.

CONDUCT OF THE TARGETED REVIEWS OF DJIBOUTI AND NAMIBIA

14. Ambassador Ombeni Yohana Sefue, the lead Panellist of Djibouti and Namibia presented the targeted review report of the Republic of Djibouti on fiscal decentralisation and the targeted review report of the Republic of Namibia on youth unemployment. The targeted review report of Djibouti highlighted lack of capacity by the regions to generate revenue and accordingly recommended measures to put in place to bolster fiscal autonomy. The report noted the introduction of district councils and real estate projects was as some of the best practices in Djibouti.

15. The targeted review report of Namibia highlighted with concern the high unemployment rate sitting at 46.1%. The report recommended that the government should address institutional challenges by establishing a youth coordination office under the Office of the President. The report also recommended that the government should address education challenges and involve the private sector. The report further recommended that the government should support graduates, as well as their entrepreneurship through frameworks and facilitation, including creating a sovereign well-fund in resources towards youth upskilling.

16. In response to the findings, the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, highlighted that Namibia has embarked on youth development since independence in 1990. He reiterated that the Government of Namibia's commitment to implementing context-specific initial reforms. He stated that by 2030 Namibian youth unemployment would be addressed by way of an education system implemented to create more job creators.

17. The APR Forum acknowledged with appreciation the targeted review reports of The Republic of Djibouti, and the Republic of Namibia. The APR Forum expressed gratitude to H.E Ismaïl Omar GUELLEH, President of the Republic of Djibouti and H.E Hage GEINGOB, President of the Republic of Namibia for their dedication to the cause of good governance with all its four manifestations including sustainable and broad-based socio- economic development.

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY ON THE 13 BOTTLENECKS HINDERING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

18. The representative of the His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, represented the study on the 13 Bottlenecks hindering socio-economic development in Africa. He recalled that the study is based on the presentation on the 11 Bottlenecks hindering socio-economic development in Africa by H.E President Yoweri Museveni to the 25th APR Forum held in August, 2016, Nairobi, Kenya.

19. He highlighted that the 13 Bottlenecks facing Africa's socio-economic development are: (i) Ideological disorientation; (ii) Interference with the private sector; (iii) Under-developed infrastructure; (iv) Weak states, especially the Army, Police, etc.; (v) Fragmented markets, market access and expansion; (vi) Lack of industrialization and low value addition; (vii) Under-development of human resources; (viii) Under-development of agriculture; (ix) Under-development of the services sector; (x) Attack on democracy and governance; (xi) Non-responsive civil service; (xii) lack of domestic resource mobilisation; (xiii) and structural inequalities in access to opportunities.

20. The representative of His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, recalled that APR Forum had requested the Secretariat of APRM to conduct an audit and analysis of the Bottlenecks and present a paper thereon for consideration at the next Summit of the APR Forum. It was further recalled that the APR Forum emphasised that the audit must be informed by perspectives of the African Union Agenda 2063.

21. The APR Forum took note of the report and requested the APRM participating States to volunteer for the pilot phase of rolling out the study on the analysis of the bottlenecks informed by perspectives of the African Union Agenda 2063.

UPDATE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE COUNTRY REVIEW REPORT OF LIBERIA

22. The APRM Continental Secretariat presented an updated on the country review report of the Republic of Liberia. The APRM Secretariat informed the meeting that the

Republic of Liberia successfully undertook a Country Review Mission in April 2017, under the administration of H.E Ellen Sirleaf Johnson. The Country Review Report of Liberia was not peer reviewed by APR Forum in 2017 as the APR Forum was postponed to 2018. H.E President George Weah was elected as President of Liberia in March 2018, following which a support mission was undertaken by Hon. Brigitte Mabandla, Lead Panel of the Liberia. A revalidation mission was undertaken in the same year. The Report was not tabled to the 27th APR Forum due to a clash with the State of Nation address by the President.

23. The Secretariat revealed that it had communicated with the Government of Liberia regarding the presentation of the country review report to the APR Forum but had not yet received any feedback. The Forum agreed that the Chairperson of the APR Forum, H.E President Cyril Ramaphosa should engage H.E George Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia to encourage the country to undertake Peer Review.

UPDATE BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE CONDUCT OF THE SECOND COUNTRY REVIEW

24. The agenda item was stood down at the request of the Republic of South Africa.

UPDATE BY THE REPUBLIC OF SUDAN

25. The Representative of His Excellency Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic Sudan presented an update on the reforms aimed at improving governance in the country as well as the preparation of the APRM National Progress Report. The APR Forum took note of the update report.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE APR COMMITTEE OF FOCAL POINTS

26. Honourable Senzo Mchunu, Minister of Public Service and Administration of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the APR Committee of Focal Points presented the report of the Committee to the APR Forum. The report recommended the following to the APR Forum for consideration and adoption:

- (i) The appointment for two (2) years of Professor Fatma Zohra KARADJA as Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Ambassador Ombeni Yohana SEFUE as Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons.
- (ii) The appointment of the following African eminent personalities as APR Panel Members for four (4) years: Dr. Honoré Mobanda from the Republic of Congo, Dr. Ousmane M. Diallo from the Republic of Mali, Dr. Hope Kivengere from the Republic of Uganda, Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika from the Republic Zambia.

- (iii) The convening of the Extraordinary Summit of the APR Forum on Deepening the Review during the first half of the year 2020.
- (iv) The convening of the African Migration Governance Conference by the APRM in partnership with relevant stakeholders during the year 2020.
- (v) Declaration of the founding day of the APRM, 9 March as the APRM day which should be celebrated by the continent and the AU family.
- (vi) Award of certificates of appreciation to the retiring members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons: Honourable Brigitte MABANDLA from South Africa and Prof. Abumanga, from the Republic of Sudan. H.E Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa.

27. The APR Forum endorsed the recommendations of the APR Focal Points Committee. The APR Forum decided that its next ordinary session shall take place on the margins of the next AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government Ordinary Session scheduled to take place in February, 2021.

CONCLUSION

28. On behalf of the APR Forum, H.E President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Chairperson of the APR Forum, thanked the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegations for their attendance and participation. He also thanked Focal Points Committee, the Panel of Eminent Persons and the Chief Executive Officer as well as Staff of the APRM Secretariat for working tirelessly in ensuring that the APRM realises its mandate.

29. H.E Cyril Ramaphosa reaffirmed the commitment of South Africa working with all Member States in ensuring the realisation of the mandate and strategic objectives of the APRM.

DRAFT DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 29th Summit of the African Peer Review Forum of Heads of States and Government of the Participating States to African Peers Review Mechanism (APRM) held on 8th February, 2020;
2. **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa for his election as the new Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, and **COMMENDS** H.E. Idriss Déby Itno, President of the Republic of Chad, for his sterling leadership of the mechanism, including ensuring financial sustainability through the full integration of the APRM budget into the AU overall statutory budget; conducted of five (5) country reviews; conduct of four (4) targeted reviews; accession of to the APRM of more AU Member States and the preparation and presentation of the African Governance Report to the Assembly;
3. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.198 (XI) in which the Assembly decided that APRM structures, namely the APRM Forum, the APRM Panel and the APRM Secretariat shall be part of the processes and structures of the African Union and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527 (XXIII) on the integration of the APRM into the African Union system, in which the Assembly Decided that the APRM shall be an autonomous entity within the AU system;
4. **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI), in which the Assembly decided to integrate the APRM budget in the Statutory Union budget funded by Member States and reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its extended mandate and enhance its functional autonomy;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** progress made in the implementation of the integration of the APRM into the AU including the full integration of the APRM budget into the 2020 AU budget and adoption of the provisional organizational structure of the APRM Continental Secretariat as well as the adoption of the APRM Draft Legal Instruments on the integration into the AU;
6. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission H.E Moussa Faki and the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof. Eddy Maloka for their steadfast and stained efforts in fast tracking the integration of the APRM into the AU system.
7. **FURTHER COMMENDS APRM** for implementing the expanded mandate that covers all Member States of the AU conferred on it by the Assembly;
8. **REITERATES** Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI), in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need to strengthen the capacity of the APRM to deliver on its expanded mandate and enhance its functional autonomy;

9. **STRESSES** the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate and sufficient human resources and budget allocations so as it executed its mandate without hindrance and enhance its functional autonomy;
10. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the peer review Report of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Congratulates H.E Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for his steadfast and sustained leadership in promotion of good governance in his country and on the continent.
11. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH APPRECIATION** the targeted reviews reports of the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of Namibia and **EXPRESSES** gratitude to H.E Ismaïl Omar GUELLEH, President of the Republic of Djibouti and H.E Hage GEINGOB, President of the Republic of Namibia for their dedication to the cause of good governance with all its four manifestations including sustainable and broad-based socio- economic development;
12. **ENCOURAGES** the Arab Republic of Egypt, to take into account observations of Members States on the country review presented to 29th the APR Forum as well as the recommendations contained in report in the development and implementation of the National Programme of Action as a necessary step in furthering the goals and objectives of the APRM;
13. **URGES** the Republic of Djibouti and the Republic of Namibia consider the recommendations of Member States on their targeted review reports presented to the 29th APM Forum including the recommendations contained in reports in the development and implementation of their National Programme of Actions as a necessary step towards attaining sustainable and broad-based socio- economic development;
14. **CONGRATULATES** the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the conduct of the country review of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the conduct of the targeted review of the Republic of Djibouti, for their resilience and commitment to the APRM review process;
15. **ENCOURAGE APRM** Participating States that have not been peer reviewed to take the necessary measures to ensure that country peer reviews are undertaken and their reports are presented to the APR Forum;
16. **FURTHER URGE APRM** Participating States that have been reviewed to implement their National Plans of Action and recommendations to inform institutional reform at national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;
17. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** an update report by H.E H.E Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, Prime Minister of the Republic Sudan, on the reforms aimed at improving governance in the country including of the preparation of the APRM National Progress Report;

18. **REAFFIRM** the solidarity of the AU with the Sudanese people and the Transitional Government in their aspiration to attain constitutional order that will enable them to make progress in their efforts towards the peace, stability, good governance, democratic transformation and sustainable development.
19. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** the Report by H.E Yoweri Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda on the 13 Bottlenecks to Africa's Development; **REQUEST APRM PARTICIPATING STATES** to volunteer for the pilot phase of rolling out the study.
20. **SUPPORT** the decision of the 29th APR Forum of Heads of State and Government for the APRM to organise an African Migration Governance Conference focusing on migration governance and sharing of best practices amongst AU Member States; **REQUEST** the APRM to organise the African Migration Governance Conference in collaboration with the AU Commission and relevant stakeholders.
21. **FURTHER SUPPORT** the decision of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government to convene an Extraordinary APR Forum Summit on deepening the review during the first half year 2020;
22. **CONGRATULATES** the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of Seychelles for their accession as a new members of the APRM;
23. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to H.E Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles, and H.E. Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe for their courageous decision in joining the APRM, the premier homegrown, African good governance mechanism;
24. **ENCOURAGE** all Member States of the AU that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the APRM in line with the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 so as to attain universality by 2023.
25. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** the full implementation of the Five Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2016-2020 and **COMMENDS THE APRM** for realising all its key priority areas;
26. **WELCOMES AND ENDORSES** the Five Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2020-2024 and **COMMIT** to support the APRM to ensure its full implementation;
27. **ENCOURAGES** the APRM to take the necessary measures to realise the key priority areas of the Five Year Strategic Plan of the APRM 2020-2024;
28. **REITERATES** that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by forty (40) Member States representing more than two-thirds of AU Member States;
29. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the appointment by the 29th APR Forum of new APR Panel Members, Dr. Honoré Mobanda from the Republic

of Congo, Dr. Ousmane M. Diallo from the Republic of Mali, Dr. Hope Kivengere from the Republic of Uganda, Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika from the Republic Zambia;

30. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the retiring APR Panel Members, Hon. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla from South Africa and Prof. Abu Manga from Sudan, for their unwavering commitment to the realization of the mandate of the APRM.
31. **FURTHER WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the appointment by the 29th APR Forum of Prof. Fatma Zohra Karadja as the Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Ambassador Yohani Ombeni Sefue as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for period of one (1) year.
32. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** the adoption by the 29th APR Forum of the APRM National Governance Reporting Framework which will guide the production of national governance reports pursuant to Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720(XXXII) in which the Assembly urged Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool, for promoting good governance, in line with the recommendations of the Africa Governance Report and the APRM Secretariat to provide technical support to Member States in developing country self-assessment reports (CSAR) on governance.
33. **ENDORSES** the Decision of the 29th APR Forum which declared the founding day of the APRM, 9 March as the APRM day which should be celebrated by the continent and the AU family.
34. **TAKES NOTE** that improved governance is a key prerequisite for creating conducive condition for Africa's development and **REQUESTS** the APRM to celebrate 17th anniversary of the founding of the APRM, 9 March, 2020, under the AU theme for the year 2020: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development."
35. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720(XXXII) in which the Assembly decided that the Africa Governance Report shall be developed by APRM in collaboration with AGA, and shall be presented every two (2) years for consideration by the Assembly at its Ordinary Sessions.
36. **DECIDES** that the APRM should develop in collaboration with AGA the African Governance Report and present it to the 34th Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled to take place in February, 2021.
37. **EXPRESSES GRATITUDE** to the APR Forum and all structures of the APRM and the AU for working tirelessly in ensuring that the APRM realises its mandate.

2020-02-10

Report of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), by H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and Incoming Chairperson of the APR Forum

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