

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE FIRST SUMMIT OF
THE COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT IN THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APR
FORUM)
KIGALI, RWANDA**

13 February 2004

1. At the invitation of His Excellency, Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, the First Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) was held in Kigali, Rwanda on 13 February 2004. H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) chaired the Summit.

2. The following dignitaries attended the Summit:

- (i) His Excellency, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo;
- (ii) His Excellency, Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia;
- (iii) His Excellency, El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Republic of Gabon;
- (iv) His Excellency, Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana;
- (v) His Excellency, Mr. Joaquim Chissano, President of the Republic of Mozambique, and Chairperson of the African Union;
- (vi) His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (vii) His Excellency, Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda;
- (viii) His Excellency, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal
- (ix) His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa;
- (x) Honourable Mr. Abdelkader Messahel, Minister of State in Charge of the Maghreb and African Affairs, Peoples Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- (xi) Honourable Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Minister of Planning and NEPAD, Republic of Kenya;
- (xii) Mr. Gerald Sendaula, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Uganda;
- (xiii) Ambassador S. Servansing, Personal Representative of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius;

- (xiv) Mr. Jean Baptiste Natama, NEPAD National Coordinator, Burkina Faso;
- (xv) His Excellency, Mr. Patrick Mazimhaka, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission;
- (xvi) Professor Ibrahim Gambari, United Nations Under Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA);

3. The Members of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel) and NEPAD Steering Committee as well as representatives of the UNDP, UNECA and the ADB were in attendance.

Welcome Remarks by the Host

4. In his welcome remarks, H.E. President Paul Kagame, expressed the pleasure of the Government of Rwanda in hosting the First Summit of the Committee of the Participating Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) especially at a time when the country is about to commemorate, in April, the anniversary of the 1994 genocide, itself a culmination of bad governance.

5. In the past ten years, the people have embarked on a process of national reconciliation and reconstruction aimed at forging a new beginning of promise and hope for Rwanda. For example, in May 2003, Rwanda adopted a new constitution through a referendum with the participation of the overwhelming majority of the people, and in August and September, the country also organised its first multi-party Presidential and Parliamentary elections respectively.

6. As a nation that has experienced the devastating effects of bad governance, the government also made a solemn pledge to abide by the principles that govern the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as well as submit itself to periodic peer reviews. It is the view of the government that the APRM will assist governments to tackle the challenges of governance. President Kagame concluded by wishing the APR Forum successful deliberations.

Remarks by the Chairperson of the NEPAD HSGIC

7. On behalf of his colleagues and all delegates present, the Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee, congratulated President Kagame, the Government and the people of Rwanda for the excellent arrangements made for the meeting and indeed the very warm hospitality extended to them. He expressed his satisfaction that he has personally observed the progress Rwanda

has been making under the able leadership of President Kagame towards national reconciliation and reconstruction.

8. The Chairperson introduced the Members of the APR Panel whose appointments were approved by the 7th Summit of the NEPAD HSGIC held in Abuja, Nigeria on 28 May 2003.

- (i) Professor Adebayo Adedeji from Nigeria.
- (ii) Dr. Graça Machel from Mozambique.
- (iii) Dr. Dorothy Njeuma from Cameroon.
- (iv) Ms. Marie-Angelique Savané from Senegal.
- (v) Dr. Chris Stals from South Africa.

9. H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo informed the meeting that he has received apologies from Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat of Kenya, who unfortunately, could not be present because of his engagements at the Somali Peace Process. He congratulated the Members of the APR Panel on their appointment and also thanked them for accepting to render such an invaluable service to the continent.

10. The Chairperson recalled the mandate given to him by the 7th Summit of the HSGIC to appoint the Chairperson of the APR Panel, and to address the issue of regional representation in the APR Panel.

Election of Chairperson of the APR Forum

11. H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, as Chairperson of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD, was unanimously elected as Chairperson of the APR Forum. In congratulating him, the APR Forum emphasised that his election will reinforce the APRM as an integral part of the NEPAD process as well as emphasising the self-assessment and voluntary nature of the process. In accepting his election, the Chairperson thanked his colleagues for giving him the opportunity to continue to lead the APR Forum and the HSGIC.

Chairperson of the APR Panel and Seventh Member of the APR Panel

12. The APR Forum endorsed the appointment of Ms. Marie-Angelique Savané as Chairperson of the APR Panel, for a period of one year effective from 14 November 2003.

13. The APR Forum also confirmed the appointment of Mr. Mourad Medelci of Algeria, as the seventh Member of the APR Panel, effective from 27 July 2003.

Progress Report of the Chairperson of the NEPAD Steering Committee

14. On the invitation of the Chairman of the APR Forum, Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chairperson of the NEPAD Steering Committee, reported on the milestones of the establishment of the APRM since the approval of the operative guidelines in March 2003 which include: the setting up of the APR Panel and the APR Secretariat as a unit within the NEPAD Secretariat.

15. Prof. Nkuhlu, as mandated by the NEPAD Steering Committee, recommended to the APR Forum that each country participating in the APRM pledge a minimum of US\$ 100,000 towards the operationalisation of the APRM while a long-term funding formula could be worked out before the next summit of the APR Forum.

Report of the Chairperson of the APR Panel

16. On the invitation of the Chairman, Madame Marie Angelique Savané, Chairperson of the APR Panel, thanked the Forum for the confidence placed on the Panel. She informed that the APR Panel held its inaugural meeting in July 2003 in Cape Town during which President Mbeki met with the Panel. On that occasion the Panel also received a message of support and congratulations from H.E. President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Chairperson of the African Union. Its Second Meeting was held in October 2003 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

17. The 3rd Meeting of the Panel, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 14-15 November 2003, was opened by H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo who hosted the Members of the APR Panel in the Presidential Villa. The 3rd Meeting and subsequent meetings of the APR Panel arrived at important decisions in relation to the operationalisation of the APR process.

18. During the discussions, the APR Forum recognised the significant progress made by the NEPAD Steering Committee and Secretariat, and the APR Panel in operationalising the APRM.

19. Since the inception of the APRM Process, the NEPAD Steering Committee and NEPAD Secretariat have:

- (i) finalised the policy documents and the operative guidelines of the APRM;
- (ii) facilitated the appointment of the APR Panel; and

- (iii) set up the APR Secretariat as a unit within the NEPAD Secretariat.

20. Since its inauguration on 27 July 2003, the APR Panel has prepared the following:

- (i) Rules and Procedures of the APR Panel and Secretariat,
- (ii) Work Programme and Budget;
- (iii) Provisional List of Partner Institutions;
- (iv) the Guidelines for countries to prepare for and participate in the APRM;
- (v) Draft Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with participating countries in the APRM;
- (vi) Draft Memorandum of Understanding to be signed with Partner Institutions; and
- (vii) Set of questionnaire in the four thematic areas of the APRM (Democracy and Political Governance; Economic Governance and Management; Corporate Governance and Socio-Economic Development) to assist countries in their self-assessment and to participate in the review process.

21. The APR Forum urged that the Set of Questionnaires be forwarded to all participating countries as soon as possible. The APR Forum also approved the following:

- (i) Rules of Procedure of the APR Panel and the Secretariat; and
- (ii) Work Programme and Budget of the APRM, in particular, the first four countries to be reviewed: Ghana, Mauritius, Kenya and Rwanda.

Partner Institutions

22. The APR Forum noted the Provisional List of Partner Institutions and the three categories recommended by the APR Panel. The three categories are:

- (i) Strategic Partners;
- (ii) Regional Resource Institutions; and
- (iii) International Resource Institutions;

23. The APR Forum further mandated the APR Panel to work out modalities for establishing relations with other institutions on the continent that may be able to assist and facilitate its work.

The Establishment of APRM National Focal Points

24. The APR Forum endorsed the recommendation that a Focal Point be established in each participating country. The APRM National Focal Point should be at Ministerial level or a High-Level Official reporting directly to the Head of State or Government and with access to all national stakeholders. The contact details of all APRM National Focal Points should be forwarded to the NEPAD Secretariat/APR Secretariat as soon as identified.

25. The APR Forum also approved the recommendation of the APR Panel that participating countries immediately take steps to identify or establish broad-based and all-inclusive APRM National Coordinating Structures where they do not already exist.

Funding

26. The APR Forum approved the budget as presented, and reiterated the principle of African ownership and leadership of the APRM. The Forum, thus, urged that funding of APRM operations should predominantly come from Africa. The APR Forum proposed and unanimously approved that each participating country should make available a minimum of US\$ 100,000, as a matter of urgency, towards the operationalisation of the APRM. In this regard, the APR Forum urged members to remit their pledges to the NEPAD Secretariat to enable the work of the APR Panel and APR Secretariat to proceed without delay.

27. The APR Forum commended the APR Panel for its excellent work and assured the Members of the APR Panel of its continuous support. The APR Forum also commended Mr. Koffi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations for his continued support to NEPAD. The APR Forum further mandated that the NEPAD Secretariat should work out the modalities for establishing the APRM Trust Fund in collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with a view of ensuring sustainable funding of the APRM process.

Briefing on the APRM

28. The APR Forum agreed that, in addition to the Chairperson of the HSGIC and the APR Forum reporting to the AU Summit annually, the Chairperson of the APR Forum will also provide a regular update on the operationalisation of the APRM to all Member States of the AU, in particular, the outcome of the First APR Forum Summit.

Appreciation

29. The APR Forum expressed its profound appreciation to President Paul Kagame, the Government and people of Rwanda for the hospitality and excellent arrangements, made towards the successful hosting of the Summit.

Date of Next APR Forum Summit

30. The date and venue of the Second Summit of the APR Forum would be communicated by the Chairperson of the APR Forum in due course.

Issued in Kigali, RWANDA, 14 February 2004.