

**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> SUMMIT OF THE COMMITTEE  
OF PARTICIPATING HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN THE AFRICAN  
PEER REVIEW MECHANISM, 22 JANUARY 2006, KHARTOUM, SUDAN**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the African Peer Review Mechanism [APR Forum] was held on 22 January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan. The Summit was chaired by Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the APR Forum.

2. The following Heads of State and Government attended the Summit:

- (i) His Excellency, Mr. Blaise Compaore, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso;
- (ii) His Excellency, Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
- (iii) His Excellency, Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana;
- (iv) His Excellency Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi;
- (v) His Excellency, Mr. Armando Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique;
- (vi) His Excellency, Mr. Omer H. A. al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan;
- (vii) His Excellency, Mr. Levy Mwanawasa, President of the Republic of Zambia;
- (viii) Honourable, Mr. Bernard Makuza, Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda;
- (ix) His Excellency, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, Head of Government, Democratic People's Republic of Algeria;
- (x) Honourable, Mr. Madun Dullo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Co-operation, Republic of Mauritius;

3. The Heads of State and Government of Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda were represented.

4. The Members of the African Peer Review Mechanism Panel of Eminent Persons [APR Panel] were in attendance. The NEPAD Secretariat was represented by Prof. Firmino Mucavele, Acting Chief Executive Officer. The Strategic Partner Institutions were represented as follows: President of the African Development Bank [ADB], and the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa [UNECA] and the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] by senior officials of its Africa Bureau.

**Welcome Remarks of the Chairperson of the APR Forum**

5. President Obasanjo welcomed the Members of the Forum to this Summit and acknowledged the participation of the Heads of State of Zambia as well as the host President Al-Bashir of Sudan. The Chairperson also thanked the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons [APR Panel] and the APR Secretariat for the good

work done and in particular in bringing the review processes of Ghana and Rwanda to this penultimate stage. He also acknowledged the assistance of the APRM Strategic Partners.

6. The Forum noted that this was a historic moment as the Summit would conduct the peer review of the first participating country namely Ghana. The peer review of Rwanda could not be conducted at this Summit and was deferred until the next Summit of the Forum. The Forum reiterated that the APRM is a critical instrument for advancing reforms in governance and socio-economic development. The process is not an instrument for punishment or exclusion, but rather a mechanism to identify strong and weak points, share them with other countries and help rectify identified weak areas in governance.

### **Conduct of the Peer Review of Ghana**

11. President Kufuor underscored the values of the APRM and its role in the socio-economic development of the continent. The Government of Ghana considered the Country Review Report of Ghana to be comprehensive and that its recommendations could assist the country in addressing its weaknesses in the area of governance. Ghana has already started implementation of a number of recommendations cited in the Report. President Kufuor highlighted the steps taken by Ghana to address the main issues raised in the Programme of Action, the total costs of which had been revised upwards from US\$2.8 billion to approximately US \$5 billion following a more detailed analysis.

12. President Kufuor noted that the revised Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy [GPRS II] has helped improve co-ordination of the national development policies among the lead Ministries. The Government of Ghana is expanding access to potable water, finance, basic services as well as concentrating on gender mainstreaming. President Kufuor described the actions of his Government on the overarching issues cited in the Country Review Report such as the issue of capacity constraints and decentralization amongst others. He noted that the success of the APRM depends also on contributions from other key stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society. President Kufuor concluded by reiterating the commitment of Ghana to undertake the full implementation of the Programme of Action.

13. The Forum deliberated on the Report of Ghana and noted the best practices and weaknesses in Ghana. In fact, there were many best practices which could be learned from the Ghana APRM experience during the exercise that should be shared amongst all African countries. The Forum also noted that the financing of the Programme of Action addressing the weaknesses is of a critical nature and participating countries in the APRM are expected to source the majority of the funds for financing their respective Programme of Actions domestically. The Forum stressed that the APRM is conducted because African countries are ready to comprehensively address and improve all areas of governance. External assistance from development partners would, nevertheless, be still useful towards the implementation of the Programmes of Action.

## **Way Forward in the APR Processes**

14. Rwanda announced that the Government of Rwanda is already implementing its Programme of Action and stands ready to be peer reviewed at the next Summit of the APR Forum. The Forum agreed that follow-up progress reports on countries which have been reviewed be made available to the APRM Panel every six month and annually to the Forum. The Forum would consider the Country Review Report of Kenya as soon as the Report is finalised and noted that the next steps would encompass the reviews in the other countries, based on their preparedness, including the completion of the review processes which are now in progress in a number of countries such as Algeria, Mauritius, Benin amongst others.

15. The Forum directed the APR Panel and the APR Secretariat to monitor and report on the implementation of the Programme of Action in Ghana. In this connection, the Panel will provide a progress report on this exercise within the next two years. The Country Review Report of Ghana would be jointly published by the National APRM Governing council of Ghana and the APR Panel in accordance with the procedures and regulations of the APRM. The Report will be tabled for discussion at various African fora including the organs of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities amongst others.

## **Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on the APRM**

16. The Forum approved the accession of Sao Tome & Principe, Sudan and Zambia to the APRM. Thus, the Heads of State of Zambia and Sudan signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the APRM and officially acceded to the process. As the Head of State of Sao Tome & Principe was not available, the Forum agreed that the country would sign the Memorandum of Understanding at a later date. The Chairperson of the APR Forum congratulated the two Heads of State for voluntarily joining the process and expressed his confidence in the commitment and political will of the leadership in the two new participating countries to undertake their self-assessment exercises and meet their respective obligations to the APRM.

17. The Forum stressed that this is an important milestone as 25 countries have acceded to the APRM, constituting almost half of the total membership of the African Union. The Chairperson underscored the voluntary nature of the exercise as well as its uniqueness in the world due to its openness and broad-based participatory design. The Forum congratulated Ghana for the successful completion of its peer review.

## **Appreciation**

18. The APR Forum expressed its profound appreciation to President al-Bashir, the Government and people of Sudan for the hospitality and excellent arrangements, made towards the successful hosting of the APR Forum Summit. A press conference by President Kufuor was held immediately after the Summit.

**ISSUED ON 22 JANUARY 2006 IN KHARTOUM, SUDAN**