

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE THIRD SUMMIT OF THE COMMITTEE
OF PARTICIPATING HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IN THE
AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APR FORUM)
19 June 2005, ABUJA, NIGERIA**

1. At the invitation of His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chairman of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [NEPAD], and Chairperson of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the African Peer Review Mechanism [APR Forum], the Third Summit of the APR Forum was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 19 June 2005. President Obasanjo chaired the Summit.

The following dignitaries attended the Summit:

- (i) His Excellency, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria;
- (ii) His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of NEPAD HSGIC and APR Forum;
- (iii) His Excellency, Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana;
- (iv) His Excellency, Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda;
- (v) His Excellency El-Hadj Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone;
His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa;
Honourable, Dr. Luisa Diogo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique;
Honourable Mr. Sossa Dorome, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Benin;
- (ix) Honourable Mr. Abou Aziz Sow, Minister for NEPAD, African Integration and Good Governance of the Republic of Senegal;
- (x) His Excellency, Mr. Ibrahim Ali Hassan, Personal Representative of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Member of the NEPAD Steering Committee.

3. Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Uganda were represented.

4. The Members of the African Peer Review Mechanism Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel) and NEPAD Steering Committee were in attendance. Partner institutions including the African Development Bank [ADB], the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa [UNECA] also attended the meeting. Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities [RECs] including CEN-SAD and SADC were also in attendance.

Welcome Remarks by President Obasanjo

5. His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the APR Forum welcomed all participants to Abuja, Nigeria. In his opening remarks, President Obasanjo pointed out that the Summit was an important milestone and achievement in the long journey which began on 09 March 2003 in Abuja by accession to the APRM by 10 pioneer countries. The fact that the

country review reports of Ghana and Rwanda were being tabled at the Summit constituted a living proof of the determination and commitment of African countries to change the status quo.

6. President Obasanjo noted that the APRM process in many cases called for the setting up of new national institutions to fully address the type of in-depth and broad-based consultations with all stakeholders which is a prerequisite of the process. He further noted that despite the novelty and uniqueness of the process compounded with financial and capacity constraints, the delivery of the reports after two years was very commendable. The Chairperson congratulated and thanked the Members of the APR Panel and the APR Secretariat for delivering on commitments and producing the reports under very difficult circumstances and tight deadlines. He also acknowledged the unflinching support to the APRM process by the strategic partners namely the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

7. President Obasanjo reiterated that the APRM is a critical instrument for advancing reforms in governance and socio-economic development and in building capacity to help implement the national development plans. He highlighted that the process is not an instrument for punishment or exclusion, but rather a mechanism to identify the strong points, share them and help rectify the weak areas in governance. He expressed the belief that the APRM would engender good governance in Africa. He called upon all members to fulfil their own commitments to allocate more financial resources to the APRM to consolidate and take full ownership of the process even if the APR Trust Fund is functional.

Progress Report by Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Secretariat

8. President Obasanjo invited Prof. Wiseman Nkuhlu, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat to brief the Forum on certain issues of interest to the envisaged African participation at the Gleneagles G8 Summit in the United Kingdom. Prof. Nkuhlu briefed the Summit on the progress achieved with the implementation of NEPAD, including *inter alia*, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme [CAADP] and issues relating to peace and security in Africa. He also provided an outline on the NEPAD strategy on the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] before the official UN General Assembly review later in 2005. A report will be presented to the African Union [AU] Summit in Sirte in July 2005.

9. The Forum noted the presentation and resolved that that engagement with Africa's partners would continue under NEPAD including proceeding with implementation of the initiative. The Forum called on the G8 and the international community to take the following actions:

- Commit to provide increased budgetary support for the Peace and Security programme of the African Union on a predictable multi-year basis.
- ii. Double development assistance in three years and schedule thereafter further increases to ensure that Africa meets the MDGs by 2015.
Establish an AU/NEPAD Development Fund of US\$20 billion at the AfDB by the end of 2005 and agree on the necessary governance mechanisms to

ensure the proper speedy disbursement of the funds. The Fund would finance the NEPAD infrastructure projects and other NEPAD priority programmes including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, education and skills development, capacity building obligations arising out of the APRM process.

- iv. While acknowledging progress recently made with the cancellation of debt for 14 African countries, the Forum called for steps to be taken to include all African countries

10. The Minister of Finance of Nigeria made a short presentation on a proposal to invest part of the African Pension Funds into infrastructure development in the continent. A study was commissioned to contemplate using the excess of US\$ 130 billion available in the African pension funds. The Minister proposed the creation of a Pan-African Infrastructure Fund with, at least US\$ 1 billion, to be domiciled in the ADB, for financing major African infrastructure projects. The Fund would be leveraged through private sector intervention. The Forum approved the recommendation in principle while work progresses on the details concerning investment of the Pension Funds. The Forum also resolved that the issue would be presented at the next G8 Summit in Gleneagles to demonstrate Africa remaining in the vanguard of the progress in the implementation of NEPAD.

Progress Report by Mrs. Marie Angelique Savané, Chairperson of the APR Panel

11. The Chairperson of the APR Panel, Madame Marie Angelique Savané, presented the progress report of the APR Panel to the Forum, stressing the significance of the APRM process for the continent including the major developments in the APRM process. She informed the Summit that the presentation of the country review reports of Ghana and Rwanda were a culmination of efforts by all parties including the countries concerned, the strategic partners and the Panel, supported by a lean and efficient Secretariat.

12. Dr. Chris Stals and Dr. Dorothy Njeuma, Members of the APR Panel, presented the country review reports of Ghana and Rwanda in their capacities as the respective team leaders of the country review missions. They put emphasis on the overarching issues in both countries as highlighted in the country review reports.

Comments from Ghana and Rwanda

13. President John Kufuor of Ghana responded by highlighting the steps taken by his country to address the main issues raised in the report including: human resource development with free education up to age 16 as a key element, enhanced private sector development, additional investment in the agricultural sector, emphasis on setting up of strong anti-corruption systems and improving wages and incentives to stem the brain drain. Ghana will continue to implement the Programme of Action and be submitted to regular reviews on its performance.

14. President Paul Kagame, of Rwanda agreed with the findings and recommendations in general. He, however, noted that there are some areas where there might be inconsistencies considering the timeframes and constraints under which the Panel work. Some of the findings may not have taken the local specificities into consideration while

measuring against certain standards. President Kagame was optimistic as there will be more explorations, dialogue and work still to be carried out

15. The Chairperson commended both Heads of States. He noted that while the review exercises may not be perfect in some areas but in general they have produced some very good findings which will be revised and perfected as the process moves along. The Forum agreed that follow-up progress reports on countries reviewed be made annually. Meanwhile, Ghana and Rwanda should provide proposals on their Programmes of Action at the next Summit of the APR Forum. The Summit commended the Panel for the good work and the two countries for being the first test cases for the

16. The Forum agreed that follow-up progress reports on countries reviewed be made annually. Meanwhile, Ghana and Rwanda should provide proposals on their Programmes of Action at the next Summit of the APR Forum.

Way Forward in the APR Processes

17. The Forum reiterated that the “peer review” is its main responsibility and that the exercise will be undertaken through constant dialogue with the countries under review. The Forum will, therefore, play a more prominent role in this respect. The next steps would encompass the reviews in the other countries based on their preparedness, including completing the review process in Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria. The APR Panel and the APR Secretariat will also be following up on the implementation of the Programme of Action in Ghana and Rwanda. In this connection, the Panel will provide a progress report on this exercise at the next Summit of the APR Forum. The Reports considered should be jointly published by the APRM Commission of the country concerned and the APR Panel in accordance with laid down procedures and regulations.

Appreciation

18. The APR Forum expressed its profound appreciation to President Obasanjo, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the hospitality and excellent arrangements, made towards the successful hosting of the Summit.

Date of Next Summit

19. The Fourth Summit of the APR Forum will be held in the middle of August 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria.

ISSUED IN ABUJA, NIGERIA ON 19 JUNE 2005