

**DECISION ON THE REPORTS OF THE FORUM OF HEADS OF STATE AND  
GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATING IN THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM  
(APR FORUM) BY H.E. JULIUS MAADA BIO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
SIERRA LEONE AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW  
MECHANISM (APRM)**

The Assembly,

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Summit of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government, held on 28 July 2022 the Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, held on 9 February 2023 and the African Governance Report 2023;
2. **COMMENDS** H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government for his sterling leadership of the APRM, including ensuring that the APRM continues to carry out its mandate, despite limitations of both financial and human resources;
3. **RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.814(XXXV) adopting the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure and **REITERATES** the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate budgetary allocations in order to implement the APRM Continental Secretariat organizational structure without any impediments.
4. **FURTHER REITERATES** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765(XXXIII) in which the Assembly stressed the need for the APRM to be provided with adequate and sufficient human resources and budget allocations, so as to execute its mandate without hindrance, and enhance its functional autonomy;
5. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the APRM Annual Youth Symposium as the highest platform for ensuring meaningful participation of youths in the APRM processes and provides youths with an opportunity to share experiences and best practices in democracy and good governance;
6. **ADOPTS** the Outcomes of the Third Youth Symposium and **ENCOURAGES** the APRM Continental Secretariat to continue organising the Annual Youth Symposium, in close collaboration with the African Union (AU) Commission and Member States, as a platform for youths mainstreaming in the promotion of democracy and good governance on the Continent.
7. **RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.686(XXX) in which the Assembly welcomed steps taken 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 and **WELCOMES WITH GREAT SATISFACTION** the Conclusions emanating from the First Retreat between the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and the

AU Panel of the Wise, and the Second Retreat between the APRM and the AU Peace and Security Council, held in November 2022, in eThekweni, Republic of South Africa;

8. **FURTHER RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII), in which the Assembly welcomed the commitment towards the revitalization of APRM, key among them is sharing the APRM model, experience and knowledge with other regions of the world, for benchmarking and enhancing the international recognition of the Mechanism; **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH MUCH APPRECIATION** the Declaration and Recommendations of the Second Africa-High Level Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, held in January 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.
9. **RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 818(XXXV), in which the Assembly requested the APRM, in collaboration with AU Commission and relevant stakeholders to expedite and finalise all preparations for the holding of the African Migration Governance Conference, working closely with the Host Member State; **WELCOMES** the offer of the Government of the Republic of Uganda to host the African Migration Governance Conference; **REQUESTS** the APRM to closely work with the Republic of Uganda, AU Commission, International Organization for Migration and all relevant stakeholders in organization of the Conference during the second half of 2023 and **FURTHER REQUESTS** that adequate financial resources be provided towards the successful hosting of the African Migration Governance Conference by the AU Policy Organs and Partners.
10. **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the peer review Reports of the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Djibouti and **CONGRATULATES** H.E. Mohamed Bazoum, President of the Republic of Niger, and H.E. Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti, for their commitment to good governance, as evidenced in the implementation of the APR process in their respective countries; also **COMMENDS** H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, for the launching of the peer review which was held on 12 December 2022;
11. **ENCOURAGES** the Republic of Niger and Republic of Djibouti to take into account observations of Member States on their country review reports, as well as the recommendations contained in their reports for the development and implementation of the National Programme of Action and align the same to the AU Agenda 2063;
12. **FURTHER WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the first inaugural National Governance Report of the Republic of Kenya; **COMMENDS** H.E William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and the Government of Republic of Kenya and **CALLS UPON** all AU Member States to emulate Kenya's example and develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool, for promoting good governance.

13. **CONGRATULATES** the Union of the Comoros for acceding to the APRM as the 43<sup>rd</sup> Participating State and **COMMENDS** H.E. Azali Assoumani, President of the Union of Comoros for his firm commitment to democracy and good governance;
14. **REITERATES A CALL** for 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;
15. **FURTHER URGES APRM** Participating States that have been reviewed to implement their National Plans of Action and recommendations, to inform institutional reform at national level and to avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;
16. **ENCOURAGES** all AU Member States that have not yet joined the APRM to accede to the Mechanism, and those that had acceded but not undertaken the first APRM Country Review process, to do so and **REQUESTS** the APRM to continue to follow-up with all AU Member States that have not yet acceded to the APRM, in order to expedite the implementation of numerous Assembly Decisions on Universal Accession to the APRM by 2023;
17. **ENDORSES** the appointment as Members of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the APR Forum of Dr Cherif Rahmani, from the People's Republic of Algeria, representing the North African Region, and H.E Amb. El-Henfy Houssam El Din, from the Arab Republic of Egypt, representing the North African Region;
18. **APPOINTS** Dr Abdoulie Janneh, representing West Africa, as the new Chairperson of the APR Panel of the Eminent Persons, and Dr Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika, representing Southern Africa, as the Vice-Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons for the year 2024.
19. **TAKES NOTE** with immense appreciation of the exceptional leadership, competency and sustained efforts made by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof Eddy Maloka, in the revitalization, restoration, reinvigoration and integration of the APRM into the AU system; **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** that Prof Eddy Maloka tenure of office as the APRM CEO is ending in February 2023 and **ENDORSES** the Decision of the APR Forum to initiate the recruitment process of the new CEO of the APRM, in line with the provisions of the APRM legal instruments and the AU rules, regulations and procedures;
20. **DECIDES** to extend, on exceptional circumstances, the contract of the CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof Eddy Maloka, until the completion of the recruitment process, appointment of the new CEO, assumption of duty and proper handover to the new CEO by May 2024 and **EMPHASIZES** that this decision is aimed to ensure stability, continuous and smooth operations of the APRM Continental Secretariat, as well as safeguarding and consolidating all gains so far achieved;

21. **ADOPTS** with satisfaction the modalities, the roadmap, the job profile and terms of reference of the independent consultant, for the recruitment and appointment of the new CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat; **URGES** the APR Committee of Focal Points assisted by the independent consultant, the APRM Continental Secretariat and the AU Commission to speedily undertake and conclude the recruitment process of the new CEO, in line with the provisions of the APRM legal instruments, the AU rules, regulations and procedures and the approved roadmap and **REQUESTS** the APRM Continental Secretariat and the AU Commission to ensure that the advert for recruitment of the new CEO is widely communicated and circulated to Member States, in order to attract the best candidates;
22. **RECALLS** that the APRM was established on 9 March 2003 and that the Assembly through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.765(XXXIII) declared it as the founding day of the APRM, which should be annually celebrated by the continent and the AU family; **TAKES NOTE** of the progress achieved thus far including the establishment of the Taskforce working on the series of activities in preparation of the celebrations; **CALLS** upon all AU Member States and the entire AU system to join the APRM in the celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will year-long activities and events and **REQUESTS** AU Policy Organs to avail sufficient financial and human resources necessary for the excellent celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the APRM;
23. **TAKES NOTE** of the APRM Continental Secretariat 2022 Annual Report; **COMMENDS** the Secretariat for the unprecedented successes realized in 2022 and **ENCOURAGES** the APRM Continental Secretariat to broaden and deepen its efforts in implementing the APRM Strategic Plan (2020-2024) and to support the delivery of the AU Agenda 2063;
24. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION**, of the Africa Governance Report 2023 (AGR-2023) focusing on unconstitutional changes of governments presented by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government;
25. **RECALLS** its previous Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.720 (XXXII) adopted at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session held in February 2020, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, mandated the APRM, in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA), to develop the Africa Governance Report and present it to the ordinary sessions of the Assembly every two (2) years for consideration; **FURTHER RECALLS** Decision 818(XXXV) which had instructed the APRM and AGA to develop the Third Africa Governance Report with a focus on the nexus between Governance and the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution (4IR);
26. **ALSO RECALLS** the Decision adopted at the 16<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Session of the Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, in May 2022 in which the Assembly directed the APRM in collaboration with AGA to refocus the theme of the AGR-2023 to reflect on issues and factors contributing to unconstitutional changes of governments on the Continent;

27. **COMMENDS** the AU and APRM structures, AGA Platform Members and Member States who participated in the targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of governments, as part of the development of the AGR 2023 and **EXPRESSES** appreciation to African Research Institutions and Independent Experts for the commendable work done in developing the AGR 2023;
28. **ACKNOWLEDGES WITH SATISFACTION** the targeted review reports of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Chad on unconstitutional changes of governments on the Continent; **TAKES NOTE** of the Gap Analysis Report of the Republic of Sudan and **URGES** the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Union Comoros, and the Republic of Chad to implement the recommendations contained in the reports on the development and implementation of their National Programme of Actions, as a necessary step towards achieving peace, security and stability in the Continent and thereby achieving the *Africa We Want*;
29. **CONGRATULATES** the APR Panel of Eminent Persons Members that led the conduct of targeted reviews for their resilience and commitment to the APRM review processes;
30. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the partners for their support in the successful development of the AGR-2023;
31. **ENDORSES** the AGR-2023 with observations and recommendations of Member States; **URGES** all AU Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the Report, with a view to enhancing good governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, and sharing of best practices at both country and continental levels and **FURTHER URGES** the APRM Continental Secretariat to ensure a wider dissemination of the AGR 2023 after consolidation of observations and recommendations of Member States into the Report;
32. **UNDERScores** the importance of mobilizing adequate financial resources for the dissemination of the AGR-2023 and the implementation of its recommendations; **REQUESTS** APRM to launch the AGR-2023 officially in collaboration with AGA; **URGES** all AGA Members to incorporate the Report in their Annual Work Plans and **URGES** all AU Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool, for promoting good governance and prevention of unconstitutional changes of government, in line with the recommendations of the AGR-2023;
33. **CONGRATULATES** the Chairperson of the APR Forum, H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone for the sterling leadership provided to the APRM and the exceptional success realized by the Mechanism.