

PROCEDURES FOR ACCESSION TO THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

1. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a self-monitoring mechanism voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union (AU) with the aim of fostering the adoption of policies, standards and practices that will lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and economic integration.

2. The APRM is based on the following documents that were adopted by the 6th Summit of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) held 9 March 2003 in Abuja, Nigeria:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] on the APRM;
- (ii) APRM Organisation and Processes (Annex III);
- (iii) Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the APRM (Annex IV);
- (iv) Outline of the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Assessments and the Country Review Visit (Annex V).

3. Document (i) is the accession document for the APRM and had two appendices, namely, the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, and the APRM Base Document. These two policy documents were adopted by the 3rd Summit of HSGIC in June 2002 and endorsed by the Inaugural Summit of the African Union (AU) in July 2002. Documents (ii) to (iv) are a further elaboration of the APRM processes and guidelines for the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

4. At the 6th Summit of the HSGIC, ten Heads of State or Government and Heads of Delegations of the Member States present at the Summit namely Algeria, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda signed the MOU and thereby acceded to the APRM. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Mali and Senegal have subsequently signed the MOU on the APRM. The last countries to accede to the APRM are Angola, Benin, Egypt, Lesotho, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

5. The overall responsibility of the APRM organization and processes is vested with the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Governments of the Member States (APR Forum) of the African Union who have voluntarily chosen to accede to the APRM. The APR Forum is the highest decision making authority of the APRM.

6. The Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM (APR Panel) exercises the oversight function over the APR process.

7. The APR Panel is assisted by a Secretariat (APR Secretariat) which is based in Johannesburg, South Africa, and provides the secretarial, technical, coordinating and administrative support services for the APRM.

8. The procedure to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism may be summarized as follows:

- (i) The country notifies the APR Secretariat of its intention to accede to the APRM by signing the MOU and accede to the APRM.
- (ii) The Head of State or Government is then invited to the next APR Forum or a forthcoming NEPAD HSGIC or AU Summit meeting at which the Chair Person of the APR Forum is present, to sign the MOU for accession to the APRM.
- (iii) The APR Secretariat presents the Original copy of the MOU to the Head of State or Government or his designate for signature¹.
- (iv) The Head of State or Government or his designate signs and dates the Original in the presence of the Chair Person of the APR Forum who also signs on behalf of the Forum.
- (v) A copy of the Original is made after signature and provided to the country for record.
- (vi) The Original signed copy of MOU is kept by the APR Secretariat for record.

9. All relevant documents on the APRM may be found at www.nepad.org or can be obtained from the NEPAD/APR Secretariats, P.O. Box 1234, Midrand 1685, South Africa or c/o DBSA, 1458 Lever Road, Halfway House, South Africa (telephone + 27 11 313-3828, facsimile +27 11 313-3440).

¹ In case of signature by a Designated Representative, for example, the Ambassador or Head of Mission/Delegation or any other Representative of the respective Head of State or Government, the designated Representative should provide the Instrument of Powers empowering him/her to sign the MOU on behalf of the Government of the country.