

Communiqué issued at the End of the Sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSIC6) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, Abuja, 9 March 2003

The Sixth Summit of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was held in Abuja, Nigeria, on Sunday, 9th March 2003, at the invitation of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the Committee.

2. The following dignitaries attended the Summit:

- (i) His Excellency, Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika - President, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- (ii) His Excellency, Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso - President, Republic of the Congo;
- (iii) His Excellency, Mr. Joaquim Alberto Chissano - President, Republic of Mozambique;
- (iv) His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo - President, Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- (v) His Excellency, Mr. Abdoulaye Wade - President, Republic of Senegal;
- (vi) His Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki - President, Republic of South Africa;
- (vii) H.E Mr. Fernando Da Piedade Dias Dos Santos - Prime Minister, Republic of Angola;
- (viii) His Excellency, Mr. Meles Zenawi - Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
- (ix) Honourable Lt. Gen. Mompoti S. Merafhe - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Botswana;
- (x) His Excellency, Mr. Jean Ping - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Gabon;
- (xi) Honourable Hackman Owusu-Agyemang, MP - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ghana;

(xii) Honourable Anil Kurmarsingh Gayan - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Mauritius;

(xiii) Her Excellency, Mrs. Fayza Abou El Naga - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Arab Republic of Egypt;

(xiv) Honourable Dr. Kaberuka Donald- Minister of Finance, Republic of Rwanda;

(xv) Honourable Peter Anyang Nyong'o - Minister of Planning, Republic of Kenya;

(xvi) Honourable Oumar Hamadoun Dicko - Minister of African Integration, Republic of Mali;

(xvii) His Excellency, Mr. Mohamed Nouri Jouini - Minister of Development and International Cooperation, Republic of Tunisia;

(xviii) Honourable Justin Ndioro - Minister of Special Duties at the Presidency Republic of Cameroon;

(xix) His Excellency, Mr. Mohammed T.H. Salla - Assistant Secretary of Technical Cooperation, Secretariat of African Unity, The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

(xx) His Excellency, Mr. K. Y. Amaoko - Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

(xxi) His Excellency, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas - Executive Secretary, Economic Community of West African States;

(xxii) His Excellency, Dr. Jacques Diouf - Director General, Food and Agricultural Organization;

(xxiii) Ambassador Lawrence O. C. Agubuzu - Interim Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union;

(xxiv) Ambassador Said Djinnit - Interim Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union;

(xxv) Her Excellency, Mrs. Joan Rwabyomere - High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to Nigeria; and

(xxvi) Mr. Theodore Nkodo - Vice President, Operations African Development Bank.

3. In his Opening Address, the Chairman of the HSGIC, President Olusegun Obasanjo, noted with satisfaction the substantial progress already made in the implementation of NEPAD, particularly, in the promotion of democracy, good governance and enhanced cooperation with development partners as well as in the sensitization and mobilization of the civil society in Africa for NEPAD. President Obasanjo also informed the meeting of the Roll-out campaign on NEPAD activities in Nigeria, which has just been launched in the country. He also seized the opportunity to assure all that the forthcoming General Elections in Nigeria will be peaceful, free and fair.

4. With reference to the African Peer Review Mechanism, (APRM), President Obasanjo observed that the commitment of his peers to this process is already manifested in the Declaration of Intent that was signed by twelve (12) members at the last Summit. He urged more countries to accede to the process as a demonstration of their commitment to enthrone best practices in political, economic and corporate governance in Africa.

Progress Report of the Chairman of NEPAD Steering Committee from November 2002 to February 2003.

5. In considering the Report of the Chairman of the NEPAD Steering Committee, the HSGIC expressed satisfaction at the quality of the report, particularly the emphasis placed on putting the implementation of the Programme of Action on a sound footing. It endorsed the various engagements and activities of the NEPAD Steering Committee. The HSGIC further noted the High Priority Actions and Interventions that have been made in all sectors and mandated the Steering Committee to maintain the present momentum on the implementation of the NEPAD Programme of Action.

6. With respect to the on-going Multilateral Trade Negotiations, particularly the Doha Development Round, the HSGIC underscored the importance of these negotiations and called for greater flexibility on the part of trading partners in granting the much-need trade preferences, both special and differential, including substantial reduction in subsidies and increase in commodity prices including market access. It called on the African Group of Ambassadors in Geneva and the African Ministers of Trade to intensify their efforts at ensuring that all such issues of interest to the continent, including the previous commitments, are fully considered at their subsequent meetings and engagements with trading partners.

7. On the issue of resourcing and staffing of NEPAD Secretariat, the HSGIC approved the Budget as presented. While noting with satisfaction that some

member countries have seconded personnel to the NEPAD Secretariat and made financial contributions towards the running of the NEPAD process, it urged member states of the African Union to make voluntary contributions towards financing and staffing of the NEPAD Secretariat, particularly for the proposed APRM.

Report on Peace and Security

8. The HSGIC was briefed by the AU Interim Commissioner for Peace and Security on the ongoing efforts to implement the decisions of the Durban Inaugural Summit of the African Union (AU) relating to peace and security, including those made towards seeking early and peaceful solutions to conflicts in Africa.

9. The HSGIC urged all concerned parties in the DRC, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Sudan and Somalia to commit themselves to the pursuit of the peace process and cooperate fully with the African leaders involved in these peace efforts.

10. The HSGIC stressed the importance of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU in the strengthening of the continent's peace and security architecture. In this regard, it took due note of the African Union Commission's Road Map relating to the establishment of the African Standby Force, as well as AU/NEPAD-G8 on-going consultations on peace support operations in Africa. The HSGIC further underscored the urgent need for AU Member States, particularly its members, to ratify the Protocol in order to facilitate its early entry into force, preferably by the next AU Summit in Maputo, Mozambique.

11. The HSGIC welcomed the Addis Ababa AU/NEPAD Consultation meeting on Peace and Security of 17-18 February 2003 and endorsed its report. It encouraged the AU Commission and NEPAD Secretariat to continue to work closely in promoting the AU Peace and Security agenda to which the NEPAD is bringing added value. The Summit further encouraged them to continue to effectively engage their G8 counterparts towards drawing up a concrete programme in support of the African Peace and Security Agenda. In this regard, the HSGIC endorsed the composition of the African Team as constituted after consultations with the AU Chair and following the Addis Ababa consultations. The Team was mandated to interact closely with the G8 Ad Hoc Working Group, with a view to submitting proposals to the forthcoming G8 Summit in Evian, France.

Engagement with UN Agencies

12. The HSGIC noted with appreciation, that consequent upon the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Declaration on NEPAD (A/RES/57/2) and Resolutions No. A/RES/57/7 and A/RES/57/300 endorsing NEPAD as the framework for the UN system's support to Africa, the UN system has decided to assist NEPAD with the creation of an office to coordinate programme related to Africa headed by an Under Secretary General.

Engagement with the G8 Africa Personal Representatives

13. The HSGIC was informed of the ongoing interactions of the NEPAD Steering Committee with the G8 Africa Personal Representatives. The HSGIC requested the NEPAD Steering Committee to work on the modalities for continued engagement and dialogue post Evian Summit of the G8. The HSGIC approved the establishment of a G8/Africa Joint Task Team on Peace Support Operations to develop a joint plan for strengthening capacity for conflict prevention, management and resolution.

14. The HSGIC welcomed the establishment of the global initiative on transparency of payments made for exploitation of natural resources and urged the NEPAD Secretariat as well as the NEPAD Steering Committee to remain engaged on this matter.

International Finance Facility Proposal

15. The HSGIC noted the report by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee relating to the International Finance Facility (IFF) proposed by the United Kingdom. The aim of the facility is to help meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The HSGIC welcomed this initiative, based on the understanding that the facility is meant to double Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa, and as long as it does not increase Africa's External Debt burden. It therefore, mandated the NEPAD Steering Committee and the NEPAD Secretariat to take necessary actions to urgently follow up on this proposal.

Conference of Development Assistance Agencies

16. The HSGIC noted with great interest, the Conference of Development Agencies on Infrastructure held on 06 March 2003 in Paris, France. It emphasized that the NEPAD Short-Term Action Plan on Infrastructure could benefit from the renewed interest displayed by this meeting in infrastructure as a key to African development.

Visit of Constituency for Africa (CFA) to NEPAD Secretariat

17. The HSGIC was briefed on the visit of the Constituency for Africa, an African-American group, to the NEPAD Secretariat on 27-28 February 2003 with a view to popularizing and developing appropriate support for the NEPAD initiative in the United States.

The Role of Personal Representatives in Implementation of NEPAD Programme of Action in their Regions

18. The Implementation Committee also considered the capacities of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the role of the Personal Representative in their respective regions, especially in the implementation of the NEPAD Programme of Action. It resolved that the Personal Representatives of the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee should work with the RECs in ensuring that NEPAD programmes and projects are implemented in their respective regions.

Report on the Implementation of NEPAD Infrastructure Short-term Action Plan

19. The African Development Bank (ADB) made a presentation on the poor state of infrastructure in Africa, and the various efforts to address the issue. The HSGIC noted, with satisfaction, the progress made in this sphere, and expressed profound appreciation to the ADB, other development partners and funding agencies that have given support for the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure on the continent. It renewed its determination to mobilize domestic resources for infrastructural development in Africa.

Report on Institutional Mechanism for Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness Between Africa and its Partners

20. The HSGIC noted the report and the interim recommendations and proposals that were presented by the Executive Secretary of the UNECA. It further noted that mutual review of development effectiveness must be comprehensive to cover issues of market access, subsidies, the debt issue and commodity prices. It emphasized the need for policy coherence and harmonization for effectiveness of aid delivery. It however, expressed appreciation to the lead agencies and urged them to continue with the work in progress until the Development of Effectiveness Report is submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development in June 2003 as well as to the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. It urged the UNECA and the OECD to keep the HSGIC fully updated on the outcome of this process.

Report on Agriculture

21. In endorsing the Report submitted by the Director General of FAO, the HSGIC noted the specific projects identified for implementation such as the African Rice Initiative, Irrigation projects and Rural Infrastructure in various parts of the continent. It underscored the significance of effective Weather Prediction Programmes and Disaster Management in the light of the drought and famine currently afflicting the continent. It commended the FAO and other relevant agencies for their collaboration, particularly the elaboration of a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and urged all member states of the African Union to take effective actions to implement the Programme, in line with the NEPAD goals and objectives.

Report on e-Africa Commission

22. The HSGIC noted the Report submitted by the e-Africa Commission. It endorsed the six priority areas, such as the e-Schools Project, East-Coast African Sub-marine Cable Project and the e-Readiness Study Project, which have been identified for early implementation. It commended the promoters of these laudable projects and implored them to continue to work towards the bridging the digital divide between Africa and the developed world. It called for the provision of adequate resources for speedy execution of these projects.

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

23. The HSGIC recalled the decisions taken at its Fifth Meeting regarding the timetable for the conclusion of work on the APRM process. It underscored the essence of the Peer Review process as a system of voluntary self-assessment, constructive peer dialogue and persuasion, as well as the sharing of experiences among members and emphasized the need for wide dissemination of information about the APRM. It expressed appreciation to the Steering Committee, NEPAD Secretariat, organizations and individuals that have collaborated in the preparation of the following documents presented to the meeting:

Accord on the APRM; now Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the APRM;
Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;
African Peer Review Mechanism Base Document;
APRM Organization and Processes;
Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for APRM; and
Outline of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Country Review Visit and Mechanism.

24. After consideration of the documents and extensive deliberation on this issue, the Committee:

Approved, as operative guidelines for the APRM, the documents on Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the APRM, African Peer Review Mechanism Organization and Processes and the Outline of the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Assessments and the Country Review Visit;

Approved the MoU as a framework for a formal accession to the APRM. Consequently, Algeria, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda signed the Memorandum of Understanding of the APRM; and Mandated the Chairman to undertake further consultations with the Representatives of each region on the HSGIC, on the appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Panel of Eminent Persons, and for this process to be concluded by 31st March 2003.

Presentation by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on Africa and the Digital Gap

25. The HSGIC expressed deep appreciation to His Excellency, Presidents Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal for his presentation on this particular issue, and for his continued contributions to the NEPAD process in general. It agreed that Africa must endeavour to mobilize domestic and foreign resources for the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Africa, in order to bridge the digital divide between the continent and the developed world. It therefore, called for increased assistance to Africa in this important area, in line with the NEPAD Priorities.

26. The HSGIC also mandated the Steering Committee to study the effect of a possible war on Iraq on the continent and submit its report as soon as possible.

Appreciation

27. The HSGIC expressed its profound appreciation to President Olusegun Obasanjo, the Government and people of Nigeria for the hospitality and excellent arrangements, which facilitated the success of the Meeting.

Date and Venue of the Next Summit

28. The HSGIC decided that its next meeting would hold in Maputo, Mozambique at a date to be determined.

Memorandum of Understanding on the African Peer Review Mechanism ("The MoU")

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union participating in the African Peer Review Mechanism:
COGNISANT of our shared commitments to the principles and objectives set out in the Constitutive Act of the African Union adopted on 11 July 2000 in Lome, Togo;

RECALLING our decision regarding the then New African Initiative, now the New Partnership for Africa's Development, taken at the 37th Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity in July 2001 in Lusaka, Zambia [AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVII)] adopting the Strategic Policy Framework and a new vision for the revival and development of Africa;

RECALLING FURTHER our Declaration on the Implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development [Assembly/AU/Decl. 1(I)], at the inaugural Summit of the African Union in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, endorsing the Progress Report and Initial Action Plan [AHG/235 (XXXVIII)] and encouraging Member States to adopt the New Partnership for Africa's Development Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex I] and accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II];

REITERATING our commitment to the principles and core values contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

RECOGNISING that the mandate of the African Peer Review Mechanism is to encourage participating States in ensuring that the policies and practices of participating States conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards, and achieve mutually agreed objectives in socio-economic development contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that the African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism;

MINDFUL that the primary purpose of the African Peer Review Mechanism is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies, and assessing the needs for capacity building of participating countries;

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the support of the international community especially as expressed in the United Nations General Assembly Declaration (A/RES/57/2) and Resolution on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (A/RES/57/7) affirming the United Nations system's support to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and recommending that the New Partnership for Africa's Development be used as the framework for Africa's development by the international community, including the United Nations system and recognizing the innovative nature and importance of the African Peer Review Mechanism;

WELCOMING the United Nations General Assembly resolution on "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for change" (RES/A/57/300) wherein, amongst others, the Assembly endorses the decision of the Secretary-General to entrust the Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa, who will report to him, with the responsibilities to: (a) coordinate United Nations support to Africa, and (b) coordinate and guide reporting on Africa, in particular

support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development by the United Nations system and the international community and coordinate the global advocacy in support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

NOTING with satisfaction the progress made by the New Partnership for Africa's Development Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee in implementing the New Partnership for Africa's Development and in particular steps taken towards the operationalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanism;

WELCOMING the initiative taken by a number of Member States of the African Union in adopting the Declaration of Intent on the Implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism on 3 November 2002 in Abuja, Nigeria;

FULLY COMMITTED to ensuring the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in particular the African Peer Review Mechanism including facilitating the provision of adequate resources;

COGNISANT of the role that the Regional Economic Communities, as building blocks of the African Union, can play in assisting Member States to improve their performance in governance and socio-economic development;

RECOGNISING the important role that will be played in the African Peer Review Mechanism by the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government ("APR Forum"), the Panel of Eminent Persons ("APR Panel"), the Country Review Team ("APR Team") and the African Peer Review Secretariat ("APR Secretariat") and Partner Institutions;

NOW THEREFORE being desirous to give effect to the above, we hereby:

ADOPT the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex I];

ACCEPT the principles of the African Peer Review Mechanism [AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex II] and commit ourselves to their implementation. To this effect, we are PREPARED to provide all necessary resources to facilitate the processes involved at the national level, access to all the required information and stakeholders, and to guarantee all the appropriate privileges and immunities to the Country Review Team (paragraph 19 of the APRM Base Document);

WE FURTHER AGREE TO:

CONTRIBUTE fully to the funding of the African Peer Review Mechanism in order to affirm the African ownership of the Mechanism. This includes sourcing funds from African people, businesses and institutions;

TAKE all necessary steps to facilitate the development and implementation of a national Programme of Action (paragraph 13 of the APRM Base Document) to improve our performance in the areas of governance and socio-economic development as stipulated in the African Peer Review Mechanism base document;

ENSURE the participation of all stakeholders in the development of the national Programme of Action including trade unions, women, youth, civil society, private sector, rural communities and professional associations;

SIGN the Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Assessments and the Country Review Visit, following consultations with all stakeholders in our individual countries;

TAKE such steps as may be necessary for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the completion of the review process within the specified time frame and integrate them into our respective national Programmes of Action;

CO-OPERATE and ASSIST each other, as may be necessary, by sharing best practices and strengthening our capacity to rectify identified short-comings including requesting co-operation of external development partners; and ACCEPT that constructive peer dialogue and persuasion would be exercised, where necessary, in order to encourage improvements in country practices and policies in compliance with agreed African and international best practices where recommended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

All procedures to be adopted under the African Peer Review Mechanism shall be consistent with the decisions and procedures of the African Union.

Any differences relating to the interpretation or implementation of this MOU shall be resolved by negotiation between the parties to the dispute.

The MOU may be amended at any time by mutual consent of all participating States upon the written request by any participating State.

Member States of the African Union wishing to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism shall sign the MOU and deposit the signed document at the NEPAD Secretariat, Midrand, South Africa.

The African Peer Review Mechanism shall start to be operational on the day on which the fifth Member State of the African Union has deposited the signed document.

A participating State may terminate its participation in African Peer Review Mechanism by giving written notice to this effect to the NEPAD Secretariat, which in turn will inform the participating States in writing. The effective date of termination will be six months after the receipt of the termination notice.

The Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD Secretariat) shall, in the interim, act as the Secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Secretariat) until the latter is established.

The MOU shall be in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese languages, all four being equally authentic.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by his or her Government, has signed the MOU.

DONE aton this the day ofof the year two thousand and three.

Annexures:

Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance
[AHG/235(XXXVIII) Annex I]
African Peer Review Mechanism Base Document [AHG/235(XXXVIII) Annex II]

1. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
2. Republic of Angola
3. Republic of Benini
5. Burkina Faso
6. Republic of Burundi
7. Republic of Cameroon
8. Republic of Cape Verde
9. Central African Republic
10. Republic of Chad
11. Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros
12. Republic of the Congo
13. Republic of Cote d'Ivoire
14. Democratic Republic of Congo
15. Republic of Djibouti
16. Arab Republic of Egypt
17. State of Eritrea
18. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
19. Republic of Equatorial Guinea
20. Republic of Gabon
21. Republic of The Gambia
22. Republic of Ghana

23. Republic of Guinea
24. Republic of Guinea Bissau
25. Republic of Kenya
26. Kingdom of Lesotho
27. Republic of Liberia
28. Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
29. Republic of Madagascar
30. Republic of Malawi
31. Republic of Mali
32. Islamic Republic of Mauritania
33. Republic of Mauritius
34. Republic of Mozambique
35. Republic of Namibia
36. Republic of Niger
37. Federal Republic of Nigeria
38. Republic of Rwanda
39. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
40. Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
41. Republic of Senegal
42. Republic of Seychelles
43. Republic of Sierra Leone
44. Republic of Somalia
45. Republic of South Africa

46. Republic of Sudan
47. Kingdom of Swaziland
48. United Republic of Tanzania
49. Republic of Togo
50. Republic of Tunisia
51. Republic of Uganda
52. Republic of Zambia
53. Republic of Zimbabwe