DECISION ON THE REVITALISATION OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

The Assembly,


2. **CONGRATULATES** the Chairperson of the APR Forum for convening the Special Summit of the APR Forum with the theme ‘Revitalizing the APRM to Strengthen Governance in Africa’ and APR Forum Members for their active participation;

3. **RECALLS** Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.527(XXIII) adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on the Integration of the APRM into the African Union structures;

4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** progress made in the implementation of the Integration decision and actions taken by the Chairperson of the AU Commission and APRM Secretariat to fast track the process;

5. **WELCOMES** the Report of the Committee on Revitalization of the APRM anchored on the revitalization agenda driven by H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta;

6. **WELCOMES** and **SUPPORTS** the recommendation contained in the Report on the Institutional Reform of the African Union by H.E Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) should be strengthened to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation in key governance areas on the continent, and **REQUESTS** the APRM to take necessary steps towards the attainment of this goal;

7. **EMBRACES** the positive contributions and recommendations emanating from the January Special Summit of the Forum of Heads of States and Government debate on the Revitalization of the APRM, and **WELCOMES** commitment towards the revitalization of APRM, key among them:

   (i) Repositioning of the APRM to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030;

   (ii) Widening the APRM approach from the current narrow minded approach to capture local, homegrown and indigenous knowledge embedded in the African culture;

   (iii) Refocusing the APRM as an innovative tool for sharing best practices regionally and globally;

   (iv) Encouraging AU Member states that have already been reviewed to implement their National Plans of Action and recommendations to inform
institutional reform at national level and avert highlighted challenges in their peer reviews;

(v) Revisiting the APRM questionnaire in sync with current development frameworks including the AU Agenda 2063 and UN Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) Reengineering and rekindling the APRM spirit to deliver comprehensive reviews to avoid fragmentation;

(vii) Revisiting the original vision of the APRM and draw fully from their original to address leadership gaps that may have emerged;

(viii) Translating political will of APRM into financial contribution for greater ownership of the Mechanism;

(ix) Integrating APRM into national plans, RECs and regional development, including NEPAD and relevant international frameworks for greater coherence;

(x) Sharing the APRM model, experience and knowledge with other regions of the world for benchmarking and enhancing the international recognition of the Mechanism; and

(xi) Exploring domestic resource mobilization avenues for the Mechanism and stabilize APRM financial base through the payment of outstanding arrears;

8. REITERATES that the APRM remains the premier homegrown, African good governance tool conceived in 2003 and voluntarily acceded to by thirty-six (36) Member States representing 65% of AU Member States, more than half of whom (twenty (20)) have undergone the review;

9. ACKNOWLEDGES that peer review Reports of Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Senegal, The Sudan and CONGRATULATES the three (3) AU Member States as well as the Panel of Eminent Persons that led the review work;

10. FURTHER CONGRATULATES the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Secretariat and commends him for his comprehensive report which reflects remarkable progress made in the last eleven (11) months under his leadership to put the review process back on track, restoring confidence in the running of the Secretariat affairs and developing a turn-around strategy;

11. WELCOMES the Five (5) Year Strategic Plan 2016-2020 of the APRM;

12. TAKES NOTE of the Statutes on the APRM integration into the AU, provisionally adopted by the APR Forum, and duly provides to consider for adoption in July 2017;

13. DIRECTS the APRM to provide support to Member States in the field of Rating Agencies;
14. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, for supporting the APRM’s integration and revitalization by designating senior staff from the Commission to support the APRM Secretariat;

15. **APPRECIATES** the Panel of Eminent Persons for their resilience and commitment to the process;

16. **URGES** Member States that have not so far acceded to the APRM to do so, and those that have done so to honor their annual contributions;

17. **CALLS ON** the Chairperson of the APR Forum to consider launching a Campaign on Universal Accession to the Mechanism to encourage more AU Members States to accede;

18. **LOOKS FORWARD** to the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the APRM in 2018, and **DIRECTS** the AU Commission to prepare a draft Declaration in this regard for the consideration of the Assembly at its ordinary session in January 2018.