

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON
UPDATE OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM
BY
THE HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICE, MR LUBINDA, MP

Mr Speaker, I wish to thank you most sincerely for according this opportunity to issue a ministerial statement on the key outcomes of the 29th Summit of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Forum of Heads of States and governments which was held in Addis Ababa from 6th to 8th February 2020.

Sir, it may be recalled that on the 8th of July, 2002, participating Heads of State and governments of the member states of the African Union met in Durban, South Africa at the Inaugural Assembly of the African Union (AU) and adopted the declaration on democracy, political economic and corporate governance which brought about the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Article 28 of the Declaration establishes the African Peer Review Mechanism which is a mutually agreed instrument, voluntarily acceded to by the member states of the African Union as a self monitoring mechanism. The mandate of the APRM is to promote adherence to and fulfillment of the commitments contained in the NEPAD Declaration. The mechanisms spells out the institutions and processes that will guide future peer reviews based on mutually agreed codes and standards of democracy, political, economic and corporate governance and the objectives in social economic development as well as to ensure monitoring and evaluation of AU agenda 2063 and SDGs 2030.

Mr Speaker, currently there are forty African Union member states who are participation on the APRM and Zambia is one of them. In 2018, APRM was integrated into the African Union. This calls for universal accession of all AU Member states by 2023.

Sir, Zambia acceded to the APRM on 22nd January, 2006 and was peer reviewed during the 18th Summit which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 26th January, 2013. In order to pave way for the implementation of the issues raised during Zambia's peer review, the late President, His Excellency, Mr Michael Chilufya Sata launched the country review report on 6th March, 2014.

Zambia's Country Review Report was later tabled and discussed by the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) during the ordinary session of PAP that was held in Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt on 17th October, 2016. Tabling of the country review reports is the fifth and final stage of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism process before a country's next peer review. As part of the process, Zambia prepared and presented the first progress report on the implementation of the national programme of Action at the 26th Africa Peer Review Forum of the participating Heads of State and Government which was held on 28th January, 2017, in Addis Ababa.

Mr Speaker, all member states that have under gone the first peer review, are expected to move to the second round of peer review. Currently, a total of twenty-two countries out of the forty member states have undergone the first peer review. Of the twenty-two, only three member states have undergone the second peer review and these are as follows:

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Accession to APRM Year</i>	<i>First Peer Review Year</i>	<i>Second Peer Review (Year)</i>
Kenya	2003	2006	2017
Uganda	2003	2009	2018
Mozambique	2004	2009	2019

Sir, Zambia was among the six countries that were earmarked for the second period peer review in 2019. However, within the year 2019, the Africa Peer Review Mechanism initiated another type of review called the Targeted Review. The purpose of the Targeted Review is to provide an independent, credible and legitimate analysis of a specific development subject. Prior to the

introduction of the Targeted Review innovation, the Africa Peer Review mechanism had four types of reviews and these were:

- (a) Base Review which is the main review of all four thematic areas of the African Peer Review Mechanism process;
- (b) Periodic Review which is conducted every four to five years;
- (c) Voluntary Review which is requested by a member state for its own needs; and
- (d) Special Review which is initiated by the Africa Peer Review mechanism when early warning signs suggest an impending crisis.

Mr Speaker, whereas these four reviews are conducted only on Africa Peer Review member states, the Targeted Review is open to all African Union member states.

Sir, after the introduction of this new innovation, the Africa Peer Review Mechanism Continental Secretariat chose Zambia to host the Targeted Review Technical Continental Workshop. The workshop was held in Livingstone from 27th to 28th June, 2019. The purpose of the workshop was to prepare African Union countries on how to conduct Targeted Reviews and to agree on a calendar of missions for the year, 2019.

Mr Speaker, you may wish to note that the Targeted Review was piloted first in the Republic of Djibouti in January, 2019 on the subject of fiscal decentralisation. Zambia became the second country to undergo a Targeted Review when from 10th to 25th November, 2019, it fielded a Targeted Review mission on two themes, namely, “The Contribution of tourism to the Economy of Zambia” and the “Contribution of Mineral Resources to the Economy of Zambia.”

Sir, with regard to the key outcomes of the 29th Summit of the African Peer Review Forum, I will dwell on the following:

- (a) accession of new member states to the Africa Peer Review mechanism;
- (b) conduct of Peer Reviews on Base and Targeted Reviews;
- (c) election of a Steering Committee of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism focal points; and
- (d) election of new panel members of eminent persons.

Mr Speaker, during the 20th Summit of the Africa Peer Review mechanism, the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of the Seychelles acceded to the Africa Peer Review mechanism bringing the total membership to forty countries, as I indicated early. Following the accession of these two nations, the following fourteen African Union member states are yet to join the Africa Peer Review mechanism and these are Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic (CAR), Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Eswatini, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Madagascar, Morocco, Somalia and South Sudan.

Mr Speaker, the Arab Republic of Egypt was peer reviewed whereas the Republics of Djibouti and Namibia had their Targeted Review Reports presented and commended upon by the summit of Presidents. Zambia's presentation of Targeted Review reports on the contribution of tourism and the contribution of the mineral resources to the economy of Zambia will be done during the 30th Africa Peer Review Forum of Heads of State and the Government.

Sir, the Africa Peer Review Forum is the supreme decision-making organ of the Africa Peer Review mechanism and comprises all Heads of State and Government of the participating member states. Below it is a Ministerial Committee of focal point persons whose executive body is a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee comprises eight members three of whom are focal points from the Troika and five elected focal points representing each of the five regions of the Africa Union.