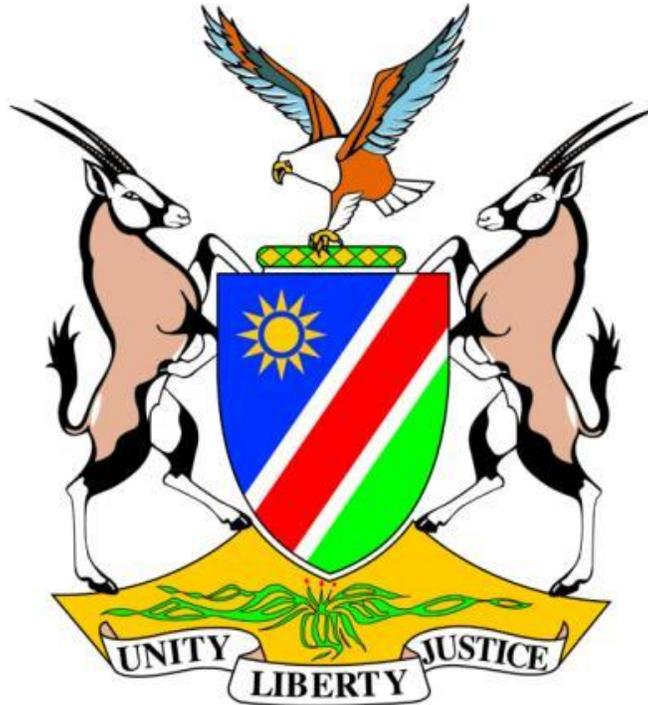


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



MEDIA RELEASE

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WINDHOEK

All Media

Chairperson of SADC, His Excellency President Hage G. Geingob calls for leaner, efficient and financially self-sufficient African Union (AU), able to deliver on the vision of prosperity and sustainable development for all its citizens, and condemns killing of peacekeepers in Eastern DRC

His Excellency, Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and Chairperson of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) concluded participation yesterday in the Extraordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, currently taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17-18 November 2018.

The Extraordinary Session considered reform proposals of the African Union in the following domains:

1. Reform of the leadership structure of the African Union Commission, including member state funding of the activities of the African Union
2. Division of Labour between Member States, the AU Commission, Organs and Offices, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Mechanisms, and other continental organizations
3. Mandate of the AU Development Agency (future transformed NEPAD)
4. Strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
5. AU Peace Fund

Emphasizing consultation and the need for harmonization of positions, President Hage G. Geingob convened a working dinner of SADC Heads of State and Government on the margins of the Extraordinary Session, on Friday 16 November, at which in his capacity as Chairperson of SADC, he led discussions on common positions on the AU reforms, and other matters pertaining to the region, including the forthcoming elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Heads of State and Government in attendance thanked President Geingob for the consultative dinner, calling it an innovative approach and a new way of working that demonstrates urgency on matters of regional concern ahead of key events.

On the AU Reform proposals, President Geingob delivered on 17 November a statement at the Extraordinary Session in which he thanked President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and his team for the manner in which he led the AU Institutional Reform process. President Geingob said that the AU Institutional Reforms were “an ambitious undertaking, requiring political will and commitment in driving the continent to an integrated, people-centered, and prosperous Africa that is at peace with itself”. In line with the importance of the institutional Reforms, President Geingob also called on “collective participation as critical for the transformation of the continent”.

Supporting a leaner AU Commission from the current to 10 to 8 senior leadership team, President Geingob advised that in considering the structure, portfolios, selection, termination of senior leadership, respect for the AU Constitutive Act and the laid-down Rules of Procedure would ensure effective implementation.

With regard to the division of labour, President Geingob said: “With progress being made on the issue of Division of labour between Member States, the Regional Economic Communities, the AU Commission and Organs, this is an opportune time for us to drive the process to bring about greater synergy of the national, regional and continental programs. This Division of Labour should lead us to greater integration and effectiveness in delivering on our development agendas towards meeting the economic, political and social needs of the continent.”

Sharing the SADC position that negotiations in the Post-Cotonou Agreement be undertaken under the current ACP Framework, the Chairperson of SADC, President Geingob used his statement to the Assembly to condemn, and express heartfelt condolences to the Governments and people of the Republic of Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo for the barbaric killing on 14 November in Eastern DRC of 7 UN Peacekeepers, including 12 members of the DRC Defence Force.

On the margins of the AU Extraordinary Session, President Geingob held side-meetings with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat, including the Acting President of Madagascar, H.E Rivo Rakotovao who shared electoral developments in that country.

President Geingob returned to Namibia in the evening of Saturday, 17 November 2018.

/End

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