1. The Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) held its 12th Annual General Meeting (AGM) from the 15th to 18th September 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria. The AGM was attended by 19 member States' Heads of Geological Surveys or their respective representatives from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic (Participation proxy to Chad), Comoros, Chad, The Gambia, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria (President of the OAGS), Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa (Permanent Secretariat). The AGM noted apologies from Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia. The AGM welcomed and acknowledged participation of partners, including the representatives of ECOWAS Commission, European Geological Surveys (EGS), Geological Society of Africa (GSAf), OneGeology and PanAfGeo.

2. The first day of the meeting was dedicated to the Executive Committee proceedings in preparation for the AGM. In attendance was the President (Nigeria), Vice Presidents for Southern Region (Botswana), Western Region (Senegal) and Central Region (Chad), Secretariat (South Africa) and Ex-Officio (Namibia).
3. At the official opening, the Director General of the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) and President of the OAGS, Dr Abdulrazaq Garba, opened the AGM and reiterated the importance of geosciences as a foundation for unlocking the socio-economic development for member countries in furtherance of its founding mandate within the context of the African Mining Partnership (AMP), a NEPAD initiative. Dr Garba emphasised the mandate of OAGS, as inscribed in the strategy, with a particular focus on, inter alia, championing the mining and minerals development. He re-affirmed the expectation for geoscience community (OAGS) to crisply articulate their critical role in expanding Africa’s mineral development prospect in order to address its longstanding socio-economic challenges. He directed the meeting to find sustainable solutions.

4. The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Mines and Steel in Nigeria, Dr Abdulkadir Mua’zu, welcomed delegates to Nigeria on behalf of the Minister. He asserted the demonstration of commitment of geological surveys, requiring unity of purpose to enhance socio-economic development, sustainable land-use, hazard mitigation and environmental protection, in line with the OAGS mandate. Dr Mua’zu recognised that the OAGS collaboration has begun to yield positive results, such as the PanAfGeo initiative with the EGS, following its launch in 2016 in South Africa. He reminded the delegates of the establishment of the Organisation of African Union in 1963, which led to the establishment of ECOWAS in 1975, and emphasised on the analogous characteristic of responsibilities attached to the OAGS. Mr Mua’zu encouraged the OAGS to continue with its germane programme, characterised by unity of the African Geological Surveys to enhance the livelihood of fellow Africans and lifting of millions of their lives.

5. The General Secretary of the EGS, Mr Slavko Solar, acknowledged an almost decade long cooperation between the OAGS and EGS, which has been cemented with an MoU between the two institutions. Mr Solar reported that the EGS Secretariat hosted the OAGS Secretariat in Brussels as part of the OAGS benchmarking exercise, consistent with the EGS slogan that “Cooperation is our strength and future”.

6. Mr Jean-Claude Guillaneau of the BRGM represented the OneGeology initiative to make a proposal of collaboration to the OAGS. He explained the functional model of OneGeology and its intent to secure success of a global coverage of geology. The AGM welcomed the presentation of OneGeology.

7. Mr Jean-Claude Guillaneau, the coordinator of PanAfGeo Project illuminated that the first phase of the initiative is ending in 2019, with a close-out meeting contemplated for Tanzania in October with OAGS members. He briefed the gathering on the achievements of phase 1 and further highlighted the proposal for the second phase to encompass, amongst others, capacity building of National Geological Surveys.

8. The NGSA DG, Dr Garba and his team shared various technical programmes of the Agency and its strategy with the OAGS family. The AGM appreciated the presentations and congratulated the NGSA for its centenary celebrations this year.

9. The AGM appreciated members in good standing of their subscription and annual membership fees and encouraged all members to honour their membership commitments timely.

10. The AGM approved establishment of a Task Team comprising Botswana, Chad, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa to fast-track the legal establishment of the OAGS and its association modalities with the African Union. The representative of ECOWAS Commission, Mr William Baidoe-Ansah Baidoe shared the protocols of approval in such a process and offered to assist the OAGS.

11. The AGM reviewed the composition of the Technical Committee, led by Namibia and constituted by Angola, Senegal, South Africa to include representation from Northern, Central and Eastern regions that were not represented in the committee. Accordingly, Algeria, Cameroon and Comoros duly accepted to represent their respective regions in the Technical Committee. The AGM further resolved that the Technical Committee:
   a. Establishes Expert Working Groups/Task Forces
   b. Begins with preparatory work for the hosting of the inaugural OAGS conference in Addis Ababa in 2021
12. The AGM received and welcomed Regional progress reports from respective Vice Presidents of Southern Region (Botswana), Central Region (Chad) and Western Region (Senegal).

13. The AGM encouraged the Secretariat to work with EXCOM in seeking other collaborative programmes to advance the mandate of the OAGS, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO).

14. The AGM conducted elections for the new Executive Committee which will take office effective from 01 January 2020. The results of the elections are:

- President of the OAGS - Senegal
- Vice President for Southern Region - Namibia
- Vice President for Northern Region - Algeria
- Vice President for Western Region - Burkina Faso
- Vice President for Eastern Region - Uganda
- Vice President for Central Region - Central African Republic

15. The AGM thanked outgoing members of EXCOM for their commitment and service to the OAGS family for the current tenure. The AGM welcomed the incoming EXCOM and pledged their support to the EXCOM in furtherance of its duties to deliver the OAGS mandate.

16. The AGM emphasised the importance of curbing multiplicity of geoscience initiatives and encouraged members to consolidate all such initiatives under the auspices of the OAGS.

17. The AGM welcomed the gracious offer of Chad to host the 13th OAGS Annual General Meeting scheduled for November 2020 in Chad.

18. The meeting was concluded by a geological excursion on the 18th September

The OAGS AGM expressed their gratitude to the NGSA, Government and the people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their hospitality and hosting the 12th OAGS AGM.

End

Issued by the President of the Organisation of the African Geological Surveys, Dr Abdulrazaq Garba.

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