

WHAT IS APRM?

1. What is the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)?

The African Peer Review Mechanism seeks to promote democracy and good governance. It was established through the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) adopted at the inaugural Assembly of the African Union (AU) in Durban in July 2002. Whereas NEPAD includes all 53 AU countries, membership in the APRM is voluntary.

Kenya acceded to the APRM on 9 March 2003 together with Algeria, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda. Subsequently acceding were Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Senegal, Gabon, Mali, Mauritius, Egypt, Benin, Malawi, Lesotho, Tanzania, Angola, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Zambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Djibouti, Mauritania (suspended), Togo, and Cape Verde. This brings the number of participating countries to 29, more than half of the AU's membership.

Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Uganda, Nigeria, Mali, Mozambique and Lesotho have so far completed a peer review.

2. What is the Mandate of the APRM?

The mandate of the African Peer Review Mechanism is to ensure that the policies and practices of participating states conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. The APRM is the mutually agreed instrument for self-monitoring by the participating member states.

3. What is the Purpose of the APRM?

The primary purpose of the APRM 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 best practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building. Each review exercise carried out under the authority of the Mechanism must be technically competent, credible, and free of political manipulation.

4. What are the Pillars of the APRM?

The pillars, or the thematic areas, of the APRM are

Democracy and Political Governance
Economic Governance and Management
Corporate Governance
Socio-Economic Development

5. What are the Stages of the Review Process?

There are five stages in the APR process:

Stage one: The continental APRM Secretariat in South Africa does a study of the political, economic and corporate governance and socio-economic development of the country to be reviewed. The Country under review embarks on a self-assessment, or internal audit, to assess its policies and the mechanisms; the institutions in place to implement those policies; the effectiveness of the mechanisms and institutions; and the outcomes of the policies. The next step would be to identify deficiencies and develop a National Programme of Action identifying specific pathways to fill the gaps.

Stage two: A team of experts under the leadership of a Member of the Panel of Eminent Persons (APR team) visits the country. Wide consultations with government officials, political parties, parliamentarians, representatives of civil society, media, trade unions, business and professional bodies are undertaken. This is the equivalent of an external audit.

Stage three: The APR team prepares its report, based on the findings of the Country Review Visit, the findings of the research studies, and the country's self-assessment report. The recommendations of the APR team focus on how the Programme of Action of the country can be improved to accelerate the achievement of best practices and standards and address more effectively the weaknesses identified. The draft Country Review Report is discussed with the Government, whose response is appended.

Stage four: The continental APRM Secretariat submits the APR Team's Country Review Report to the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, which in turn submits it with its recommendations to the APR Forum of Participating Heads of State and Government. The consideration and adoption of the Country Review Report by the APR Forum marks the end of stage four.

Stage five: The APRM Country Review Report is released and publicly tabled in key regional and continental structures such as the Pan-African Parliament, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Peace and Security Council and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) of the African Union.

The **follow-up** to the first cycle is aimed at sustaining efforts to improve governance and socio-economic development. Every APRM member country that has successfully undergone the peer review process has to submit annual progress reports on the implementation of its National Programme of Action to the APR Forum of Participating Heads of State and Government. This is to ensure that the national priorities agreed by stakeholders during the country review process are put into effect and remedial steps taken to address the gaps identified in the review; and that good practices are shared among national actors and with other countries.

6. What Has Kenya Done So Far?

Key milestones

9th March 2003: Kenya accedes to the APRM

14th and 21st July 2004: First and Second National Stakeholders' Forum to sensitize the public, domesticate the APRM Questionnaire, and to propose members of the National Governing Council

26th-27th July 2004: Country Support Mission under leadership of Dr. Graça Machel and a team of African experts including meetings with a wide cross section of stakeholders

25th October 2004: Inauguration of the APRM National Governing Council with a mandate until completion of the country review

30th June 2006: Peer review of Kenya in Banjul, the Gambia

27th January 2007: Review by the APR Forum of the 6-month Progress Report on the Implementation of the APRM National Programme of Action June 2006 – January 2007

30th June 2007: Tabling at the APR Forum of the annual Progress Report on the Implementation of the APRM National Programme of Action June 2006 – June 2007

29th June 2008: Finalization of the APRM Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Programme of Action June 2006 – June 2008

25th November 2008: Launch of the popular version of the APRM Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Programme of Action June 2006 – June 2008

31st January 2009: Review by the APR Forum of the APRM Progress Report on the Implementation of the National Programme of Action June 2006 – June 2008 with an Update to January 2009; agreement to conduct a 2nd Country Review of the Political and Democratic Governance Pillar of the APRM

26th May 2009: Gazette Notice of the Minister of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 establishing an APRM National Governing Council

15th – 30th November 2009: 2nd Country Review under the leadership of Dr. Graça Machel expected to take place

6. How can you get involved?

Citizens' voices are being captured in focus group discussions both during the country review and the preparation of progress reports. Members of the public can make written submissions to

the NEPAD Kenya Secretariat, the APR Panel of Eminent Persons or the continental APRM Secretariat in South Africa.

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