



Conference on

“The APRM: Taking Peer Learning to the Next Level”

Kampala, Uganda, 20-21 July 2010

Communiqué

We, participants at the conference “The African Peer Review Mechanism: Taking Peer Learning to the Next Level”, reiterate our shared commitment to strengthening the African Peer Review Mechanism and the core principles that it supports, and to supporting its work to promote democracy and good governance in African states.

We affirm the vision of the APRM’s founders, and recognise the important efforts to make that vision concrete undertaken by the mechanism’s institutions at continental and national levels, including the APR Forum of Participating Heads of State and Government, the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, the APRM Secretariat, National Focal Points, National Governing Councils and National Secretariats. The APRM represents a shared and firm commitment on behalf of the participating governments to redress Africa’s developmental short-comings and governance challenges through peer learning among African countries.

Civil society, as a key partner and monitor of government performance, reaffirms its collective commitment to promoting, popularising and strengthening the APRM review process in our respective countries, regions and on the continent. We are eager to establish closer ties between civil society organisations (CSOs) and the APR institutions.

We recognise that there have been many positive collective experiences from the process – including the opening up of political space for citizens to input into national discussion of governance challenges, profiling of best practices, and the diagnosis of national problems and development of solutions to them. Each country self-assessment report (CSAR) and country review report (CRR) has made real and important contributions to the establishment of national development priorities. The APRM represents an innovative and ambitious endeavour, and teaches many lessons that can also inform other continental and national processes.

For the mechanism to fulfil its true potential, add value and remain relevant in the coming years, the mechanism needs to build on these positive foundations.

In particular, now that twelve countries have completed their reviews, the APRM structures have the collective responsibility to ensure that the national programmes of action that result from

every review are effectively implemented and used to shape other planning processes at national level.

The new panel of eminent persons overseeing the APRM since January 2010 has the opportunity to refresh the vision for the mechanism, in conjunction with the APR Forum and the APRM Secretariat, setting in place a medium term plan for the strengthening and improvement of the process, based on the lessons learned so far.

In this spirit of partnership and cooperation, peer learning and information sharing, this conference has identified key areas for both the APRM structures and civil society to address, in order for the process to continue to be relevant, dynamic and add value to the lives of African citizens:

Commitment of Heads of State and Government / the APR Forum

1. The strength of the APRM from the beginning has been the personal commitment of Heads of State and Government. The willingness of these leaders to accept the public criticism of their governance record and to seek popular input to address short-comings is remarkable and very welcome: it needs to be sustained and reinforced for the APRM still to have life and meaning.

Accession to and implementation of the process

2. We are concerned at the slow pace at which the APRM reviews are being executed. We urge those States that have acceded to the APRM but have not yet put in place the requisite national structures to address this as a matter of urgency, drawing fully on the lessons from those countries that have already undertaken the process to ensure that their processes can be as effective as possible. We look forward to a time when all 53 African states will be in the APRM.

National Programmes of Action (NPOA)

3. The NPOA produced as the culmination of each national APRM review has not received enough sustained attention during the reviews carried out to date. The preparation of the NPOA should be prioritised for attention during the process of completing the country self-assessment and country review processes. The NPOAs should include action points on all issues identified by the country review report and be developed through the same consultative processes as the CSAR. The NPOA should be integrated into other national planning and budgeting processes, demonstrate where new resources are needed and establish clear indicators on its objectives. As recognised by the APRM Memorandum of Understanding, the Regional Economic Communities of the African Union can assist Member States to improve their performance in governance and socioeconomic development, and therefore may also play a role in developing and monitoring implementation of the NPOAs.

Progress reports

4. The APRM Panel and Secretariat should establish guidelines for the process by which national progress reports to the APR Forum on implementation of each NPOA are adopted (which should be consultative), and on their content (which should include information on attainment of all indicators set by the NPOA). These reports should be published and distributed at national level and made available on the APRM website. Member States should respect the timetable for completing progress reports.

National Governing Councils (NGCs)

5. The mixed membership of the NGCs (government, civil society and private sector) has often been part of the strength of the process, creating an opportunity for constructive dialogue and joint ownership of the outcomes. The institutional independence of the NGC should be ensured and there should be a majority of members who do not come from the executive, selected through a transparent process and with clear expertise and capacity to engage with the process. An NGC should remain in place after the initial review is over, and a continuing role in progress reports; and should be supported with sufficient resources to execute their mandate.

Institutional Relations with Civil Society

6. The APRM structures at continental and national levels should create systems to ensure respect for the commitment to consult widely with all national stakeholders -- including traditional and religious institutions, organised labour and community-based groups and not only registered NGOs based in the capital city. There should be a structured process for CSO submissions at national and continental level. The positive lessons around participation and involvement of civil society in the APRM should be brought into other processes, and not isolated to the APRM.

Access to information

7. The quality of the information provided by the APR secretariats at continental and national level for public consumption directly affects the extent to which interested stakeholders can make a meaningful contribution to the APRM. There is an urgent need for more accessible versions of the main APRM questionnaire to be produced and made publicly available by the APRM Secretariat, supplementing the versions already produced at national level and by CSOs. More materials should be available in French and Portuguese, and in national languages, as well as English. We call upon the APRM institutions to improve their information sharing and reporting processes, both among themselves and with other stakeholders, and in particular to make the continental APRM website a real resource and keep it updated. Lack of access to the national CSARs in most countries is a major gap in feedback to citizens on their input to the process, and the APR Panel and Forum should establish guidelines for the publication of national CSARs.

Civil Society Responsibilities

8. The APRM process provides an important opportunity for national dialogue that CSOs should seize. CSOs have a shared responsibility to ensure that the self-assessment process is successful and the NPOA implemented, not just to criticise the process. CSOs have had the most constructive role in the process when they have spoken with one voice, creating national coalitions and coordinating their submissions to the CSAR and NPOA and on NPOA implementation. Formally registered NGOs should ensure that they facilitate broader access to the APRM process by community-based organisations. CSOs should encourage governments that have not acceded to the process to do so.

Role of the Media

9. National structures should engage with media and provide training and information on the role of the APRM and the outcomes from the process -- & the media should engage in more thorough reporting including especially on the implementation of the NPOA. It is noted with concern that APRM questionnaire itself does not include a focus on media and should do so.

APRM Secretariat

10. The continental APRM Secretariat needs strengthening. The post of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the APRM Secretariat has been vacant since July 2007. We urge the speedy appointment of a suitable candidate to fill this post on a full-time basis. Once the CEO is in place, and existing institutional issues resolved, the resource constraints on the APRM Secretariat must be addressed, to enable it to give proper support and guidance to national APRM processes, and to CSOs who wish to engage directly at continental level.

Financial resources and management

11. For the APRM to be successful there is a need for national governments to plan for and allocate sufficient resources to enable the self-assessment process to be effectively conducted and the NPOAs implemented. CSOs should also fundraise and allocate resources to following the process, as well as drawing on their existing programmes to contribute to the review. Equally, there is a need to follow the correct processes established at national level to ensure transparency on the overall amounts allocated to the APRM reviews, as well as issues such as the award of contracts to the technical research institutions that carry out the self-assessment process, financial allocations to the APRM institutions, and management and audit processes for APRM institutions and CSOs at both national and continental levels.

National Parliaments and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

12. Both national parliaments and the PAP should designate a committee to engage with national APRM processes and follow up on the country review reports and the NPOAs. National parliaments should be represented on the NGC. The PAP should have the opportunity to nominate and comment on nominations for the panel of eminent persons.

The Panel of Eminent Persons

13. The role of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons has been critical to the success of the APRM reviews in the countries where they have so far taken place: their role in ensuring that all stakeholders are heard during the process of preparing the CSAR and CRR is invaluable. The new panel membership appointed in January 2010 has the opportunity to reenergise the APRM process, including by ensuring that the recommendations in this communiqué are taken forward.
14. The APR Forum should ensure that future appointments to the Panel are made in accordance with clear and transparent criteria and on the basis of wide consultation with stakeholders across the continent, including in particular national governing councils. Ideally, panel members should rotate off and be replaced in a staggered way, so that there is continuity of expertise.

This communiqué was approved at the final session of the conference with inputs from all the participants, who are listed in the annex. However, no single organisation or individual participant is bound by the conclusions.

**ANNEX: The African Peer Review Mechanisms: Taking Peer Learning to the Next Level
International Workshop, 20 - 21 July 2010
Golf Course Hotel, Kampala, Uganda
Final Delegates List**

#	Name of Individual	Organisation	Country
1	Achieng Akena	CCP-AU	Kenya
2	Adele Jinadu	Consultant	Nigeria
3	Adotey Bing-Pappoe	Consultant	United Kingdom
4	Ailan Atulinda	NTV	Uganda
5	Alison Dillon Kibirige	AMDK Consultancy Services	Uganda
6	Anne Roeder	GTZ	South Africa
7	Asante Okanya	New Vision	Uganda
8	Banji Kalima	Civil Society Representative	Zambia
9	Bishop Zac Niringiye	APRM National Governing Council	Uganda
10	Brenda Mofya		Ethiopia
11	Bronwen Manby	AfriMAP	United Kingdom
12	Caroline Batenga	The New Vision	Uganda
13	Charles Bourgault	GTZ	South Africa
14	Chikezie Anyanwu	Save the Children International	Ethiopia
15	Cisse Losseni	Centre for Democratic Governance	Burkina Faso
16	David Muzenze	Voice of Kijeri	Uganda
17	Dennis Sigoa	UBC	Uganda
18	Deo Nkuzingoma	NGC	Uganda
19	Diana Wanyana	KFM	Uganda
20	Dominic Liche	Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection	Zambia
21	Dorah Mafabi	Platform for Labour Action	Uganda
22	Dr Annie Chikwnha	Institute for Security Studies	Ethiopia
23	Dr Dipac Jaantilal	Cruzeiro do Sul	Mozambique
24	Ebrahim Fakir	EISA	South Africa
25	Edith Kibalama	Kituo Cha Katiba	Uganda
26	Elisabeth Diethelm-Schneller	SDC	South Africa
27	Ephrem Tadesse Gebre	SDC	South Africa
28	Esther Bukenya	HUREPE	Uganda
29	Evelyn Kiapi	IPS News Agency	Uganda
30	Faindah Kyomihangi	Kituo Cha Katiba	Uganda
31	Fatima Karadja	ECOSOCC & NGC Algeria	Algeria
32	Frank Muramuzi	NAPE	Uganda
33	George Okore	SAID	Kenya
34	Gerald Bareebe	Daily Monitor	Uganda
35	Gilles Badet	University of Abomey-Calavi	Benin
36	Godber Tumushabe	ACODE	Uganda
37	Grace Nabireka	NBS T4	Uganda
38	Grant Masterson	EISA	South Africa
39	Hamza Kyeyune	Radia Bilal	Uganda
40	Hannah Opoku Gyamfi	Institute for Democratic Governance	Ghana
41	Hon. Sarah Bagalaaliwo	Kituo Cha Katiba	Uganda
42	Ibrahima Kane	OSIEA CCP-AU	Kenya
43	Isabel Naranya	NTV	Uganda
44	Jean-Jacques Cornish	Journalist	South Africa
45	Jeggan Grey-Johnson	AfriMAP	South Africa
46	Job Muetigwa	The Movt Times	Uganda
47	Joel Kafuko	Voice of Kamenge	Uganda
48	John Odoy	UJC	Uganda
49	John Ssonko	Super FM	Uganda
50	Jolly Kemigabo	MRG-KILA	Uganda
51	Jonas Polhmann	Consultant	Mozambique
52	Joseph Kiggundu	Daily Monitor	Uganda
53	Joseph Kimani	Africa Youth Trust	Kenya
54	Judith Akello	Kituo Cha Katiba	Uganda

55	Juliet Odoi	ACORD	Uganda
56	Kaputo Chenga	GTZ	Zambia
#	Name of Individual	Organisation	Country
57	Kiko Mapunda-Amponsah	AfriMAP	South Africa
58	Laviniah Banduah	National Accountability Group	Sierra Leone
59	Lilian Muyomba	ACODE	Uganda
60	Lillian Kantai	Kenya Human Rights Commission	Kenya
61	Lillian Keene	Platform for Labour Action	Uganda
62	Lubega Shadna	Weekly Message	Uganda
63	Lule Charles	Media Alliance Forum	Uganda
64	Margaret Nabweteme	UBC Radia	Uganda
65	Mary Mugenyi	PAP	Uganda
66	Matseliso Mapetla	Institute of Southern African Studies	Lesotho
67	Maurice Enguelguele	African Governance Institute	Senegal
68	Menen Wondwosen	Center for Democratic Consulting	Ethiopia
69	Milimo Mwiba	Civil Society Representative	Zambia
70	Mugambi Kiai	AfriMAP	Kenya
71	Mukotani Rugyendo	Uganda Debt Network	Uganda
72	Namatwu Madinah	Radio Bilaal	Uganda
73	Nkgakong Mokonyane	EISA	South Africa
74	Nsama Chileshe	Civil Society Representative	Zambia
75	Oupa Makhalemele	IDASA (PIMS)	South Africa
76	Ozias Tungwarara	AfriMAP	South Africa
77	Pascal Kambale	AfriMAP	Senegal
78	Patrick Mpedzisi	African Democracy Forum	South Africa
79	Percy Tshabane	Dpt of Public Service & Administration	South Africa
80	Prof Ahmed Mohiddin	21st Century Africa Foundation	Kenya
81	Prof Mbaya Kankwenda	AfriMAP	Canada
82	Prosper Deh	Consultant	Togo
83	Prossy Kizza	Vision Group	Uganda
84	Reuben Likufa	Civil Society Representative	Zambia
85	Richard Klasswa	Ultimate Media	Uganda
86	Richard Mugisha	OSIEA	Uganda
87	Richard Ssewakiryanga	National NGO Forum	Uganda
88	Robert Mutebi	The Manager Magazine	Uganda
89	Robin Richards	Center for Policy Studies	South Africa
90	Ronald Kato	Vision Voice	Uganda
91	S Kiwonde	Phototec	Uganda
92	Sabiti Makara	Makerere University	Uganda
93	Silvia Angey Ufoyuru	National Planning Authority	Uganda
94	Sophia Koerner	GTZ	Uganda
95	Specioza Kiwanka	Action Aid	Uganda
96	Stanley Kironde	Phototes	Uganda
97	Steven Gruzd	SAIIA	South Africa
98	Susan Mwape	APRM Civil Society Secretariat	Zambia
99	Thomas Selemane	Center for Public Integrity	Mozambique
100	Tsoeu Petlane	SAIIA	South Africa
101	Victor Brobbey	Center for Democratic Development	Ghana
102	Vincent Edoku	Caritas Uganda	Uganda
103	Winifreda Masiko	Parliament	Uganda
104	Yaye Ndiaye	AfriMAP	Senegal
105	Z Kagaba	ACZU	Uganda