

10 APRM LESSONS FROM NAMIBIA

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APRM lessons from Namibia

- ❖ **Namibia joined the APRM in 28 January 2017 after a long period of scepticism, which was shared by Botswana.**
- ❖ **Why were both countries sceptical about the APRM process?**
- ❖ **Namibia was the first to break the deadlock in 2017 and Botswana acceded in January 2019.**

LESSON 1

- ❖ **Become familiar with the APRM process as soon as possible.**
- **Understand the APRM (how it operates and the opportunities it presents).**
- **In Namibia the IPPR commissioned SAIIA to write a short guide regarding expectations.**
- **Expose CSOs to the APRM through multiple workshops.**

LESSON 2

❖ Use the APRM to strengthen civil society

- Lack of funding, labelling of critical civil society organisations as being unpatriotic can diminish cooperation between CSOs.
- Specialisation can also lead to isolation.
- The APRM process managed to bring CSOs together towards a common purpose.

LESSON 3

❖ Select issues that matter

- Pick key governance issues.
- Make sure that CSOs are knowledgeable and passionate about the issues picked.
- Link the issues into existing government programmes and priorities.

LESSON 4

- ❖ **Plan multiple interventions to maintain momentum.**
 - A once-off workshop is insufficient
 - Promote on-going technical support in developing the written submission.
 - In Namibia, the working group relied on SAIIA too heavily.

LESSON 5

- ❖ **Involve government stakeholders to build trust.**
 - Forge links with key stakeholders (everyone is playing for the same team).
 - Notify them about events and intentions; and be informed about their events and activities
 - Do not use the process as an indictment.

LESSON 6

- ❖ **Spur the government to advance the national process.**
- **Rapid progress by the CSOs can influence the government to speed up its own process.**

LESSON 7

❖ Draw on the experience of other countries.

- Invite civil society experts, activists and members of parliament of other states.
- Peer learning (where there are multiple organisations working on similar projects).

LESSON 8

❖ Ensure ownership and buy-in.

- Offer modest payments to those making written contributions.
- Give CSOs reasonable time period to read, study and comment on the draft to enhance endorsement and ownership of the document.
- Promote national coverage.

LESSON 9

❖ **Develop a dissemination strategy**

- **National Level (National Focal Point, NGC, National Planning Commission and the APRM technical Research Institutes).**
- **The Media**
- **At the Continental Level (Continental APRM Secretariat, the Panel of Eminent Persons and Country Review Mission)**

LESSON 10

- ❖ **Ensure civil society voice is heard throughout.**
- **Producing a CSAR is just a small part of the APRM journey.**
- **Remain active on the NGC, developing and monitoring the National Programme of Action (NPoA), hold the government accountable for its commitments.**
- **Participate in subsequent reviews.**

THE END – THANK YOU

