

African
Union



The APRM in a Nutshell

*Zimbabwe APRM Popular Sensitisation (ZAPS)
Online Civil Society APRM Sensitisation
Workshop*

*APRM Continental Secretariat
26 February 2021*

**Towards Universal
Accession by 2023**

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
www.aprm-au.org
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What is the APRM?

- The APRM was launched on 09 March 2003 by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) in Abuja, Nigeria (NEPAD/HSGIC/03-2003/APRM/MOU (09 March 2003), Assembly Decision 198 (XI), Decision 527 (XXIII) and Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1-4(XI));
- The APRM is an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in democracy and good governance, in full respect for democratic principles, human rights, rule of law, the acceleration of political, social and economic integration in Africa;
- The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and continental economic integration, with codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG); and
- The Expanded Mandate includes two January 2017 decisions including Assembly/AU/ Dec.631 (XXVIII) for tracking the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of key governance areas on the continent, and for APRM to provide support to Member States in the field of Rating Agencies; Assembly/AU/Dec. 686 (XXX) of Jan 2018 for APRM to position itself as an early warning tool for conflict prevention on the continent, in the context of harmony and synergy between APRM, APSA and AGA, and Assembly/AU/Dec.720(XXXII) of Feb 2019 requesting the Africa Governance Report be developed by APRM, in collaboration with AGA for presentation every 2 years, and also requested APRM to assist States in developing national governance reports.

APRM Thematic Focus Areas

**DEMOCRACY AND
POLITICAL
GOVERNANCE
(DPG)**

**ECONOMIC
GOVERNANCE AND
MANAGEMENT
(EGM)**

**CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE
(CG)**

**SOCIO
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
(SED)**

APRM FUNCTIONS

1

Promote and facilitate self-monitoring and evaluation by the Participating States.

2

Monitor, evaluate and track the implementation in key governance areas on the continent, including the AU Agenda 2063, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 in relation to democracy and good governance and any subsequent development frameworks of these institutions.

3

Prepare the African Governance Report in collaboration with AGA, and present it to the Assembly for consideration at its Ordinary Session every two (2) years.

APRM FUNCTIONS

4

Serve as a platform for sharing best practices at national, regional and continental level.

5

Encourage the participating states to implement their National Plans of Actions.

6

Integrate the objectives of APRM into national plans, RECs and regional developmental bodies, including AUDA-NEPAD.

APRM FUNCTIONS

7

Provide support to Member States in the field of international credit rating agencies.

8

Contribute to early warning for conflict prevention within the continent, in harmony and synergy with the APSA, and AGA

9 &
10

Encourage the Participating States to implement the ACDEG, the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and other relevant instruments; and

Promote democracy and good governance on the continent

The APRM and the AU

- The goal of the APRM is to promote good governance in Africa by encouraging Member States to adopt policies and practices that can lead to political stability, strong and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated subregional and continental integration.
- At the 28th African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in January 2017, the AU adopted the Kagame Reforms, which comprise expanding the mandate of the Mechanism to include tracking the implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the continent's key governance areas, specifically Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- This has solidified the Mechanism's position to drive the governance agenda in Africa
- The APRM addresses Agenda 2063 good governance-related aspirations, especially:
 - Aspiration 3: An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law; and
 - Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa

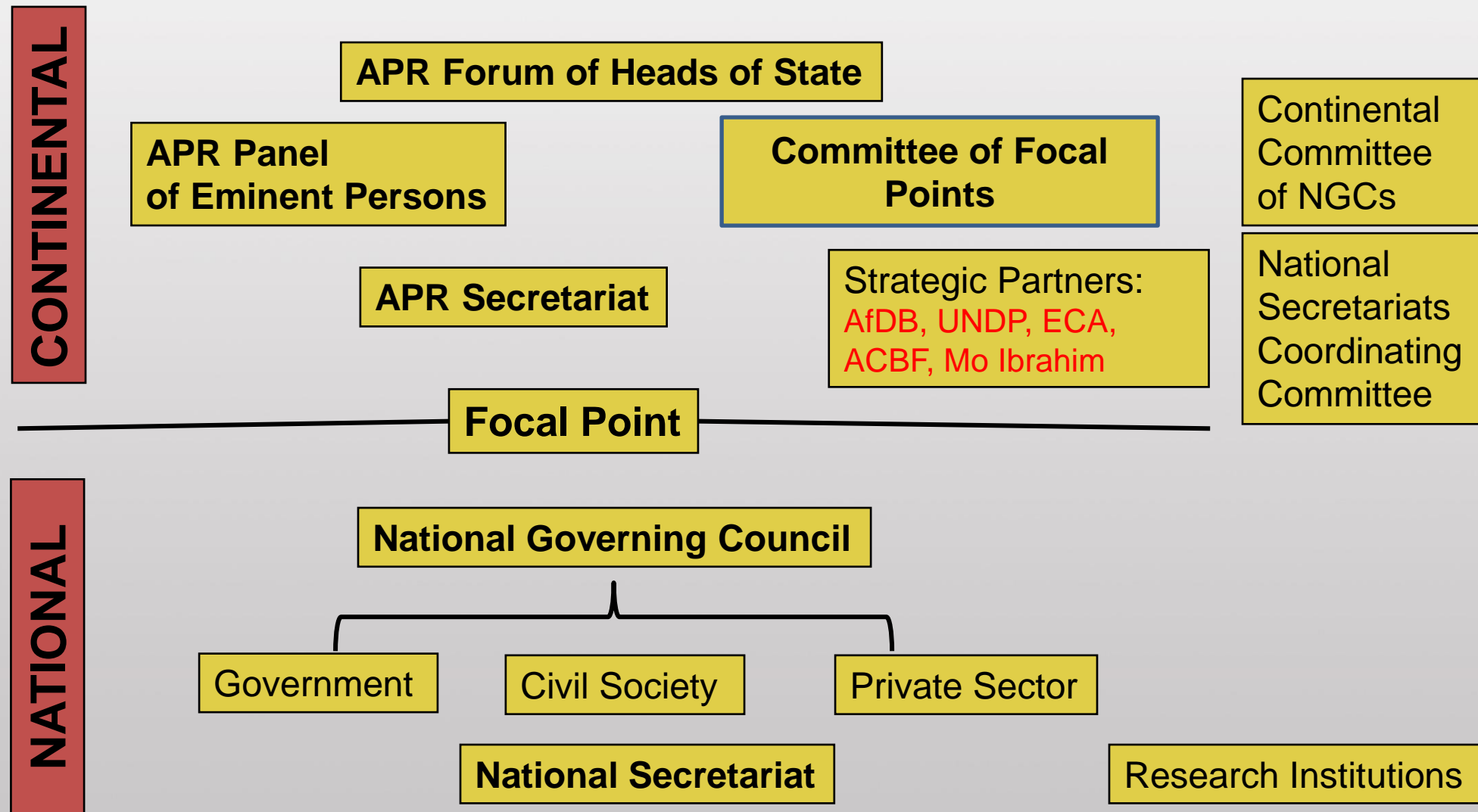
UNIVERSAL ACCESSION

- The Assembly of the African Union, at its 30th Ordinary Session, held in January 2018, adopted a decision urging the remaining Member States to accelerate their accession to APRM in order to ensure the Universal Accession to the Mechanism by 2023.
- Botswana joined the APRM at the 2019 Forum; Zimbabwe and Seychelles joined at the 2020 Forum. APRM now at 40/55 Members. DRC to accede in March 2021.

APRM Member States

AU REGIONS	COUNTRIES
North Africa (4)	Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania, Tunisia
West Africa (12)	Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Niger, Togo, the Gambia
Southern Africa (9)	Mozambique, South Africa, Lesotho, Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe
East Africa (9)	Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Tanzania, Sudan and Seychelles
Central Africa (6)	Chad, Cameroon, Congo Republic, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe
Total AU (40)	40 member states + 1 (DRC, scheduled accession at 30 th APR Forum on 25 March 2021) 23 countries completed first generation peer reviews 3 countries completed second generation peer reviews

APRM Governance Structures



The APRM QUESTIONNAIRE

DPG (8 Objectives)	EGM (6 Objectives)	CG (5 Objectives)	SED (4 Objectives)
Entrenching Constitutional democracy and the Rule of Law	Design and implement economic policies for sustainable development	Promoting an Enabling Environment and Effective Regulatory Framework for Business organisations and other entities	Promote and accelerate broad-based sustainable socio-economic development
The separation of powers	Encourage ownership and participation of key stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation	Ensuring Effective Leadership and Accountability of Organisations	Encourage broad-based participation in development;
Prevention and reduction of intra and inter-state conflicts	Promote sound public finance management	Ensuring Ethical Conduct Within Organisations	Poverty, unemployment and inequality;
Promotion and protection of civil and political rights.	Fight corruption and money laundering	Ensuring that Organisations Treat Stakeholders Fairly and Equitably	Progress towards gender equality, particularly equal access to education for girls at all levels
Ensuring accountable, efficient and effective public service delivery at the national and decentralized levels	Accelerate and deepen regional integration in the monetary, trade and investment domain	Ensuring that Organizations Act as Good Corporate Citizens	
Promotion and protection of the rights of women	Develop and implement trade and investment policies that promote economic growth		
Promotion and protection of the rights of children and young persons			
Promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including IDPs, Refugees and Persons with Disabilities.			

The APRM Review Process

The APRM Reviews

Article 7 of the APRM Statute envisages four distinct reviews:

- 1. First Country Review:** a review carried out within eighteen months (18) after a Member State acceding to the APRM process;
- 2. Periodic Review:** a review that takes place every two (2) to four (4) years;
- 3. Targeted Review:** a review, at the request of a Member State, outside the time frame of the periodically mandated reviews; and
- 4. Early Warning Review:** a review commissioned by the APR Forum.

The Country Review Process

Stage One

- 1.Establishment of National Structures: Focal Point; NGC, National Secretariat
- 2.Conduct of Country Self-assessment (using APRM questionnaire, ensuring stakeholders participation)
- 3.Development of Preliminary Program of Action
- 4.APRM Secretariat develops: Country profile, Background paper, Issues Paper

Stage Two

- 1.Country Review Mission led by APRM Panel Member

Stage Three

- 1.Drafting the Country Review Report by the Review Team
- 2.Panel Validation
- 3.Government Response to the draft CRR (21 days)
- 4.Statistical Validation – National Statistical Quality Assurance Framework

Stage Four

- 1.Peer review by the Forum of Heads of State and Government

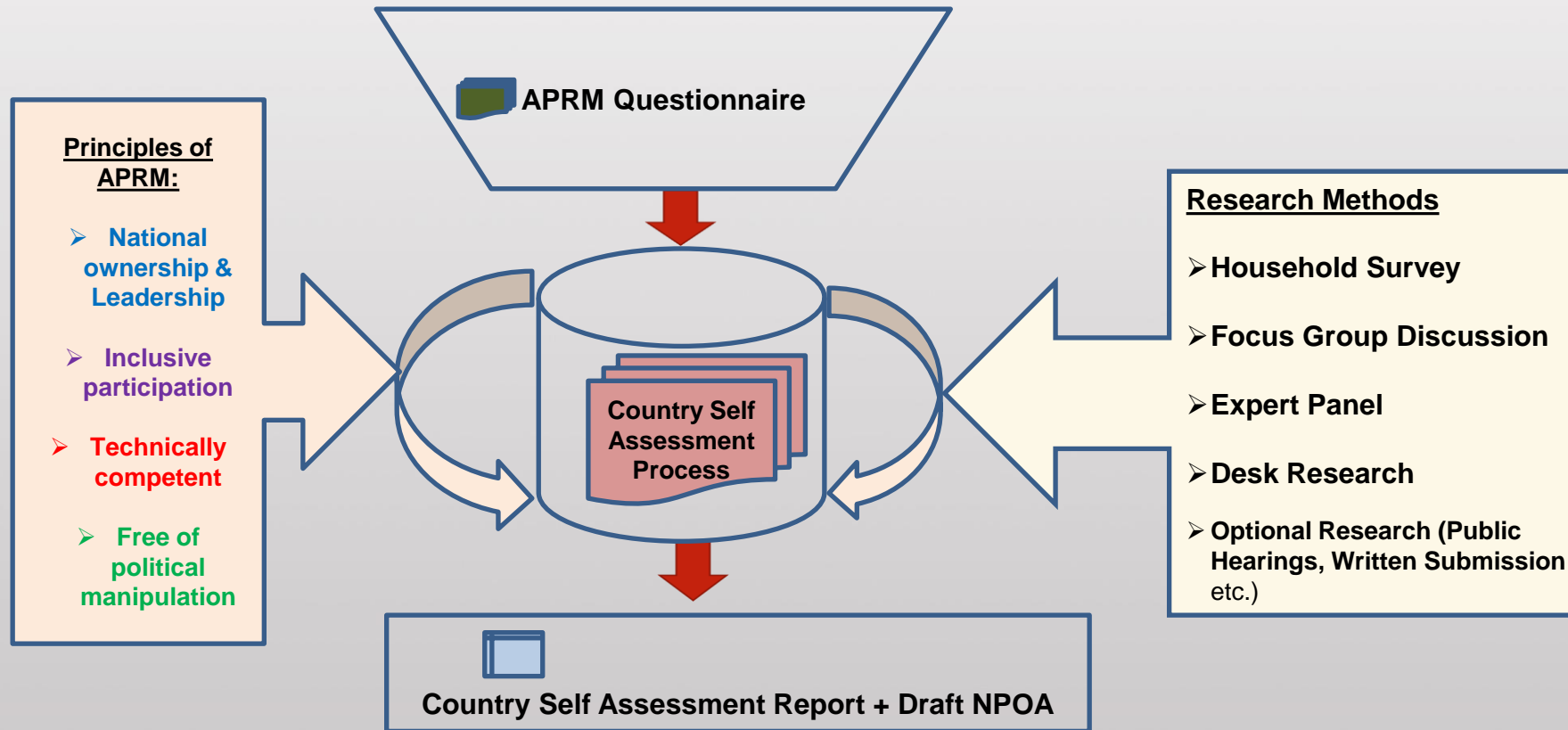
Stage Five

- 1.Publication of the Country Report including the National Programme of Action
- 2.Start of implementation of the National Programme of Action (NPoA)
- 3.Presentation of the Country Review Report to AU Organs

Stage Six

- 1.Monitoring and Progress Reporting on the implementation of NPoA to the APR Forum

THE COUNTRY SELF-ASSESSMENT PROCESS



THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION (NPOA)

The NPOA is the main output of the review process. The NPOA:

- Presents clear, time-bound commitments on governance and socio-economic development priorities over the next 3-5 years, including the identification of key stakeholders for implementation, the estimated budgetary implications and allocations; as well as M&E system.
- Is developed by building on existing policies & programs.

APRM Strategic Developments

The APRM Strategic Plan for 2020-2024

- The new strategic challenge as approved in new Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 in February 2020, focuses on “*Governance as a tool for regional integration within the AU*”.
- The Strategic Plan Key Priority Areas are:

1. Governance Reviews and Assessments
2. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Institutional and Human Capacity Development
4. Advocacy and Communication

The logical framework for the APRM Strategic Plan starts with *Key Priority Areas (KRAs)* describing a sector of focus for the plan.

Four (4) KPAs (*on the left*) have been identified - all priority focus areas over the next four years consistent with the Strategic Plan theme.

Each KPA has a *Strategic Objective* which defines the most important aspect of what is to be achieved in the KPA.

Key Priority Area 1 focuses on *the mandate for APRM to complete governance reviews*, while Key Priority Areas 2, 3, and 4 are *enablers* that complement and improve APRM's work and performance in completing this mandate.

Selected Key APRM Initiatives

1. National Governance Reporting – the first pilot NGR report, for Uganda is due in 2021.
2. Tracking governance-related aspects of Agenda 2063 and UN SDGs 2030
3. Africa Governance Report – Biennial. So far APRM has completed AGR 2019 & AGR 2021
4. Annual Methodology Forum (AMF 2017, AMF 2018, AMF 2019, planning the 2021 Forum)
5. Africa Governance Seminar Series (AGOSS) – Annual Series
6. Africa Governance Atlas - 2020
7. Africa Governance Campus - 2021
8. APRM Support to Member States on International Credit Rating Agencies
9. Governance of State-Owned Enterprises

National Governance Reporting (NGR)

- The development of NGRs is based on decision of the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU, Feb 2019:
 - Welcomed the AGR... and urged Member States to consider the Report's recommendations, with a view to enhancing good governance and sharing best practices at both country and continental levels.
 - Urged Members States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance in line with the recommendations of the Report.
- APRM will provide technical support to all 55 AU States to produce their own governance reports
- At the national level: The NGR will provide annual, up-to-date, credible and reliable data on governance to assist with policy-making.
- At the Continental level: will facilitate sharing of good practices and state reporting by AU organs, and for A2063 and SDGs.

2020 Achievements and Current Status

- APRM completed two governance peer reviews at the February 2020 Summit: a full review of Egypt, and a targeted review on youth unemployment for Namibia.
- Launched the Preliminary Governance Assessment on AU Member State policy responses implemented to mitigate the COVID-19 Crisis to be followed by the Final Report.
- APRM revised its guidelines for the country review and targeted reviews programmes for virtual work as much as possible during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Four Review Reports ready for peer review at March 2021 Forum including Liberia (full report), and four targeted review reports for Djibouti on fiscal decentralisation), two for Zambia on mineral resource governance, tourism and Sierra Leone on Health Governance & COVID.
- The African Governance Report 2021 is tabled for consideration by the next AU Assembly

