

African
Union



APRM in a Nutshell: SADC, CSOs and the African Peer Review Mechanism

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

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**Towards Universal
Accession by 2023**

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- ❑ What is the APRM?
 - ❑ SADC and the APRM
 - ❑ CSOs and the APRM

SADC APRM Member States Status

- In the eighteen years since its formation, the APRM has registered significant progress, with its member states increasing from six at the beginning to 40 today. As of February 2021, twenty-three Member States have completed APRM Country Reviews.
- Out of the 16 SADC Member States; 12 SADC countries namely Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe are members of the APRM.
- Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini and Madagascar are non-APRM Member States
 - DRC is set to accede to the APRM at the 30th APR Forum on 25th March 2021
- The following Southern Africa countries have undergone through the review process:
 - Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique (2x), Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia
 - Namibia has undergone a Targeted review on youth unemployment and is completing a full review in 2021-22

CSOs involvement in the APRM process

- Civil Society Organizations(CSOs) are integral parts of the APRM process both at the national and continental levels. This is due to the importance of CSOs in enhancing accountability, transparency and good governance.
- CSOs exist outside the state and therefore they have the potential to positively influence the Mechanism outcomes towards burning national challenges.
- The strategies used by CSOs within the APRM system range from lobbying and petitioning to advocacy.
- The APRM Strategic Plan 2020-2024 prioritises Civil Society participation and engagement in the APRM process as a critical success factor.
- Civil Society Organisations participate in the APRM process through providing submissions, reports and research on governance challenges and proposed reforms to representatives on the National Governing Councils.
- In the AU system, CSOs are a key element in efforts to secure greater economic and social prosperity towards the fulfilment of the Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030 goals.

CSOs Cycle of Involvement in the APRM process

- **Before the Reviews:** CSOs improve accountability in implementation of governance frameworks through contributing to APRM Reviews and implementation of the National Programme of Actions;
- **During the self-assessment and continental review process:** CSOs contribute to consultation with APRM national and continental structures and the translation of the APRM objectives, principles, and policies into actionable activities;
- **After the reviews:** CSOs support the advocacy and communication efforts on popularizing the review report findings and *follow up* on the implementation of recommendations.

CSOs Current Involvement in the APRM process

- CSO existence within the mechanism has not yet been fully utilised.
- More needs to be done to ensure that CSOs take are fully involved in the APRM process. CSOs can refer to the *Handbook for African Civil Society* produced by the UNECA, an APRM Strategic Partner,
- APRM works in close collaboration with regional civil society-based institutions such as ECOSOCC and the African Union Youth Envoy to promote and intensify civil society engagement in governance reforms, while maintaining a positive and collaborative approach with governance institutions at the local, regional, national and continental levels.

