



**African Peer Review Mechanism**  
Africa's Self Assessment for Good Governance

## APRM IN A NUTSHELL

And an introduction to the Zimbabwe APRM  
Popular Sensitisation (ZAPS) Project

VIA ZOOM



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*African perspectives. Global insights.*



## WORKSHOP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Inform and educate Zimbabwean civil society about APRM and opportunities it presents
- Learn from 4 other APRM country experiences
- Highlight key entry points for CSOs
- Set up an APRM Civil Society Working Group
- Explore how to develop a written APRM submission
- Opportunity for open discussion
- Next steps – Tendai Murisa



## SAIIA AND THE APRM

- Since 1934, independent, non-governmental think tank on international affairs. Turning 87 in 2021
- 4 major programmes: AGDP, EDIP, GARP and Youth
- Worked consistently on APRM since 2002
- Research, analysis, training, consulting to the Secretariat
- Sensitised CSOs in early countries, worked on questionnaire revision, bottlenecks to development, expanded mandate. Empower CSOs on the APRM
- Developed CSO submissions in 2018 in Namibia, and 2020-1 in Botswana & SA

## APRM IN A NUTSHELL



- Africa's voluntary governance review and promotion tool established in 2003, grew out of NEPAD
- Belief that dialogue, peer pressure, diplomacy & civil society involvement can catalyse reform
- Measures adherence to African & global standards in 4 thematic areas, comprehensive, based on questionnaire
- “Technically competent, credible, and free of political manipulation”
- Set up institutions at national and continental level
- Self-assessment, country review mission, peer review
- Develop, fund, implement and report on NPoA
- 40/55 African states, 22+3+3 reviewed *African perspectives. Global insights.*



## APRM NATIONAL STRUCTURES

- **APRM Focal Point (usually a minister – Foreign Affairs in Zimbabwe, Amb Frederick Shava)**
- **National Governing Council**
- **Local APRM Secretariat**
- **Technical Research Institutions**



## **APRM CONTINENTAL STRUCTURES**

- **APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government (President Cyril Ramaphosa, SA)**
- **APRM Panel of Eminent Persons (Ambassador Ombeni Sefue from Tanzania, Panel Vice Chair)**
- **APRM Committee of Focal Points**
- **APRM Secretariat (Dalmar Jama)**
- **Country Review Mission**

## *NEPAD/APRM/Panel3/guidelines/11-2003/Doc8*

*NEPAD/APRM/Panel2/country /10-2003/Doc 7*

behind the national Programme of Action that participating countries are expected to develop and implement.

13. The APRM process is designed to be open and participatory. Through a participatory process, the APRM will engage key stakeholders to facilitate exchange of information and national dialogue on good governance and socio-economic development programmes, thereby increase the transparency of the decision-making processes, and build trust in the pursuit of national development goals.



## APRM: THE BASICS

- Based on 105 page Questionnaire (Revised in 2012), self-assessment needs varied research & consultation methods
- Covers almost every governance theme
- Envisaged as a continuous process, not a one-off
- Supposed to be a country-wide process, not just a government one. Thus, participation of civil society, academia, business, parliament is very important – on NGC, but also making written submissions
- **COPPER**

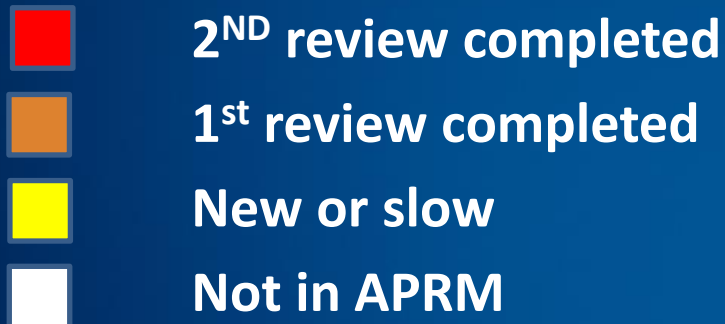




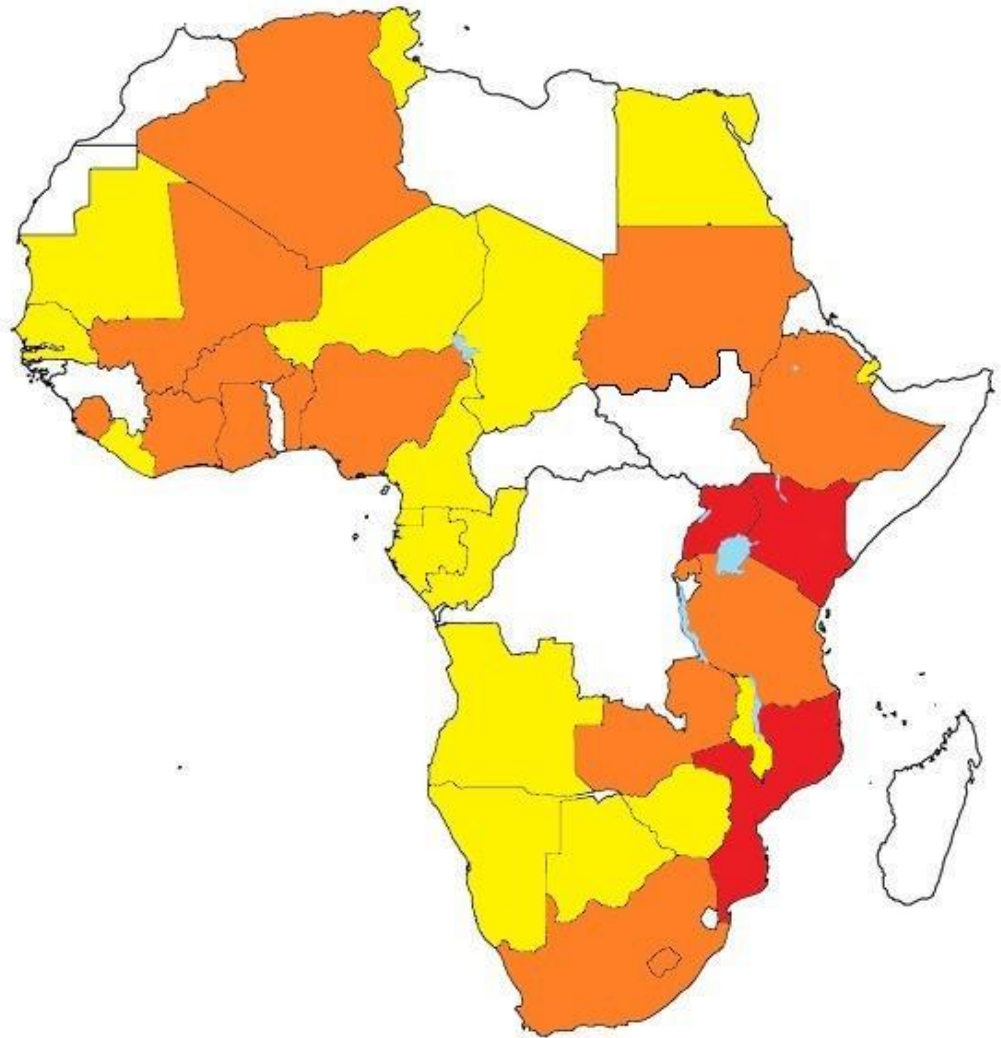
## WHY DOES THE APRM MATTER?

- Setting new norms of openness, frankness, transparency
- Unparalleled in breadth, sensitive subjects covered
- Honest reports assess governance at point in time
- Identifies salient issues and common problems
- Opens political space, normalises debate, criticism
- Early warning system, supports policy reform
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reviews allow comparisons
- Strengthen the brand, convince others to join
- Cross-boundary issues – climate, health, migration

## APRM STATUS



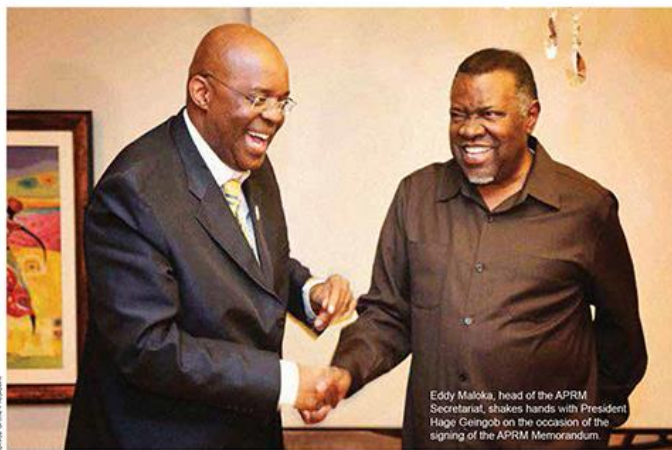
- 40/55 African states
- 22+3 reviewed
- 3 Targeted Reviews
- Universal Accession by 2023



## **APRM IN ZIMBABWE – OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE**

- Joined February 2020 – not much has moved
- Institutions, personnel and plans still new
- Organised civil society can push for inclusive, transparent institutions and process
- Key challenges include poverty, inequality, separation of powers, corruption, state owned enterprises, state capture, environment, extractives, economic and political crises
- Build on SAIIA experience to train & empower civil society– develop submissions in Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, SA, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

## NAMIBIA AND THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM: COMMITTING TO IMPROVED GOVERNANCE



Eddy Maloka, head of the APRM Secretariat, shakes hands with President Hage Geingob on the occasion of the signing of the APRM Memorandum.

### Introduction: Namibia becomes number 36

On Saturday 28 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, President Hage Geingob signed his name on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), committing the Republic of Namibia to Africa's premier governance assessment and promotion process.

In his speech to the APRM Forum of Participating Heads of State and Government, the President said "Namibia is honoured to have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism," remarking that the APRM would "play a pivotal role in enabling Africa to achieve the noble aspirations and developmental goals of Agenda 2063 and its First-Ten Year Implementation Plan."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Statement by HE Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia at the African Peer Review Mechanism Forum of Heads of State and Government, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 28 January 2017, [https://au.int/web/sites/default/files/speeches/31976-sp-aprm\\_acceptance\\_speech\\_by\\_h\\_e.pdf](https://au.int/web/sites/default/files/speeches/31976-sp-aprm_acceptance_speech_by_h_e.pdf), accessed 14 February 2017.

He continued: "Mechanisms such as the APRM provide us with an opportunity to introspectively interrogate our processes, systems and institutions in order to identify shortcomings, while at the same time identifying our strengths. With many of our Governments having adopted a number of policies and ratified countless instruments, it is only through the implementation of the APRM that we will achieve tangible far-reaching results. The voluntary nature of the APRM allows Member States to openly and realistically evaluate and monitor developmental progress in a friendly Peer-Peer atmosphere."<sup>2</sup>

He claimed that although Namibia had long supported the APRM, it had declined to join until now, along with Botswana, "because the two countries were considered worldwide as good examples of democracy in Africa and did not want to be used as points of reference against other African countries."<sup>3</sup>

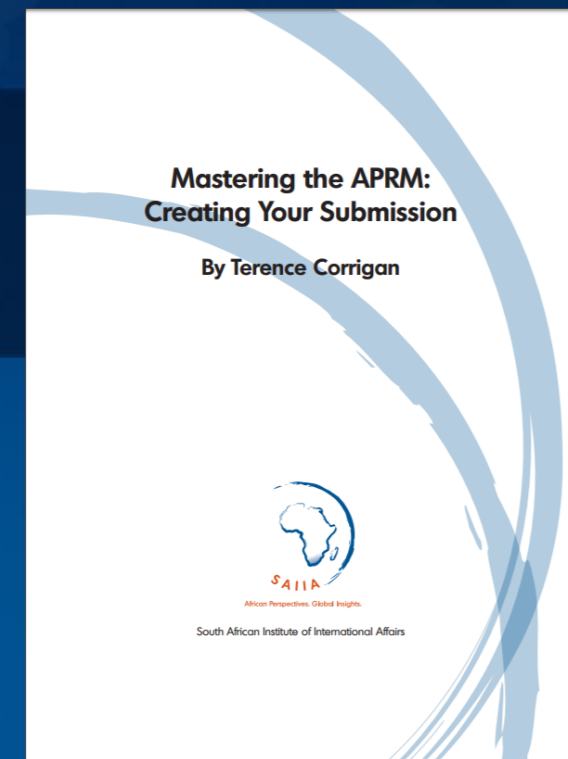
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## ZIMBABWE APRM POPULAR SENSITISATION (ZAPS) PROJECT

- Support for civil society and official process
- Work with SIVIO Institute, APRM Secretariat, govt? Sensitisation workshop with experience setting
- Form an APRM CSO Working Group
- Select & write up 12 key issues
- Help with submission
- Dissemination strategy
- Funder is SIDA

## CREATING A SUBMISSION

- Make yourself heard, raise issues
  - Know the rules, don't wait for govt
1. Identify the issues – don't do all, but link to SAQ
  2. Gather & analyse evidence – yours & govt's words
  3. Develop convincing written arguments, solutions
  4. Circulate draft for consensus and allies
  5. Submit to the right place at the right time



## **ZAPS PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR 2021**

- **Pre-Planning Meeting 29 January**
- **Sensitisation Workshop 26 February**
- **Working Group Meeting to select issues 29 March**
- **Working Group Meeting 29 April**
- **Validation 27 May**
- **Launch 29 June**

**Thank you!**

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**#EngageAPRM on Facebook**