



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

WHAT IS THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

An introduction to the Malawi APRM Popular Sensitisation (MAPS) Project

MEJN OFFICES, LILONGWE



STEVEN GRUZD
7 OCTOBER 2022



African perspectives. Global insights.

OUTLINE

- SAIIA and the APRM
- APRM explained
- **MAPS: APRM in Malawi – an opportunity to influence**
- Way forward



SAIIA AND THE APRM

- Since 1934, independent, non-governmental think tank on international affairs. Turned 88 in 2022
- 5 major programmes: AGDP, EDIP, GARP, Futures, 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, analysis of reports, media
- Developed CSO submissions in Namibia, Botswana, SA, Zimbabwe and Lesotho 2018-22

CALL FOR ACTION

A Review of Critical Issues for the APRM Process in Namibia



MARCH 2021



MAY 2021



THE BIG GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN BOTSWANA

A CIVIL SOCIETY SUBMISSION TO THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

OCTOBER 2021



YOUTH SUBMISSION TO THE APRM IN SOUTH AFRICA 2020/2021



CIVIL SOCIETY SUBMISSION TO THE APRM IN ZIMBABWE 2020/2021



LESOTHO CIVIL SOCIETY Submission to the APRM



hts.

APRM IN A NUTSHELL

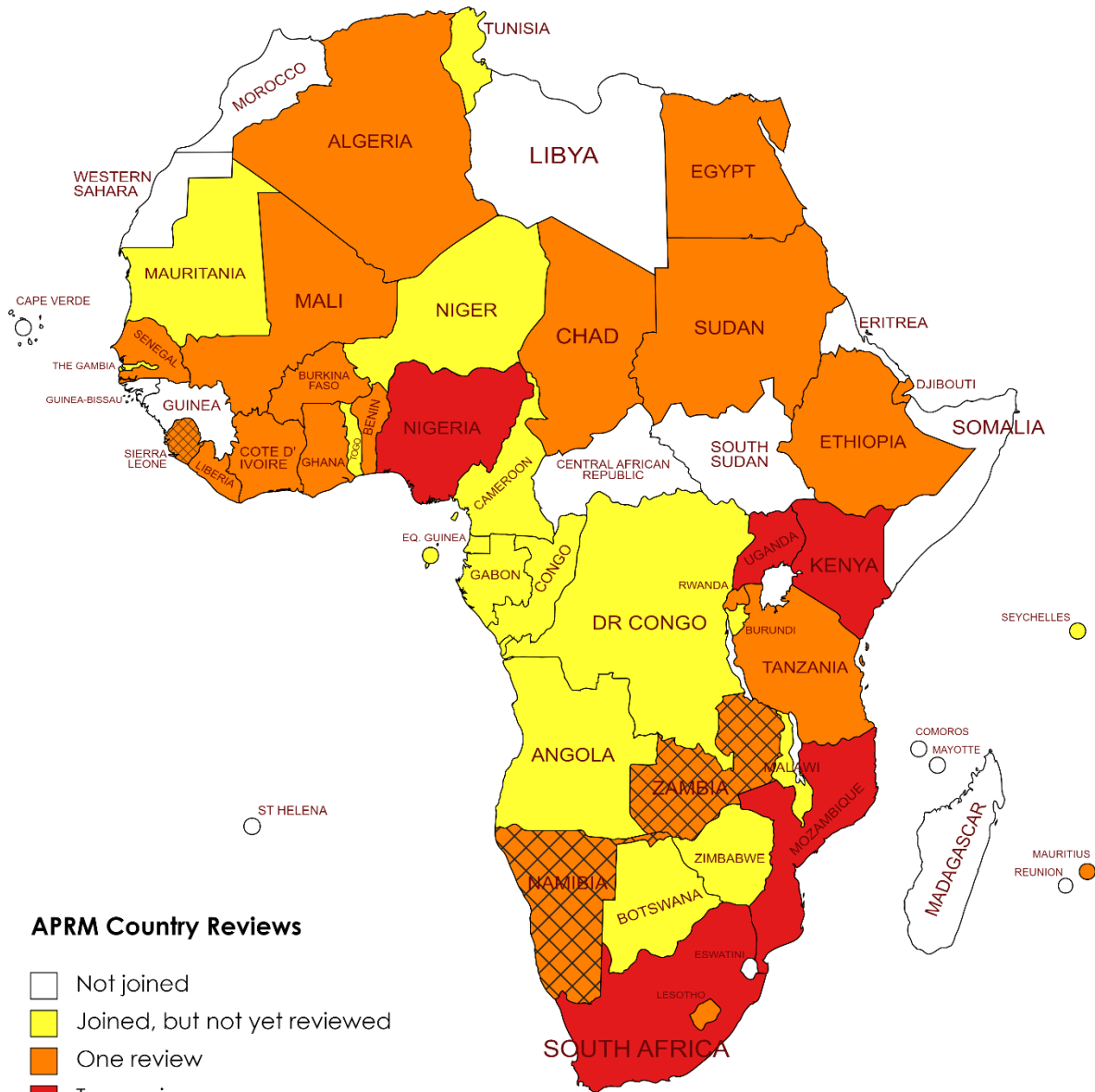


- Africa's voluntary governance review and promotion tool established in 2003, grew out of NEPAD
- Belief that dialogue, peer pressure, diplomacy & civil society involvement can catalyse and support reform
- Measures adherence to African & global standards in 5 thematic areas, comprehensive, based on 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
- 42/55 African states, 25+5+5 reviewed *African perspectives. Global insights.*



APRM: THE BASICS

- Based on 105 page Questionnaire (Revised in 2012), self-assessment needs varied research & consultation methods
- Covers almost every governance theme – choose!
- 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



APRM Country Reviews

- Not joined
- Joined, but not yet reviewed
- One review
- Two reviews
- Completed targeted review

FIRST 25+5+5 REVIEWS



2006: Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya

2007: South Africa, Algeria

2008: Benin, Uganda, Nigeria, Burkina Faso

2009: Mali, Mozambique, Lesotho

2010: Mauritius

2011: Ethiopia

2012: Sierra Leone

2013: Zambia, Tanzania

2017: Chad, Djibouti, Senegal, Kenya II

2018: Sudan, Uganda II

2019: Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique II

2020: Egypt, TRs of Djibouti, Namibia 2021: Liberia, TR of Zambia, Sierra Leone

2022: Namibia, South Africa II, Nigeria II, TR Kenya





CHALLENGES

- “Peers”? Countries with different political outlooks/ levels of development, varying political commitment
- Logistics, support, financing, stamina, M&E
- CSOs: interested but have difficulty making meaningful input
- Media: shown modest interest – process is highly technical
- Time: multi-year process for most countries
- Implementation of NPoAs
- Has it worked? Ibrahim Index - governance has flatlined
Leadership, domestic or external reasons, and funding

APRM IN SADC: GROWING MEMBERSHIP

6 reviewed: South Africa (2007, 2022), Lesotho (2009), Mozambique (2009, 2019), Mauritius (2010), Zambia (2013) & Tanzania (2013), Namibia (2022)

2 very slow: Malawi & Angola (joined 2004)

5 newly joined: Namibia (2017), Botswana (2019), Zimbabwe (2020), Seychelles (2020), DRC (2022)

2 not joined: Madagascar, eSwatini

KEY ISSUES IN SADC CRRS

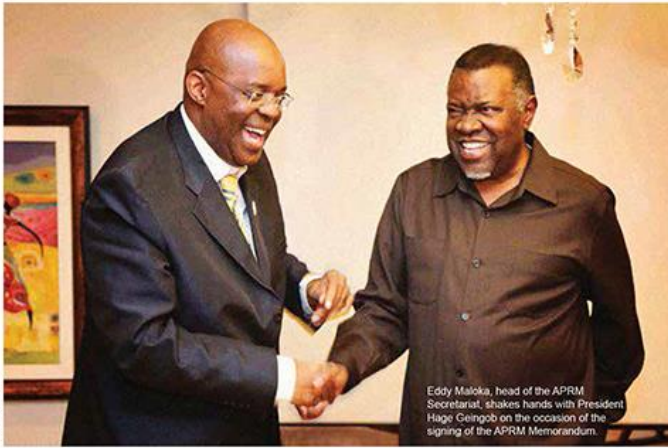
- **Reports predicted xenophobia in SA, tensions in Mozambique, constitutional crisis in Zambia**
- **Managing diversity, electoral systems, separation of powers, corruption, public finance management**
- **Land, poverty, unemployment, education, health**
- **Inclusion of civil society crucial but contested**
- **Good diagnosis, locally rooted, but NPoAs poor**
- **Little evidence of peer pressure**



APRM IN MALAWI – OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE

- Acceded in 2004 – nothing much done since!
- Institutions, personnel and plans can be influenced
- Government commitment waned, but focal point is Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, HON Sosten Alfred Gwengwe MP – rejuvenation?
- Key challenges include poverty, inequality, unemployment, environment, corruption, state capture, SOE management
- Build on SAIIA experience to train & empower civil society and parliamentarians – model used in Namibia, SA, Zambia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Botswana
- Develop a written submission by APRM CSO Working Group

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."¹

¹ 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, 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."²

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."³

² Ibid.

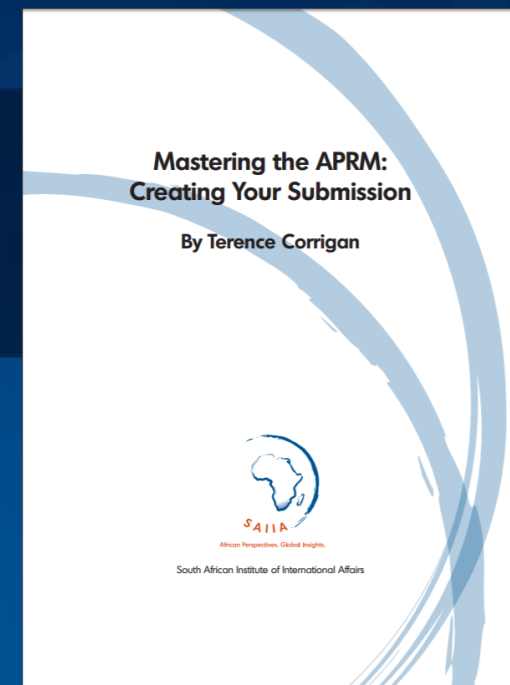
³ Ibid.

MALAWI APRM POPULAR SENSITISATION (MAPS) PROJECT

- Support for civil society and official process
- Work with anchor partner: MEJN, APRM Secretariat, govt?
- Sensitisation workshop with experience sharing
- Form an APRM CSO Working Group
- Select & write up 12 key issues in the MAPS 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 – facts and figures are important
 3. Develop convincing written arguments, solutions
 4. Circulate draft for consensus and allies
 5. Submit to the right place at the right time



BENEFITS FOR MALAWI AND THE REGION

- Comprehensive governance assessment, by Africa
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, remedies
- Opportunity for CSOs to co-create in a positive way
- Share best practices
- Opens civil space, platform to raise pertinent issues
- Attract investment and improve national brand?
- Encourage others to accede
- Strengthen SADC as more countries deal with cross-boundary issues – climate, health, migration

MAPS PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR 2022-23

- **Anchor Partner Selection: September 2022**
- **Pre-Planning Meeting: October 2022**
- **Sensitisation Workshop: November 2022**
- **Working Group Meeting select issues, background paper commissioned: November 2022**
- **Working Group Meetings November to April 2023**
- **Validation: April 2023**
- **Launch: 30 June 2023**

Thank you!

Steven.Gruzd@wits.ac.za

@rhymeswbruised

#EngageAPRM on Facebook