

**THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM:
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT
AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?**
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OUTLINE

- About SAIIA
- APRM brief background – origins and the basics
- APRM mandate, purpose and principles
- APRM map – who is where, and where are we?
- Lessons from the process and challenges
- Where to next?



ABOUT SAIIA

- Established in 1934 and celebrated our 80th birthday in 2014
- Independent, non-governmental think tank on international affairs
- Primary focus on research and stimulating public debate, Africa
- Key areas: governance, foreign policy, development, extractives, sustainable livelihoods, and economic diplomacy
- Voted top think tank in sub-Saharan Africa in the University of Pennsylvania's annual Global Think Tank Survey (2009-2014)
- SAIIA worked on the APRM since inception (2002-2003)
- Publishing, training, media – experience in over 25 countries
- Head office in Johannesburg, also in Cape Town

African perspectives. Global insights.

APRM: A BRIEF BACKGROUND

- Late 1990s - Growing acceptance that governance is important, and implies internal as well as external responsibility. Africa rapidly democratising
- Sep 2000, UN Millennium Declaration - MDGs
- Nov 2000, UNECA Compact for African Recovery, first mentions peer review
- Mar 2001: SA, Nigeria, Senegal, Algeria, Egypt
 - **Merge Millennium Partnership for Africa's Recovery programme (MAP) + OMEGA = New Africa Initiative (NAI), then Nepad**
- July 2001, OAU Lusaka Summit: adopted Nepad (published October 2001)
 - **Guidelines for HSGIC: "Setting up mechanisms for reviewing progress in the achievement of mutually agreed targets and compliance with mutually agreed standards." (paragraph 201, p. 58)**



APRM'S EARLY STEPS

- APRM born from OAU Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic & Corporate Governance (July 2002, Durban), African reform drive
- Emerged from Nepad in March 2003 in Abuja - voluntary, African-owned process aspiring to improve governance & development, identify problems, institute solutions - includes ethical issues
 - Voluntary; establishes Panel and Secretariat, questionnaire
 - 1st 6 (Ghana, Kenya, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Congo, Ethiopia)
- Peer learning, through dialogue, peer pressure, diplomacy & civil society involvement to catalyse reform
- Measures adherence to African & global standards in 4 thematic areas – Democracy & Political Governance, Economic Governance & Management, Corporate Governance, Socio-Economic Development



APRM: THE BASICS

- Based on 105 page Questionnaire (Revised in 2012), self-assessment needs varied research & consultation methods, civil society participation
- Both internal and external review, reports made public, NPoA to address shortcomings
- 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 is very important

Mandate of the APRM

The mandate of the African Peer Review Mechanism is to ensure that the policies and practices of participating states conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance. The APRM is the mutually agreed instrument for self-monitoring by the participating member governments.

Purpose of the APRM

2. The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building.

Principles of the APRM

3. Every review exercise carried out under the authority of the Mechanism must be technically competent, credible and free of political manipulation. These stipulations together constitute the core guiding principles of the Mechanism.

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 Status in 36 Member States

CRR not published

Djibouti (2007, CRM 2015)
Chad (2013, CRM 2017)
Senegal (2004, CRM 2017)
Kenya 2 (CRM2 2017)

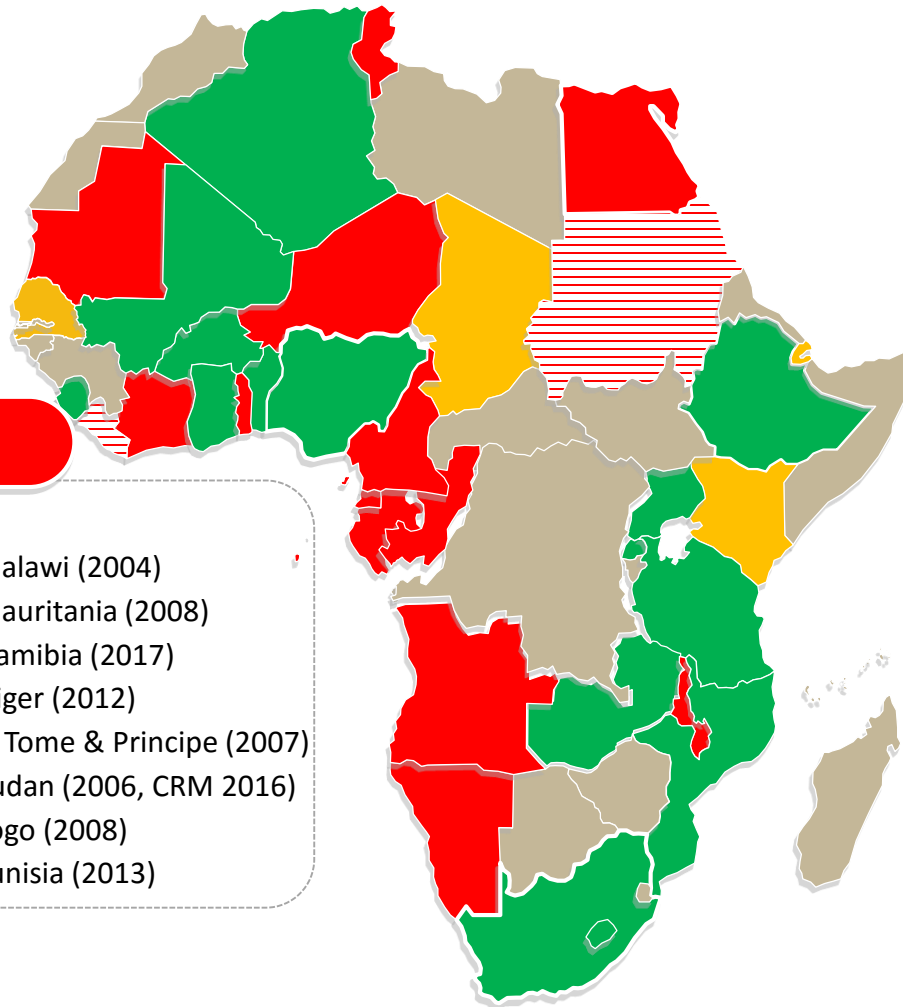
New or slow

Angola (2004)
Cameroon (2004)
Congo-B (2003)
Cote d'Ivoire (2015)
Egypt (2004)
Equatorial Guinea (2014)
Gabon (2003)
Liberia (2011, CRM 2017)

Malawi (2004)
Mauritania (2008)
Namibia (2017)
Niger (2012)
S. Tome & Principe (2007)
Sudan (2006, CRM 2016)
Togo (2008)
Tunisia (2013)

1st CRR published

Ghana (2005)
Rwanda (2005)
Kenya (2006)
Algeria (2007)
South Africa (2007)
Burkina Faso (2008)
Benin (2008)
Nigeria (2009)
Uganda (2009)
Mali (2009)
Mozambique (2009)
Lesotho (2010)
Mauritius (2010)
Ethiopia (2011)
Sierra Leone (2012)
Zambia (2013)
Tanzania (2013)





FIRST 21 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 and Kenya (second review)



THEMATIC AREA 2: ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

- Design and implement economic policies for sustainable development
- Facilitate the participation of key stakeholders in policy and programme discussion and implementation
- Promote sound public finance management
- Fight corruption and money laundering
- Accelerate and deepen regional integration in the monetary, trade and investment domain
- Develop and implement trade and investment policies that promote economic growth



THEMATIC AREA 3: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- Promoting an Enabling Environment and Effective Regulatory Framework for Business organisations and other entities
- Ensuring Effective Leadership & Accountability of Organisations
- Ensuring Ethical Conduct Within Organisations
- Ensuring that Organisations Treat Stakeholders Fairly and Equitably
- Ensuring that Organisations Act as Good Corporate Citizens



WHY DOES THE APRM MATTER?

- Setting new norms of openness, frankness, transparency
- Unparalleled in breadth, sensitive subjects covered
- Honest reports assess governance in the country
- Identifies salient issues and common problems
- Opens political space, public involvement in policy, can normalise debate, criticism
- CSO involvement can catalyse reform
- Between non-interference & non-indifference
- Early warning system, supports policy reform



CHALLENGES

- “Peers”? Countries with different political outlooks/ levels of development
- Logistics, support, financing, stamina, implementation, M&E
- CSOs: interested but difficulty making 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, political commitment and funding



LOOKING AHEAD

- Second reviews Uganda + Nigeria?
- Gambia & Guinea to accede to make 38?
- Expanded mandate from AU – Agenda2063 + SDGs
- Kagame reforms of AU – what impact?
- M&E system being totally overhauled
- Funding will remain critical - \$200,000
- Business still largely missing in action
- Must clearly articulate achievements, added value

THANK YOU

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www.saiia.org.za

www.aprmtoolkit.saiia.org.za