

**SPEECH OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, HON. BERNARD
MEMBE (MP), AT THE CLOSING OF TRAINING
WORKSHOP ON "ENHANCING THE ROLE AND EFFECTIVE
PARTICIPATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
IN THE APRM PROCESS"**

**OCEANIC BAY HOTEL, BAGAMOYO ■
14TH NOVEMBER 2008**

**The Chairman of the National Governing Council (NGC) of APRM
Tanzania, and Chairperson of this session, Prof. Hasa Mlawa,
Honourable Fred Jachan Omach, Minister of State for Finance
Planning of the Republic of Uganda,
United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-
Taranco,
Representative of the UNECA Executive Secretary,
Representative of the President of the Pan African Parliament (PAP),
Honourable Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Gratitude

I wish to reiterate our support for and appreciation of this important training workshop you have just had in this historic town of Bagamoyo. It is a highly appreciated event among us because it addresses critical matters of our time simultaneously, namely APRM and good governance. These are the beacons of our political behavior, and of the management of development in our era.

I will structure my closing remarks around three issues. These are government commitment to APRM, the usefulness of APRM, and some of the outcomes of this workshop.

Commitment

Distinguished Participants,

Leaders of African countries in the APRM are committed to good governance and to the whole process of review in the Mechanism. Occasionally, one or two countries may take a step backwards and commit a gross breach of good governance standards or fail to protect the integrity of the review process, but overall there is every reason to be optimistic that committed countries will continue to nurture APRM and march towards good governance,

Although Heads of State and Governance have busy schedules, I have seen many participate in peer reviews. For example in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in June 2008, not less than 14 of them were at the peer review of Uganda. Both the Focal Point ministers and some of the Heads of states and Government regularly receive briefings from their national governing councils. The Leaders themselves provide briefings to their peers on their countries' progress. For example in the Forum in Accra, Ghana in June 2007, President Bani Yayi of Benin gave a clear summary of his country's progress and virtually served notice of readiness to be peer-reviewed, which was done in the next Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2008.

Similarly, in January, 2008 in Addis Ababa, President Kufuour of Ghana presented a detailed report of his country's implementation of the National Plan of Action.

The fact that Presidents are taking their obligations to provide periodic reports seriously after completing the assessment process shows both their commitment and their desire to make APRM sustainable.

In most of the APRM countries, governments are devoting financial resources to APRM so that the processes of assessment can go on. These processes are taking place in nearly every APRM country, and because of it, soon four or five countries will complete their reviews and join the current family of 9 pioneer APRM countries. I believe that Tanzania will be in this next group to be reviewed next year.

The Value of APRM

Distinguished Participants,

States in the APRM have not accepted peer review just to belong to the APRM club. There IS real value for our people in APRM.

- a. APRM represents a collection of the past and present desire for good governance and other good practices
- b. The comprehensives of its assessment make it possible to examine ourselves fully, and not partially, in the mirror.
- c. Its participatory approach and involvement of the wider public plants seeds of sustainable public scrutiny of government and a permanent culture of good governance.

The various reports of APRM have been conducted so well that they have diagnosed problems and predicted the events that would occur if those problems were solved or ignored. Many of us have now learned that the peer review in Kenya, for example, pointed to unfair land distribution and certain injustices as sources of serious conflicts waiting for an event to burst out. The peer review of South Africa identified the problem of managing diversity and xenophobia a year before killings based on xenophobia erupted in that country.

These and other examples of accurate identifications of key issues in country reports have not only endeared us to APRM assessment, but they have also prompted Heads of States and Government to address special issues in summit workshops, which is an emerging innovation in APRM. One such summit workshop took place in Cotonou, Benin in October 2008 to discuss diversity and xenophobia, the management of land, the conduct of elections, and corruption.

Deliberations in the Bagamoyo Workshop

Distinguished Participants,

I have followed some of the deliberations of this APRM workshop for effective parliamentary participation. I commend you for the lively debates and their significant outcomes.

I have been told of the realization in this workshop that in many APRM countries the parliamentarians have not been adequately involved, and that even where they are involved they have not had the necessary tools to play an effective role. Some of those tools are knowledge and training. I believe that the more the stakeholders get training in APRM

and in good governance the better. It is even more welcome if more training is given to such an important stakeholder as the Parliament. Obviously the central government can do its part to facilitate such training. But this is primarily the job of national APRM structures and the partner institutions, such as UNECA and UNDP. So I would like to encourage those institutions to take up the challenge of providing further training on APRM to parliamentarians in our country and elsewhere.

Mr. Chairman,

I have also learned that parliamentarians in this workshop offered truly practical ways of getting them to engage more effectively in the APRM process. These have included:

- (a) Sustaining parliamentary interest in APRM by constantly informing them of progress after initial sensitization;
- (b) Forming a special APRM parliamentary committee to make APRM a regular subject of discussion in Parliament;
- (c) Making an effort to ensue the presence of parliamentarians of the constituency in which an APRM event is taking place

These proposals seem useful and likely to increase parliamentary participants. The national councils and secretariats of APRM should be able to process these to success, with the help of parliamentarians.

Conclusion

Distinguished Participants

We have enjoyed learning about your deliberations here in Bagamoyo. We are grateful to you for rekindling our interest and contributing to our re-dedication to good governance through the workshop discussions. I wish you well and hope to meet you in a similar event for the sustenance of APRM and parliamentary participation. Travel well. Karibu tena.

I declare this workshop now officially closed.

