



**African Peer Review  
Mechanism**

**REMARKS BY MAITRE DOMITILLA MUKANTAGANZWA VICE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE APR PANEL TO THE EXPERTS GROUP  
MEETING ON HARMONIZING APRM-NPOAS AND OTHER  
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS INTO A COMMON MEDIUM  
TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (MTEF) KAMPALA  
UGANDA 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2010**

His Excellency, Hon Ephraim Kamuntu, Minister of State for Planning and Economic Development and the National APRM Focal Point for Uganda,

Honourable representatives of our host the Government of Uganda,

Delegates from APRM member countries,

Our esteemed strategic partners,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, I wish to welcome you all to this meeting on harmonizing APRM National Programmes of Action and other National Development Plans into a Common Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). I also wish to extend the appreciation of the APR Panel to our strategic partners – The African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for initiating this important event, which is crucial to the implementation of the APRM National Programmes of Action (NPOA).

As you have noted from the background documents circulated for this meeting, this is a critical juncture for the APRM wherein thirteen countries have been peer reviewed and are now implementing their National Plans of Action. Real progress and the impact of the APRM can only be realized if the NPOAS arising from the review process are implemented.

This makes the NPOA central to the success of the APRM. Special attention should therefore be paid to how the NPOA is prepared if it is to be implemented effectively. A good NPOA must show clearly the activities to be undertaken, the actors, resources, time-frame and how its implementation is to be monitored. I am therefore pleased to note that this meeting will focus on some of these matters.

The APR Forum itself has taken note of the importance of effective implementation of the NPOA and has dedicated several of its sessions to deliberations on the progress in implementing NPOAs in countries that have undergone the review process. What these deliberations have shown is that there is demonstrable commitment by all countries to implement the NPOAs. What is also clear is that these countries are facing several formidable challenges. These include - how to properly cost the NPOA and ensure that it is not a wish list of unrealistic expectations, and how to put in place the appropriate national structures to monitor the NPOA.

As you all know, the APRM NPOAs are not designed to be a substitute to ongoing national initiatives and development plans. The Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) is one of the latest reforms to public expenditure management in developing countries, having been introduced in different forms by a number of governments. Although they differ between countries, broadly defined, the MTEF approach allows for the linking of policy, planning and budgeting over a medium term (3 or 5 years) at government wide level. The APR Panel therefore welcomes this meeting's brainstorming on how to link the APRM NPOA as one of the policy planning tools to the MTEF. Experience has shown that this is an area in

which countries are having difficulty. It is also the case that some countries have done this very well and provide experience for their peers to learn from.

I am convinced that the outcome of this meeting will be relevant to other reform initiatives currently underway at the level of the APRM. The APRM is at this stage embarked on a project to revise its tools and processes based on lessons learnt. This project touches on aspects related to the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the NPOA. I am therefore certain that the outcome of this meeting will be also informative for this work.

I extend to you the support of the Panel for this initiative and wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you for your kind attention.