

Statement by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tanzania
Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco
Workshop
**“Enhancing the Role and Effective participation of
Parliamentarians in the APRM process.”**

Hotel Oceanic Bay, Tanzania

12-14 November 2009

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Mr.
Bernard Membe,

Honorable Clerk of the Pan African Parliament; Mr. Murumba Werunga

Honorable Members of Parliament,

Dear UNECA colleagues,

Dear members of the APRM Secretariat

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you to Tanzania, for this very important training workshop to enhance the role and effective participation of Parliamentarians in the APRM process.

It is widely acknowledged that in order to ensure sustainable human development, actions must be taken to improve governance and promote democracy. National Development Strategies and the Millennium Development Goals cannot be realized in the absence of effective Democratic Governance. However desirable, the full attainment of good and democratic governance remains elusive for many African Nations. There is therefore a great need for African Nations to take stock

of: their current status in governance and chart a way forward. The assessment of the extent to which a country adheres to good governance principles and the strength of the legal and institutional framework for maintenance and promotion are therefore paramount. The African Peer Review Mechanism provides the means to do just that and also serves as a mechanism that promotes the adoption of policies, standards and practices, which foster political stability, high economic growth, and sustainable development. In addition to the above the African Peer Review Mechanism, through the implementation of its diverse activities contributes greatly to sub-regional and continental economic integration through increased South South Cooperation and the sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice.

Hon. Ladies and Gentlemen

Tanzania, I believe is a fitting host for this very important continental workshop, as she is at the helm of the African Union, the Pan African Parliament, and a respected leader in regional matters of governance and democratic development. Indeed the country has been a beacon and regional example for Peace and Unity since independence and is also making significant progress in advancing good and democratic governance. The completion of the APRM process in Tanzania will certainly enhance the country ability to truly assess progress and chart a systematic way forward in term of improving the national governance environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The APRM espouses National Ownership through broad stakeholder participation as an essential element of the process at all levels. The involvement of all key stakeholders like

Civil Society Organisations, Faith based organisations; private sector, Parliament, and

Minority groups are paramount to the success of the self-assessment. This inclusive nature of the process ensures success in adoption of the Plan of Action as an integral part of the National Development Mechanism.

The role of Parliament in promoting Good and Democratic Governance is indisputable, as the third pillar of government the legislature plays a key role in developing the legal framework for leadership and management of development at the national level. In the case of the APRM process, the role of the national parliament is critical. To illustrate this it is important to highlight that in some countries parliamentarians form part of the governing body of the APRM, and in others the parliament has instituted a parallel self-assessment process to complement the APRM itself. Despite the varying applications of parliamentary participation it is critical for you, members of African Parliaments to have a clear understanding of the importance of the mechanism for national development so that you can educate your constituencies to ensure national participation in the assessment. This workshop is clearly designed to provide the necessary tools to accomplish this important work of oversight and support for the successful implementation of the APRM process.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The UN is committed to supporting the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and the APRM process. UNDP and UNECA were

designated by the APR heads of States as strategic partners in the APRM in conjunction with the African Development Bank and the African Union. Both agencies have provided considerable support to your National APRM processes and continue to be a resource by providing opportunities like this conference in which a key group of stakeholders like yourselves can spend time learning from each other and exchanging ideas to enhance the implementation of the APRM in your countries. The 6th Annual UNDP Africa Governance Forum held in Rwanda in 2004 was one such occasion. This Conference provided a platform for APRM countries to critically assess the process and provide recommendations for its improvements. One of the key recommendations from this forum was that the implementation of the APRM should be managed in a transparent, inclusive and democratic manner for it to remain credible and inspire the confidence of the people it is intended to serve. Furthermore, Mutual learning through advocacy and awareness building are central to the successful implementation of APRM.

Distinguished Members of Parliament:

This rare opportunity presented by your National Leaders to contribute positively to the enhancement of Good Governance on the Continent must not be lost. We hope that the coming two days will reinvigorate your support and participation in your National APRM process by providing you with tools you need to effectively contribute to the review. We also hope that through the Pan African Parliament your efforts and experiences can be continuously updated and shared for mutual benefit and learning for the greater good of improved service delivery and ensure development in your respective countries.

I therefore wish you all a successful three days of deliberations.

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