



**Training Workshop on
“Enhancing the Role and Effective Participation of
Parliamentarians in the APRM Process”**

Hotel Oceanic Bay, Tanzania, 12-14, 2008

Opening statement

By

Abdoulie Janneh

**UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive
Secretary,
Economic Commission for Africa
Addis Ababa, 2007**

The Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Focal Points of the APRM

The Honorable Chairperson of the APRM National Governing Council, Prof. Hassa Mlawa

Honorable Members of the Pan-African Parliament here present

Honorable Members of Parliament of the Tanzanian National Parliament

The UNDP Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Tanzania, Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Terraco

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to deliver this opening statement on behalf of Mr. Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of ECA, who because of prior unavoidable commitments, could not be here with you to participate in this very important workshop.

“Allow me, Chairperson to welcome you to this historical coastal city of Bagamoyo, the United Republic of Tanzania, and to express my delight and appreciation for ECA’s collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament and the UNDP/Tanzania in organizing this important workshop focusing on sensitizing African Parliamentarians on their role APRM process in Africa.

I would first like to express ECA’s gratitude to the UNDP in general and particularly UNDP Tanzania for the continued partnership with us in support to the APRM. Let me also take this opportunity to salute the PAP, which has shown keen interest in organizing this event and has demonstrated its commitment through the support for this workshop. ECA as strategic partner to

the APRM at the continental level greatly values such collaboration and partnerships and we look forward to organizing more such events in the years to come.

Pan-African Parliament: Role in African Governance

Distinguished participants,

As you would recall, the Protocol to the Abuja Treaty of establishing the African Economic Community, signed in 2001, called for the establishment of the Pan-African Parliament. Subsequently, the PAP was inaugurated in 2004 as an organ of the African Union. The vision behind the establishment of the PAP is to provide a common platform for African Peoples and grassroots organizations to participate in the discussion and decision-making process regarding issues facing the continent. Among the major objectives and role is to facilitate the process of regional and continental integration including the promotion of peace and security, human rights, democracy, good governance and accountability on the continent.

Seen in this context, there was a great a deal of hope and expectations placed on the role of the PAP in African governance system. Indeed, the African Peer Review Mechanism, which is Africa's innovative approach to building and institutionalizing the process of good governance on the continent, places a singular responsibility on the PAP, together with the ECOSSOC and the ACHPR, as the continental institutions that provide the link between national and continental oversight bodies primarily responsible for peace, security, democracy, human rights and good governance. The primary intention behind assigning such responsibilities is to install a system of accountability whereby people-driven African Union and its institutions would support,

encourage and sustain good governance, transparency and accountability in member states.

APRM can be challenging but also rewarding

Distinguished participants,

There is no gain in saying that implementing the APRM is a daunting challenge. As a unique African initiative, it entails complex and lengthy processes; it involves all governance institutions including government agencies, civil society, private sector, trade unions, academia, the press, and all other relevant stakeholders. It exposes government Africa's governance institutions and their management to public scrutiny by citizens and other actors. It examines sensitive policy on political, economic and social issues with the aim of finding solutions to meet citizens' aspirations and their human development needs.

And yet, in spite these challenges, the APRM has tremendous rewards and potential to improve the quality of governance and create the environment for peace, security and stability conducive to the promotion of sustainable development. It can contribute to finding solutions to problems that have been marginalized or neglected for a long time. It can also provide legitimacy and political capital for leaders to tackle pressing governance problems at home that need addressing but considered too sensitive to raise in the national context e.g. corruption.

Above all, the APRM can deepen trust and reinforce citizens' confidence in the effectiveness and fairness of their governance system. These rewards will strengthen **democratic institutions and thereby boost the image of the nation and the continent at large and attract investors for development.**

ECA's Contributions to the APRM Process

Distinguished participants,

From the very inception, at the First APRM Heads of States Summit held in Kigali in 2002, three Pan-African institutions were selected to serve as the strategic partners of the APRM. The ADB, UNDP-Africa Bureau and UNECA -- were requested to provide strategic and technical support for the implementation of the APRM at both the continental and national levels. It is in this context that ECA, as a strategic partner to the APRM, has collaborated with civil society, African governments and Pan-African institutions, and United Nations organizations and bilateral donors, to provide a highly interactive fora for discussion and exchange of lessons learned and best practices on the technical, organizational, methodological, research, communication, planning and monitoring challenges, as well as best practices associated with the implementation of the APRM.

Permit me to elaborate, at this juncture, on some of the areas in which the ECA is making a significant contribution towards the successful implementation of the APRM process.

ECA has and will continue to contribute to the preparation of background Reports, Country Self-Assessment Reports, and the formulation of the Country Programs of Action. Indeed, the Commission took part in the Country Review Mission that led to the preparation of APM Country Review Reports for Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa, Uganda, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Benin that were presented to the APRM Panel and the Heads of State Forum over the years.

In addition, the UNECA has participated in Country Support Missions to Tanzania, Mozambique, Lesotho and Mali who are among the next batch of countries preparing for the APRM review.

Since the inception of APRM, ECA has established an information database on participating countries to support the country review process. The database draws on our work in governance, economic performance, poverty assessments, trade competitiveness, gender, and other MDG-related indicators. In the same vein, ECA has constructed an African Governance Experts database, which will assist the continental APRM Secretariat in identifying competent independent African experts in all areas of governance for the Country Review Missions.

ECA will continue to remain actively involved in the peer review process and is committed to ensuring its success. To respond systematically to the growing demand of technical support, we have established, since August 2006, a special APRM Support Unit within UNECA dedicated to supporting the implementation of the APRM process. In this new framework, ECA has put in place a three-year strategic business plan to engage the APRM process at national and continental levels.

Conclusion: Expectations from this Workshop

Chairperson, Distinguished participants,

In conclusion, let me just say that this workshop marks a milestone in the enhanced partnership among the strategic partners, civil society organizations and the Pan-African Parliament in our collective efforts to scale-up strategic

support to APRM participating countries in order to accelerate the implementation of the APRM on the continent.

A unique feature of the APRM is that it requires the effective participation of all stakeholders at the national, regional and, indeed, the continental levels. Without each playing its role, the mechanism risks being abandoned or would become ineffective.

It also provides opportunities for African countries to learn from each other, avoid costly mistakes and reap the benefits of the process and its outcomes.

It is my fervent hope and belief that this workshop will greatly enhance the information, knowledge and skills of national and continental Parliamentarians who play such a critical role in the implementation of the APRM process.

I thank you for your kind attention.