



# ASSAFE

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## FINAL REPORT

### TRAINING WORKSHOP

"Lessons Learned from the Participation of West African Civil Society Organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism"



*Photo of participants*

Centre International de Conférence de Bamako  
Mali, 28-30 July 2008

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## **Introduction**

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a truly African instrument, to which countries voluntarily accede. Given the consultative and participatory nature of the process, the APRM offers the people of participating countries the opportunity to voice their opinion on the status of governance in their own country. This is why civil society (CS) constitutes one of the essential components of the APRM national governing councils.

The workshop, held at the International Conference Centre in Bamako, Mali, from 28-30 July 2008 on the theme “Lessons Learned from the Participation of West African Civil Society Organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism”, stems from the desire of civil society in the ECOWAS region to collaborate and work together on the APRM.

The workshop was organised by the Association du Sahel d’Aide à la Femme et à l’Enfance (ASSAFE) and attracted the participation of a variety of people including:

- Leaders from civil society organisations in 16 West African countries
- CSO representatives from Mali’s eight regions and the district of Bamako
- Members of the Mali National Governing Council
- Representatives from international institutions and organisations (PAC, ECA, AfriMAP, UNDP, OSISA, UEMOA)
- Representatives from the Ministère des Maliens de l’Extérieur et de l’Intégration africaine, Mali’s APRM focal point.

The workshop comprised thematic presentations, case studies and examples of concrete experiences on the APRM.

In addition, the Bamako workshop brought together CSOs from non-member countries and urged them to call on their governments to work towards joining the APRM.

The meeting and sharing of lessons learned gave civil society participants the opportunity to raise concerns, learn from the experiences and discuss strategies for becoming involved in implementing the APRM.

CSO representatives exchanged views which led to understanding between actors involved in the APRM in West Africa around the idea of establishing a network to better coordinate advocacy work.

The workshop allowed participants to expand their knowledge of all phases of the APRM and improve their abilities in this regard through:

- sharing their experiences and hearing of practical examples of success stories in the first countries to accede to the APRM, including Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso.
- gaining access to appropriate tools in order to facilitate civil society advocacy directed at their respective governments in order to initiate the review and national consultation process.
- meaningful dialogue and ongoing discussions among organisations in West Africa.

We are convinced that the workshop outcomes mean that civil society representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are now better equipped and more

committed to being active participants in the APRM process and to working alongside government agencies on the national governing councils.



*A view of the plenary*

### **Workshop Activities**

The workshop on “Lessons learned from the participation of civil society organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)” began on Monday, 28 July 2008, at the Bamako International Conference Centre.

**The first day** started with the opening ceremonies, presided over by Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l’Extérieur et de l’Intégration Africaine. Highlights included speeches by four dignitaries: the President of ASSAFE, a representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Boordinator of the African office of Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) and the Ministre des Maliens de l’Extérieur et de l’Intégration Africaine - the focal point of the APRM in Mali.

The first to take the podium was the President of ASSAFE, Mr. Sékou Traoré. He thanked participants for their involvement and acknowledged the partners that had contributed to the workshop, namely the Commission nationale de la gouvernance du MAEP Mali, the Economic Commission for Africa, Partnership Africa Canada, AfriMAP and the United Nations Development Program. He gave a recap of the context in which the workshop was taking place and the priorities of civil society.

Next was Mr. Kojo Busia, representative of the ECA. He thanked the event organizers and stressed the importance of the theme of the workshop. He emphasized the significant efforts put forth by the ECA to provide technical support for governments and civil society. He indicated

that he felt that, despite the slow pace of progress, the APRM is cultivating and promoting a culture of political dialogue in Africa.

Ms. Engudai Bekele, the Coordinator of the Africa office of Partnership Africa Canada, applauded the organisation of the workshop and urged participants to share their experience in order to further strengthen stakeholders' skills. She spoke about the efforts made by PAC with respect to the APRM and thanked the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for their financial support.

As for the *Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine*, the focal point of the APRM in Mali, he praised the event organisers and voiced his gratitude for the opportunity to have the civil society organisations of the subregion meet in Bamako. He spoke about the initiatives undertaken by Mali to implement the APRM and reiterated that the authorities are firmly committed to good governance. He confirmed that the State has pledged to work toward the implementation of the APRM and involve the population in the process. The Minister then formally declared the workshop open, following which participants were invited to take a short break.



**From left to right: El Hadji Boua Sissoko (MMEIA), Sékou Traoré (President of ASSAFE), Badra Alou Macalou (Ministre MEIA), Ousmane Diallo (President of the CNG/MAEP du Mali) and Bill Cattaria (Resident Representative UNDP - Mali).**

### **Session 1: “Workshop context, goals and programme”**

Moderated by Mr. Ousmane Déme, the first session was held after the break. Mr. Sékou Traoré, president of ASSAFE, started with some background information on the workshop as well as its goals and the programme. He traced the history of similar events held since 2006 and described the context in which the workshop was taking place. He then went over the objectives of the workshop: share experiences, acquire the appropriate advocacy tools and initiate dialogue and ongoing discussions among West African civil society organisations. Finally, he informed

participants that minor changes had been made in the three-day programme and submitted an amended version for their approval.

**Session 2: “The APRM and the challenges of good governance in Africa”**

Moderated by Mr. Amoudu of the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) - Nigeria, the second session featured Mr. Kojo Busia of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), who addressed the challenges of the APRM and the role of the ECA. He underscored the need to understand the APRM and the opportunities it holds with respect to good governance in Africa. The subsequent debate focused on the challenges of the mechanism, the progress achieved in this regard and the importance of specific research to assess the impacts of the APRM in participating countries. Mr. Busia strongly emphasized the importance of national programmes of action (NPAs). He invited CSOs to become more involved in monitoring and evaluating NPAs.

**Session 3: “Presentation of national experiences: Benin and Burkina Faso - AfriMAP case studies”**

The session was moderated by Mr. Ozias Tungwarara of AfriMAP. Presentations dealt with the architecture of the institutional framework of national governing councils (NGCs), their operation, their limitations and the measures designed to ensure the ongoing improvement of self-assessment and review activities.

Consultants Gilles Badet (Benin) and Julien Natielsé (Burkina Faso) delivered presentations on the APRM process in their respective countries.

The presentation on the experience in Benin highlighted the political will of the Head of State to conduct the exercise with rigour, the quality of the human resources behind the national governing council and the extensive involvement of civil society. Mr. Badet expressed concern about the difficulties in collecting certain kinds of information related to the APRM. He stated that, from his perspective, the spirit of the APRM should foster greater transparency in terms of access to documentation.



To the right: Gilles Badet, presenting Benin's experience.  
In the centre: Bronwen Manby, AfriMAP, Moderator.

As for the Burkina Faso experience, the emphasis was on how much control the government had over the APRM process, although civil society played a key role as well. Participants nevertheless indicated their dissatisfaction with the fact that the NGC is led by the Directeur du Cabinet of the President of the Republic. Comparing the two experiences, several participants came to the conclusion that the experience in Benin was more transparent and more consistent with the principles of the APRM. The debates also touched on the way in which self-assessments are conducted.

#### **Session 4: “PAC/AfriMAP study on Mali”**

Moderated by Mr. Ousmane Déme, this session saw the presentation of the first draft of the report on the APRM in Mali, along with the reactions of the members of the reading committee. The presentation was made by Professor Bani Touré and Ms. Aissé Diarra. They informed participants of the objectives of the study, the methodology used and the way in which the APRM has been implemented in Mali so that the initial analyses could be conducted. Consultants emphasized the difficulty in objectively evaluating the role of civil society in the APRM because of the unclear meanings of several key words (participation, commitment, involvement, membership, etc.). They felt that these concepts needed to be clarified before things could move forward.

The consultants from Burkina Faso and Benin, who were members of the reading committee, discussed the challenges of the research missions in their respective countries. They focused on the issue of censorship, which makes APRM-related research difficult.

In general, the debates revolved around research methodology, NGC and RGC membership, the recognition of traditional governance and the language used by the consultants in the wording of the report.

The other reading committee members invited the consultants to rewrite certain parts of the document so that non-Malian readers could better understand characteristics specific to the Malian experience. They were asked to add some technical information in the references, footnotes and so forth. The members of the reading committee congratulated the consultants on the quality of the first draft, considering the short amount of time in which it was produced. The head of the National Governing Council (of Mali) made a few clarifications on the presentation and also thanked the consultants for their work. The day wrapped up at 5:40 p.m.

**Day two** of the workshop began with the reading of the Report on the first day, followed by a summary presentation of the evaluation of the previous day.

A major change made to the agenda was the addition of presentations on the experiences of the following countries: Senegal, Guinea, Niger, Mauritania, Gambia, Liberia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Togo and Sierra Leone. These replaced the session on the role of the private sector in the self-assessment process in Mali.

#### **Sessions 5 and 6: “Presentation of national experiences: Mali”**

The session was moderated by Ms. Maria Lougue of Burkina Faso and Bourema Allaye Touré of Mali. The presentation by Mr. Ousmane Diallo, president of the Mali NGC/APRM, dealt chiefly with the implementation of the APRM in Mali, the National Governing Council (composition, mission, etc.) and the situation of the review process. The president spoke about the actions taken in terms of information and awareness on a regional level, the organisation of training

sessions, data collection, the way in which the exercise was conducted and the approach to organising the validation of the national self-assessment report.

The second presentation was delivered by Mr. Sékou Traoré of ASSAFE on the role of civil society in the APRM process in Mali. He focused on the definition and the role of civil society in the implementation of the APRM in Mali and stressed the important role played by ASSAFE in this dynamic. He also explored the failures and difficulties facing civil society in the process. Several proposals were made regarding the improvement of civil society activities to encourage effective and efficient involvement in the APRM.

Mr. Amadou Malick Gueye, president of the Regional Commission of the APRM in Koulikoro, then spoke about the actions of civil society at the regional level, particularly in the Koulikoro area. He spoke of the various meetings that had been organized as well as the RGC missions. In terms of helping gather data, the RGC has played a part in facilitating the process. He expanded on the lessons that were learned as a result and indicated the strengths and weaknesses of the RGC's involvement. He also provided information on the RGC's action plan for the upcoming year.

The discussion focused on the importance of documenting best practices and the participatory nature and culture of political dialogue within the country, so that other African countries could learn from the Malian experience.



**In the foreground: Bernard Taylor, Executive Director of PAC  
and Mme Adam Diaou, Secretary General of ASSAFE**

Participants went over the various forms of participation by the media and key stakeholders (traditional chiefs, cultural representatives) in the process as well as the nature of awareness-raising with ordinary people. Some concerns were expressed about data collection, difficulties facing the Regional Commission and the nature of the participation of civil society in the process. Participants congratulated Mali for its efforts in involving civil society in the process.

A number of questions were raised on the workings of the Regional Commission, the funding of its members and its relationship with the National Governing Council. The answers provided revolved primarily around how the self-assessment was structured, the nature of the civil society organisation and the need to strengthen CSO networks related to the APRM.

The panellists also addressed the involvement of spiritual and traditional leaders through their associations. In addition, the president of the NGC set out the eight current good practices and three initiatives identified by the self-assessment process in Mali.

**Session 7:** Presentations on the status of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Guinea, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal in the APRM process

- **Liberia:** Process not yet begun. A national workshop on the APRM was organised by civil society in 2006.

- **Sierra Leone:** Process not yet begun. Sierra Leone has acceded to the APRM.

- **Gambia:** Process not yet begun. Gambia hosted a regional workshop on the APRM in 2006, organised by the Institute for Human Rights and Development. The report from the Bamako workshop will be shared with CSOs in Gambia and an action plan will be developed, including a meeting with national APRM authorities in Gambia. TANGO will provide support with respect to visits with government officials, in particular the Vice-President. The action plan will include the mobilization of resources to organize awareness workshops with CSOs on an ongoing basis.

- **Cape Verde:** Process not yet begun.

- **Guinea Bissau:** Process not yet begun.

- **Mauritania:** Process not yet begun. Mauritania acceded to the APRM in 2008. According to the country's representative at the workshop, when Mauritania joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in September 2005, it set up a national committee to publish an annual report. This committee is made up of representatives of government, the private sector and civil society, the latter of which has established an independent coalition. One of the most important lessons learned from the pioneer countries is the need to play a proactive leadership role in the APRM process as soon as self-assessment is under way, rather than waiting to be invited to participate by the government. This is why the assistance of the ECA and other partners in the training of members of civil society would be useful.

- **Guinea:** Process not yet begun. A national APRM workshop was organised by civil society in 2007.

- **Togo:** Process not yet begun. Togo acceded to the APRM in 2008. Togo is the 29<sup>th</sup> country to join the APRM. Civil society in Togo is not yet sufficiently knowledgeable of the process. The APRM can help to calm the sociopolitical climate and foster opportunities for the country's economic and social development. It is particularly useful for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as it attempts to ease political tensions. What we expect from the APRM Secretariat is support for training, information and awareness initiatives, technical support for the management of the process, support in approaching Togolese authorities, support for the documentation required to disseminate the APRM and support to draw on the experience of other countries where the process is more advanced.

- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Process not yet begun. A civil society-organised workshop on the APRM is expected to be held in late August 2008.

- **Niger:** Process not yet begun.
- **Senegal:** Process not yet begun. Senegal acceded to the APRM in May 2003. A timeframe was established for the related tasks, but it has not been carried out. Civil society organisations recognize the need to get closer to the new NEPAD minister to reinstate APRM information activities, encourage the implementation of a national governing council and approach the President to launch the self-assessment exercise.

**Session 8:** “Presentation of national experiences: Ghana and Nigeria - AfriMAP case study”

This session was moderated by Mr. Ozias Tungwarara of AfriMAP. Mr. Adotey Bing Pappoe talked about the experience in Ghana with the creation of the national governing council composed of seven well-respected figures from the national arena.

From 2004 to 2005, the council organized a number of meetings. The self-assessment was conducted by four research institutes appointed by the national governing council. After September 2004, the national programme of action was put into place. The national report was released in June 2006.

The implementation of the national programme of action started with national workshops. Ghana is in the process of implementing the programme of action. If everything goes well, Ghana should conduct another self-assessment. There is no civil society advisory body in place.

Mr. Adele Jinadu addressed several general and specific issues with respect to Nigeria. In his view, the APRM is a radical and progressive attempt at redefining governance in Africa as a partnership between the State and non-State stakeholders. CSOs have a historical tradition of participation, but the federal structure in Nigeria is restrictive as far as the APRM is concerned, given the autonomous nature of its state governments. The commission is made up primarily of non-governmental representatives, with a majority of civil society organisations.

The discussion following the presentations dealt with the methodology of the participation of civil society in the APRM process. Specific issues concerning the countries include problems in accessing information, the receptiveness of public authorities and the attitude of civil society organisations toward the process.

**Session 9:** “Role of regional bodies in the APRM process - opportunities for regional integration: ECA, ADB and UEMOA”

The presentation by Mr. Kojo Busia of the ECA provided details on the organisation's activities and its role in the APRM process. The ECA took part in the initial discussion on the themes of the APRM. The ECA is developing the following three core functions with respect to the process:

- Participate in support missions for selected countries.
- Capitalize on lessons learned to benefit other countries.
- Ensure the commitment of development partners in the process.

Mr. Ayi d’Almeida of UEMOA then discussed the relationship between the UEMOA and the APRM. He explained the structure of the institution and how economic and sector policies are coordinated at the UEMOA. He also discussed the mutual supervision mechanism in place.

He indicated that he felt it was important to strengthen ties between the UEMOA and civil society of member countries in the determination and implementation of economic, sector and community policies.

The subsequent discussion was very productive and focused heavily on the potential relationship between the ECA and civil society and between UEMOA and CSOs. The activities for day two ended at 5:50 p.m.

**The third and final day** of the workshop began with the reading of the Report on the second day, followed by a summary presentation of the evaluation of the previous day.

After the report was presented, several suggestions for improvements to the text were put forward and kept for inclusion in the final version of the workshop report. The agenda for the day was modified slightly, with Session 11 preceding Session 10 for logistical reasons.

**Session 10:** “Involvement and role of civil society in the APRM process: Defining strategies for taking action - presentation of the ECA's APRM guide”

This presentation by Mr. David Kamara of the ECA focused on the benefits of the APRM, the challenges of the participation of civil society in the APRM process, the scepticism of civil society toward the APRM, strategies adopted to encourage the active involvement of civil society in the APRM and the role that civil society can play to encourage countries to accede to the APRM.



David Kamara of the ECA presenting the manual

The guide for African civil society organisations is divided into eight basic modules: the presentation of the five phases of the APRM; the presentation of the various APRM structures; how to encourage the effective participation of civil society in the APRM: a clear understanding of the mechanism; the various aspects of the APRM; how civil society can expand its role in the APRM process; potential pitfalls for civil society in its planned involvement in the APRM and how to avoid them; identification of levels of authority and ways to influence them; the lessons to be learned from the experience of pioneer countries.

### **Session 11: “Implementation of the national programmes of action”**

This was a panel made up of the ECA (Kojo Busia), Ghana (Bing Pappoe), Nigeria (Adele Jinadu) and Burkina Faso (Julien Natielse).

To begin, Mr. Busia of the ECA outlined the fundamental principles of the process. The programme must target priorities and encompass all strategies and national development programmes. Once the national programme of action is submitted, the team should make recommendations. Mr. Busia then talked about other issues related to the monitoring of national programmes of action.

Following this, Mr. Pappoe discussed the experience of Ghana in terms of the budgeting and monitoring of NPAs according to a regional stratification (monitoring committees are based in the communes). The financing process is validated at three different levels in Ghana.

He described the financial reforms that had been implemented. As regards the involvement of civil society, 160 organisations are active at the commune level.

Mr. Natielse from Burkina Faso then took the podium. He indicated that the review process is not yet complete in Burkina Faso. Following the report (recommendations), the provisional national programme of action must be developed in a participatory manner. Monitoring and assessment are the responsibility of a mixed team. He did not get into the NPA monitoring structure or the role of civil society in this regard.

Mr. Jinadu of Nigeria discussed the methodology used in his country, the challenges facing them, the cost of the NPA and the budgeting expectations. The national programme of action has begun. The State agencies have worked on developing the NPA and parliament has had a say on the issue. The second part of the process is the nation-wide validation of the NPA. Monitoring is also conducted by the national working group. Each ministry has a monitoring bureau, run in conjunction with the planning ministry.

The subsequent discussion centred on the following points:

- NPAs are not mere accessories. They have an important role, but their input is often overlooked in APRM directives. Much work remains to be done in this regard.
- Monitoring frameworks and alignment with economic and social strategies were brought up.
- In response to questions, the panellists emphasized the importance of CSOs in the process of developing and implementing NPAs and the role of parliament in ensuring better follow-up.
- It will be necessary to draw on certain experiences to develop a cohesive APRM monitoring plan. In Burkina Faso, it is unknown what will be involved in the monitoring framework. Gender is being taken into account in the implementation of the APRM in Burkina Faso.

**Session 12:** “Group work regarding the involvement and role of civil society in the APRM process - development of action strategies”

Two groups were formed - one French-speaking and one English-speaking - to avoid translation-related difficulties. The issues discussed were:

- The specific roles of civil society in the APRM
- How to ensure the effective contribution of civil society
- The types of civil society organisations that need to be involved in the process
- How to ensure that the opinion of civil society is taken into account in the consultation process and the development of national programmes of action
- How to facilitate cooperation and coordination among civil society organisations in order to establish a common position.

The results of the group efforts are included in the appendices.

After the presentations, a draft participants’ declaration was read by Mr. Sékou Traoré of Mali. Key passages in the document describe the process and thank the financial partners of the workshop. Suggested improvements were made for the final draft.

**The closing ceremony** was presided over by the Ministre du Développement social, de la Solidarité et des personnes âgées. The following speeches were delivered:

- The President of ASSAFE thanked participants and drew preliminary conclusions from the meeting. He invited partners to support CSOs in the implementation of the APRM (see speech in Annex).
- The representative of the ECA thanked the event partners and the Mali National Governing Council. He stressed that the APRM is an opportunity to network and assured their support.
- Bernard Taylor, the representative of PAC, believed the workshop an unequivocal success. He thanked the Malian hosts and congratulated ASSAFE. He also expressed his gratitude to the APRM National Governing Council of Mali, the ECA and AfriMAP for their collaboration.

A motion of thanks was then read and accepted by acclamation by the participants.

The Ministre du Développement social, de la Solidarité et des personnes âgées congratulated the organisers and participants and urged everyone to do everything in their power to ensure the success of the process. He then declared the session closed at 6:10 p.m.

Further discussions focused on the need for the subregion of West Africa to implement a CSO network regarding the APRM. Participants proposed that a flexible structure be set up to be coordinated ASSAFE and developed step by step, according to how activities progress. The initial steps will be planned via e-mail. The coordination for the initiation will also be done electronically so that information can be distributed to all the members of the network. This will also ensure that information from the various members is centralized and that proposals for action are managed in a controlled manner.

The President of ASSAFE indicated that he was willing to coordinate the network and asked for everybody's support and cooperation.

**In conclusion**, the workshop recommended that the participants' declaration be finalized, promptly translated into English and distributed to participants. Another priority is to finalize the workshop report and make it available to all participants as quickly as possible.



*A view of participants*



**BAMAHO DEKLARATION**

*Bamako, 30 July 2008*

*We, representatives of African civil society organisations, coming from 16 West African countries, which have already joined the APRM or are in the process of doing so, meeting in a training workshop entitled “Lessons learned from the participation of West African civil society organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism process”.*

*The workshop, organised by the Association du Sabel d’Aide à la Femme et à l’Enfance (ASSAFE) in partnership with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), AfriMAP and the Commission Nationale de Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali CNG/MAEP, took place between July 28-30 2008 in Bamako, Mali*

- Having followed the national APRM evaluation experiences in Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali and the significant role played by civil society organisations (CSOs) in them;
- Having carefully followed the work of CSOs in the countries preparing to be evaluated, namely Senegal, Togo, Mauritania and Sierra Leone;
- Having noted the interest shown by West African CSOs whose countries are not yet members of the APRM, namely Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Niger, Gambia and Liberia;
- Recognizing that the APRM is able to make an appropriate contribution to the promotion of good governance and of a culture of policy dialogue in Africa;
- Reaffirming that the success of the APRM necessarily depends on the wide and qualitative involvement of African civil society throughout the evaluation process and in the implementation of the national programmes of action;

**Agree**, based on what African CSOs have achieved so far in the APRM, to gradually establish a West African APRM network, which will be coordinated by the Malian NGO, ASSAFE.

### **Recommend:**

#### **To West African governments**

1. to join the APRM and/or to accelerate the implementation process in their respective countries;
2. to make the APRM the principal reference in matters of governance and socio-economic development;
3. to bring together all state institutions, the private sector and civil society at each stage of the evaluation process:
4. to put in place autonomous national governing councils and provide them with adequate technical and financial resources;

### **To the West African private sector**

1. to develop ownership of the APRM;
2. to establish a dynamic partnership with national and sub-regional institutions in order to promote the APRM;

### **To the technical and financial partners**

ECA, PAC, AfriMAP and others:

1. to accompany in an effective way African CSOs involved in the APRM;

ECOWAS and UEMOA:

2. to encourage countries to join and respect their commitments in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the APRM evaluation process;

### **To West African civil society**

1. to strengthen their own technical and institutional capacity in the four APRM thematic areas: political and democratic governance, economic governance, corporate governance and socio-economic development;
2. to learn from experience gained in advocacy and the independent monitoring of public policy in support of the APRM evaluations.


**Bamako, July 30, 2008**

**The participants**



MOTION  
OF THANKS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

*Bamako, 30 July 2008*



We, participants in the training workshop on “Lessons learned from the participation of West African civil society organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism - APRM” express our sincere thanks:

- 🇲🇱 To the Government of the republic of Mali, through the Ministère des Maliens de l’Extérieur et de l’Intégration Africaine, focal point for the APRM in Mali ;
- 🇲🇱 To the Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali and in particular to its President, Monsieur Ousmane Diallo;
- 🇲🇱 To all the ASSAFE team;
- 🇲🇱 To the UN Economic Commission for Africa;
- 🇲🇱 To the UNDP;
- 🇲🇱 To Partnership Africa Canada;
- 🇲🇱 To AfriMAP;
- 🇲🇱 To OSIWA;
- 🇲🇱 To the UEMOA ;

For the moral, political, financial and technical support that we received at this workshop.

Holding this workshop and the keen debate that resulted demonstrates the willingness of civil society in our respective countries to become fully involved in the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

*Bamako, 30 July 2008*

**The participants**

## Annex 3

### Concept Note

*Training Workshop on  
“Lessons learned from the participation of Civil Society Organisations in the  
African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process”  
Bamako, Mali, July 28 to 30, 2008*

#### Background

Since the creation of the African Union, the continent’s interest in promoting democracy and good governance in order to meet major development challenges has grown apace. This is the context in which African states have adopted a number of mechanisms for the promotion of good governance, such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), established in 2001. To confirm their commitment and move as quickly as possible to implement standards and policies on good governance, they adopted, in 2003, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a pillar of NEPAD, as the overall framework for measuring their performance and monitoring the progress achieved in good governance.

Regional organisations in West Africa have done remarkable work in promoting good governance. The APRM has strengthened existing frameworks through a highly innovative initiative.

The APRM is a purely African instrument to which countries belong on a voluntary basis. It encourages them to adopt policies, standards and practices in the following four areas of good governance: (i) democracy and political governance, (ii) economic governance, (iii) corporate governance, and (iv) social and economic development. It is a learning process based on the best African experiments, which helps promote the courageous reforms that are needed to improve the living conditions of the people through openness to critical examination by their African peers of how they are governed.

To date, 28 countries have joined the APRM and agreed to the review. However, of these 28, only six countries have actually gone through a peer review, including two countries in the West Africa region. Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Algeria and Benin have finalized the process. Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali are in the final phase of their reviews.

Since it is a consultative and participatory process, the APRM’s framework document has emphasized the central role played by citizens throughout the entire process. The APRM offers the people in participating countries the opportunity to express themselves on the status of good governance on their own country. This is true of Civil Society (CS), which is to be one of the components of the APRM’s National Governing Councils set up to coordinate the whole process at the national level.

The experiences of the pioneering countries have shown that involvement by civil society is not always easy. While it is true that there has been good participation in the APRM by some CSOs in several countries, nonetheless the role played by civil society in the reviews remains limited because of certain factors that include: (i) a lack of political will, (ii) limited knowledge of the content of the APRM and expectations of the process by the CS, and (iii) the inability of CSs to

fully commit to the process. Furthermore, it has been noted that in francophone countries, civil society capacity building is of crucial importance.

## **Rationale**

ASSAFE thinks that the best way to achieve the APRM's objectives is to create the conditions required to build the capacities of the CSOs involved in the APRM in order to guarantee the viability of their commitment and participation. Sharing experiences among the CSOs of various countries is an effective way to achieve this goal.

This is the context surrounding ASSAFE's decision to organize various activities that include awareness programmes with the key actors in Mali's civil society (both in Bamako and Mali's regions), to secure a common understanding of the nature of the process and the contribution of Mali's civil society in the national review.

At the present time, eight countries from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have joined the APRM and only Ghana and Benin have fully completed their reviews. Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria are in the process of completing theirs. Consequently, to allow CSOs to learn from their participation and help other West African countries in preparing their own national reviews, ASSAFE intends to work with its partners<sup>1</sup> to organize a training workshop in Bamako from July 28 to 30. The theme of the workshop is: "Lessons learned from the participation of Civil Society Organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process."

## **Goals**

The ultimate goal of the Bamako training workshop on sharing the APRM's good practices is to contribute to the creation of suitable conditions for qualitative participation by civil society in implementing the APRM process and also to encourage the countries that have not yet signed on to the Mechanism to join.

In view of the lack of certain skills in the region, the workshop will be an opportunity for participants (i) to share their experiences and present practical examples of the successful implementation of the programme in countries that have led the way, such as Ghana and Benin, but also Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria; (ii) to have interactive exchanges with the other participants active in the process; (iii) to have access to appropriate tools to facilitate the CSOs' call to their respective governments to launch the review process and the necessary consultations, and finally (iv) to commence a productive dialogue with continuing exchanges among organisations in the West Africa region.

## **Expected results**

The workshop will give participants an opportunity to extend their knowledge of all phases of the APRM and strengthen their capacities in the subject. After the training, the CS representatives in the countries of the ECOWAC will be better equipped to take an active role in the process and establish adequate strategies to become involved with the governments in the national governing councils. The organisations invited to the workshop can thus be more involved and participate broadly in every phase of the peer review process. They will also have to contribute through

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<sup>1</sup> ASSAFE is organising the workshop in partnership with Partnership Africa Canada, the UN Economic Commission for Africa and AfriMAP.

sharing their experiences to energizing the African context of dialogue for CSOs working in the APRMs.

### **Content of the workshop**

During the training, participants will hear presentations on:

- The importance of the APRM in promoting democracy and good government in Africa;
- The role of civil society in the process, with supporting examples;
- The obstacles encountered by civil society in self-evaluation, in their respective countries, with supporting examples;
- Examples of successful implementation of the process in countries in the region such as Ghana, Benin, Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria and in particular the role played by CSOs in the self-evaluation process; and
- How to prepare civil society for the process so that it can have its voice heard throughout the process: starting with the launch of the APRM, from self-evaluation to implementation of the activities of the national action programme.

### **Actors**

The Workshop will bring together leaders of civil society organisations active in the process from ECOWAS countries that have joined the APRM mechanism. To date, eight countries in the region are members of the APRM: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The plan is to invite two CSO representatives from member countries as well as one representative from a non-member country to take part in the training. The non-member countries whose CSOs have displayed interest in the APRM will be invited to the Bamako workshop. They are: Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Liberia, Niger and Togo.

### **Location**

The workshop will be held in Bamako, from July 28 to 30, 2008.

For more information, please contact:

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*Civil Society and the APRM*

**Training Workshop for West African Civil Society Organisations**

**“Lessons Learned by Civil Society Organisations in the ECOWAS  
Region in the African Peer Review Mechanism Process”**

**Bamako, Mali  
July 28-30, 2008**

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**Organised by**

**ASSAFE**

**In partnership with**

- **PARTNERSHIP AFRICA CANADA**
- **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**
  - **AFRIMAP**
- **COMMISSION NATIONALE DE GOUVERNANCE DU MAEP DU MALI**

## **Goals of the workshop**

Since the creation of the African Union, the continent's interest in promoting democracy and good governance in order to meet major development challenges has grown apace. This is the context in which African states have adopted a number of mechanisms for the promotion of good governance, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), established in 2001. To confirm their commitment and move as quickly as possible to implement standards and policies on good governance, they adopted, in 2003, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a pillar of NEPAD, as the overall framework for measuring their performance and monitoring the progress achieved in good governance.

The APRM is a purely African instrument to which countries belong on a voluntary basis. It encourages them to adopt policies, standards and practices in the following four areas of good governance: (i) democracy and political governance, (ii) economic governance, (iii) corporate governance, and (iv) social and economic development. It is a learning process based on the best African experiments, which helps promote the courageous reforms that are needed to improve the living conditions of the people through openness to critical examination by their African peers of how they are governed.

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ASSAFE thinks that the best way to achieve the APRM's objectives is to create the conditions required to build the capacities of the CSOs involved in the APRM in order to guarantee the viability of their commitment and participation. Sharing experiences among the CSOs of various countries is an effective way to achieve this goal.

At the present time, eight countries from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have joined the APRM and only Ghana and Benin have fully completed their reviews. Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria are in the process of completing theirs. Consequently, to allow CSOs to learn from their participation and help other West African countries in preparing their own national reviews, ASSAFE intends to work with its partners to organize a training workshop in Bamako from July 28 to 30. The theme of the workshop is: "Lessons learned from the participation of Civil Society Organisations in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) process."

The workshop will give participants an opportunity to extend their knowledge of all phases of the APRM and strengthen their capacities in the subject. After the training, the CS representatives in the countries of the ECOWAC will be better equipped to take an active role in the process and establish adequate strategies to become involved with the governments in the national governing councils. The organisations invited to the workshop can thus be more involved and participate broadly in every phase of the peer review process. They will also have to contribute through

sharing their experiences to energizing the African context of dialogue for CSOs working in the APRMs.

The workshop will strengthen the capacity of civil society participants from the region by helping them:

- Share their experiences and present successful examples of civil society participation in the APRM processes in pioneer countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Benin, Mali and Burkina Faso.
- Make use of appropriate tools to facilitate civil society advocacy with their respective governments with respect to the evaluation process and national consultations.
- Establish a rich dialogue between West African civil society organisations.

The Workshop will bring together leaders of civil society organisations active in the process from ECOWAS countries that have joined the APRM mechanism. To date, eight countries in the region are members of the APRM: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. The plan is to invite two CSO representatives from member countries as well as one representative from a non-member country to take part in the training. The non-member countries whose CSOs have displayed interest in the APRM will be invited to the Bamako workshop. They are: Cape Verde, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Guinea, Liberia, Niger and Togo.

### **Organisation of the Workshop**

The workshop is organised by the Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance (ASSAFE), in partnership with Partnership Africa Canada (PAC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), AfriMAP (Africa Governance, Monitoring and Advocacy Project) and the Commission Nationale de Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali.

The workshop will take place in the Bamako International Conference.

### **Travel conditions**

No entry visa for Mali is required for participants from the 16 West African countries. You are required to carry, however, a valid passport or national identity paper.

The Hôtel MASSALEY will provide a shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel according to the expected arrival time of participants.

For all other information, please contact **Madame Adam DIAOU, Secretary General, ASSAFE - Mobile : +223-630-91-45 / +223-655-46-66.**

### **Accommodation**

Participants from outside Mali will stay at the Hôtel MASSALEY, a 3 star hotel situated in the Hamdallaye ACI 2000 district of Bamako. Address: BP E 3245. Tel: +223-229-46-58 Fax: +223-229-50-53.

E-mail: [massaleyhotel@yahoo.fr](mailto:massaleyhotel@yahoo.fr)

**For more information , please contact:**

**Mr Sékou Traoré**

President, Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance (ASSAFE)

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**Partners**

- ✓ Partnership Africa Canada
- ✓ UN Economic Commission for Africa
- ✓ Afrimap
- ✓ Commission Nationale de Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali

## Workshop Programme

DAY 1  
Monday July 28, 2008

<b>08:00-08:30: Registration for participants</b>
<b>OPENING</b>
<b>08:30-09:00:</b> Participants take their seats
<b>09:00-09:10:</b> Presentation of delegations
<b>09:10-09:20:</b> Welcome from the President of ASSAFE
<b>09:20-09:30:</b> Address by the Representative of PAC
<b>09:30-09:40:</b> Address by the Representative of ECOWAS
<b>09:40-09:50:</b> Opening speech by Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine
<b>09:50-10:10: Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 1</b>
<b>10:10-10:30: Context, objectives and workshop programme</b>
Presenter: PAC
Moderator: ECA
<b>SESSION 2</b>
<b>10:30-11:30: The APRM and the challenges of good governance in Africa</b>
<b>Objectives:</b> Understand the APRM and the opportunities it offers for implementing good governance in Africa.
Presenter: ECA
Moderator: PAC
<b>Discussion</b>
<b>SESSION 3</b>
<b>11:30-13:00: Presentation of the experiences of Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria</b>
<b>Case studies: Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria</b>
<b>Objectives:</b> Each presenter will share the experiences and the role played by civil society organisations in their country at the different stages of the APRM. Discussion points will include the APRM National Governing Councils (NGCs) and their decentralisation, the auto evaluation, the involvement of civil society and the difficulties encountered in its participation.
Presenters: Authors of the case studies: Benin, Burkina Faso and Nigeria
Moderator: AfriMAP
<b>13:00-14:15: Lunch</b>
<b>SESSION 3 (cont.)</b>
<b>14:15-15:30: Presentation of the APRM process in Mali</b>
Presenter: Mr Ousmane Diallo, President of the APRM NGC/MALI Mr Sékou Traoré, President of ASSAFE
Moderator: AfriMAP
<b>15:30-16:00: Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 3 (cont.)</b>
<b>16:00-17:30: Discussion of the country experiences: Benin, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Mali.</b>

**DAY 2**  
**Tuesday July 29, 2008**

<b>09:00-9:30:</b> <b>Presentation and adoption of the report of the first day's proceedings:</b> Presenter: Main rapporteur Moderator: ECA
<b>SESSION 4</b> <b>09:30-10:15:</b> <b>The role played by the Malian private sector in the APRM national auto evaluation: Participation – Difficulties – Perspectives.</b> <b>Objectives:</b> Explore the degree to which the private sector is involved in the Malian APRM process and discuss its role in the process. Presenter: Mr Moussa Diarra, Président du Réseau des Entrepreneurs d'Afrique de l'Ouest Moderator: Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Mali <b>Discussion</b>
<b>10:15-10:45:</b> <b>Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 5</b> <b>10:45-11:30:</b> <b>The Malian APRM Regional Governance Commission: an example of example of participation and buy-in to the process</b> <b>Objectives:</b> Evaluate the participation of people in the regions. Presenter: Mr Amadou Malick Gueye, Président de la Commission Régionale de Koulikoro Moderator: Civil society representative. <b>Discussion</b>
<b>SESSION 6</b> <b>11:30-13:00:</b> <b>Research by PAC et AfriMAP on the APRM in Mali</b> <b>Objectives:</b> Presentation of the first findings of the study on the Malian APRM process, followed by reactions of a readership committee. Presenters: Bani Touré et Aissé Diarra Moderator: PAC
<b>13:00-14:15:</b> <b>Lunch</b>
<b>SESSION 6 (cont.)</b> <b>14:15-15:45:</b> <b>Research by PAC et AfriMAP on the APRM in Mali</b> <b>Objective :</b> Reaction of participants Presenter: Bani Touré et Aissé Diarra Moderator: PAC Discussion and validation of the study
<b>15:45-16:15:</b> <b>Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 7</b> <b>16:15-17:30:</b> <b>ECOWAS, a regional integration framework for sustainable human development: Mechanisms to encourage ECOWAS countries to join the APRM and how to monitor the process.</b> <b>UEMOA, the UEMOA governance mechanism and the link with the APRM</b> Presenter: Representatives from ECOWAS and UEMOA Moderator: Representative from ADB <b>Discussion</b>

**DAY 3**  
**Wednesday July 30, 2008**

<b>09:00-09:30:</b>	<b>Presentation and adoption of the report of the second day's proceedings:</b>
Presenter:	Main rapporteur
Moderator:	Representative of the AfDB.
<b>SESSION 8</b>	
<b>09:30-11:00:</b>	<b>The Implementation of National Programmes of Action</b>
<b>Objectives:</b>	The ECA will describe how the national programmes of action are being implemented in the countries that have completed their evaluations, with a particular emphasis on the role of civil society, of the private sector and of the media, as well as on the positive outcomes of the APRM.
Presenter:	ECA
Moderator:	PAC
	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>11:00-11:15:</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 8 (cont.)</b>	
<b>11:15-12:00:</b>	<b>The Implementation of National Programmes of Action (continuation of discussions)</b>
<b>SESSION 9</b>	
<b>12:00-13:00:</b>	<b>Involvement and Role of Civil Society in the APRM process: strategies for action. Presentation of the ECA APRM Training Manual</b>
Presenter:	ECA
Moderator:	PAC
<b>13:00-14:15:</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:15-15:45:</b>	<b>Group work to discuss the Involvement and the Role of Civil Society in the APRM process: strategies for action.</b>
<b>Objectives:</b>	Stress the particular roles of civil society in the APRM. How to efficiently involve CS? Which sorts of civil society organisations should participate in the process? How to make sure that civil society opinions are taken into account in the consultation and development of the National Programmes of Action? How to facilitate meetings and coordination of civil society in order to build common positions? Reference document: <b>ECA APRM Training Manual</b>
	<b>Plenary discussion</b>
Reports:	Group rapporteurs
Moderator:	Président du Conseil National de la Société civile du Mali
<b>15:45-16:15:</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>
<b>SESSION 10</b>	
<b>16:15-17:00:</b>	<b>Setting up of a platform for CSOs in West Africa working on the APRM to dialogue on the APRM within the framework of a regional (pan-African) APRM network</b>
<b>Objectives:</b>	Discussion on the nature of the platform: coordination, objectives, activities and resources.
Presenter:	RADDHO
Moderator:	ASSAFE
	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>17:00-17:30:</b>	<b>Adoption of the report, recommendations and reactions from participants</b>
<b>CLOSING</b>	
<b>17:30-18:00:</b>	<b>Closing ceremony</b>
	Address by President de ASSAFE
	Address by Representative of PAC
	Address by Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission
	Closing speech by Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine.

**DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DE  
MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DES MALIENS DE L'EXTERIEUR  
ET DE L'INTEGRATION AFRICAINE A L'OCCASION  
ATELIER DE FORMATION DES ORGANISATIONS  
DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DES PAYS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

- Monsieur le Représentant Résident du PNUD au Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique
- Monsieur le Directeur Général de Partenariat Afrique Canada
- Monsieur le Représentant de AFRIMAP
- Monsieur le Représentant du Président de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Banque Africaine de Développement
- Monsieur le Président de la Commission Nationale de Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali
- Monsieur le Président de l'Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance (ASSAFE)
- Honorables invités ;
- Mesdames et Messieurs

Permettez- moi tout d'abord de remercier l'Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance et ses partenaires, de m'avoir donné l'opportunité de rencontrer les représentants des Organisations de la Société Civile des pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, pour échanger sur nos expériences respectives sur le thème des « leçons apprises par les organisations de la société civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest dans le processus du Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation par les Pairs ».

C'est vous dire tout le plaisir que j'éprouve à présider la cérémonie d'ouverture de cette importante rencontre dont le thème central s'inscrit particulièrement dans le cadre du renforcement des capacités de la société civile dans le processus du MAEP.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Pendant plusieurs jours, vous allez échanger sur la problématique du MAEP, sur un aspect essentiel des conditions requises pour améliorer la gouvernance en Afrique.

En effet, comme vous le savez du reste, le MAEP constitue un volet important du NEPAD, seul et véritable programme de développement socio économique de l'Afrique. Le MAEP se définit comme :

« un instrument d'autoévaluation auquel les Etats membres de l'Union Africaine adhèrent volontairement dans le but de favoriser l'adoption de politiques, normes et pratiques en vue de promouvoir la stabilité politique, une croissance économique élevée, un développement durable et une intégration économique sous régionale et continentale accélérée grâce au partage d'expériences et au renforcement des pratiques exemplaires et des acquis ainsi que l'identification des lacunes et l'évaluation des besoins dans le domaine du renforcement des capacités »

En signant le Memorandum d'entente relatif au MAEP, le 28 mai 2003, le Mali fait partie des tous premiers pays à adhérer au MAEP.

Le processus a démarré en juin 2007 et toutes les dispositions utiles ont été prises par le Gouvernement pour lui permettre de faire partie, dès janvier 2009, des dix premiers pays qui auront été évalués par les Pairs.

Le Président de la CNG/MAEP et ses collaborateurs auront l'occasion de mieux vous édifier sur le processus afin de vous permettre de mieux appréhender toutes les difficultés qu'il renferme et également la satisfaction morale de toutes les parties prenantes au processus à travailler dans une atmosphère d'entente, de partage, de convivialité ainsi que les résultats auxquels ils sont parvenus après trois trimestres d'un travail intensif, harassant mais exaltant. C'est pourquoi, je ne doute pas un seul instant que l'expérience malienne peut servir et qu'elle peut se nourrir elle-même de l'expérience des autres pour mieux organiser la visite prochaine de la Mission d'Evaluation Pays et pour finaliser notamment son Programme d'Action National.

C'est l'occasion pour moi de me réjouir de la collaboration fructueuse entre la CNG/MAEP du Mali et la Société Civile d'une manière générale, et avec ASSAFE en particulier.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

A l'heure où l'Union Africaine déploie des efforts considérables pour inciter les pays à avancer résolument sur la voie de la bonne gouvernance à travers la signature et la mise en œuvre du MAEP, je me dois d'adresser mes sincères félicitations à ASSAFE et à tous ses partenaires pour avoir choisi mon pays pour abriter la présente activité. Le moment me paraît parfaitement propice à l'approfondissement de la réflexion sur l'appropriation du MAEP par les organisations de la Société Civile en vue de leur implication optimale dans le processus.

En effet, en tant qu'initiative prise par les Africains, leur appartenant et dirigé par eux, le MAEP est un instrument révolutionnaire et un outil d'introspection qui a suscité l'espoir de voir l'Afrique s'attaquer aux problèmes de gouvernance qui constituent un obstacle à son développement. Le MAEP représente une approche nouvelle, un changement radical du mode de pensée des dirigeants africains au moment où ils cherchent à renverser la tendance relative à l'absence de responsabilisation, l'autoritarisme politique, l'échec de l'Etat et la corruption afin d'embrasser et de consolider la démocratie et de promouvoir une gestion économique effective et transparente.

Mesdames, et Messieurs,  
Chers invités

C'est dire que les échanges que vous vous proposez de mener, trois jours durant, constitueront un apport appréciable pour réussir le processus du MAEP dans vos pays respectifs.

L'occasion me paraît opportune d'adresser mes sincères félicitations à toutes les parties prenantes, particulièrement Partenariat Afrique- Canada (PAC), la CEA, AFRIMAP le PNUD et la CNG / MAEP du Mali .

Je souhaite enfin que les conclusions et recommandations auxquelles vous aller aboutir, au terme de vos travaux, permettent aux pays qui ont déjà signé le Mémoire d'Entente relatif au MAEP de le mettre en œuvre dans les meilleurs délais et à ceux qui ne l'ont pas encore fait de trouver ici les raisons nécessaires et suffisantes pour s'engager dans cette voie.

Sur cette note d'espoir, je déclare ouverts les travaux de l'Atelier portant sur les leçons apprises par les organisations de la société civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest dans le processus du Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation par les Pairs.

**Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.**

**DISCOURS DE CLOTURE  
DE MONSIEUR LE DU DEVELOPPEMENT SOCIAL DE LA SOLIDARITE ET  
DES PERSONNES AGEES,  
REPRESENTANT MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE DES MALIENS DE L'EXTERIEUR  
ET DE L'INTEGRATION AFRICAINE  
A L'OCCASION  
DE L'ATELIER DE FORMATION DES ORGANISATIONS  
DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DES PAYS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST**

- Monsieur le Représentant Résident du PNUD au Mali
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- Honorables invités ;
- Mesdames et Messieurs

C'est un réel plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole, au nom de Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine, Point Focal National du MAEP au Mali, pour vous adresser toutes mes félicitations pour la qualité du travail accompli et pour les résultats auxquels vous êtes parvenus après trois jours d'échanges enrichissants et fructueux sur la gouvernance dans l'espace CEDEAO et particulièrement sur les expériences des pays qui se sont servis du Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation par les Pairs (MAEP) pour favoriser une démocratie participative, instaurer un Etat de droit, élargir le champ des libertés individuelles et collectives, accélérer la croissance économique et le développement durable et promouvoir l'intégration régionale et continentale.

Assurément, après avoir analysé les différents processus, les méthodologies et stratégies mises en œuvre au Bénin, au Burkina Faso, au Ghana, au Nigeria et au Mali, tout porte à croire que les leaders des organisations de la Société Civile que vous représentez à cet Atelier, sont maintenant mieux outillés pour participer activement au processus du MAEP et pour élaborer les stratégies idoines pour s'engager résolument, au côté des autres parties prenantes au mécanisme, dans les structures nationales chargées de la conduite du processus.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Les expériences tirées des pays pionniers, vous ont permis d'appréhender toute la complexité de l'exercice. Elles ont montré, à suffisance, que l'implication de la Société Civile dans le processus de mise en œuvre du MAEP est nécessaire voire obligatoire si elle veut se saisir de cette opportunité pour apporter sa contribution à la manière dont le processus est conduit au niveau national ainsi que le contenu des rapports d'Evaluation et du Plan d'Action National. Dans certains pays, les organisations de la Société Civile ont joué un rôle déterminant dans le déroulement du processus. Toutefois, de manière générale, le rôle des organisations de la Société Civile dans les évaluations reste très limité pour des considérations tenant notamment :

- à la complexité et à la technicité du processus ;
- à la connaissance limitée du contenu du MAEP et de ses outils ;
- à la faiblesse des capacités des acteurs concernés pour s'engager pleinement dans le processus.

C'est la raison pour laquelle je tiens à féliciter chaleureusement l'Association du Sahel d'Aide à la Femme et à l'Enfance (ASSAFE) et ses partenaires que sont Partenariat Afrique Canada (PAC), AFRIMAP, la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique (CEA), le PNUD, l'UEMOA et la CNG/MAEP pour les actions initiées pour une meilleure appropriation du processus et le renforcement des capacités des acteurs de la Société Civile.

Ainsi, trois jours durant, vous avez eu l'occasion :

- d'échanger vos expériences respectives sur le MAEP ;
- d'approfondir vos connaissances sur des exemples pratiques de mise en œuvre réussie du processus dans certains pays pionniers tels que le Ghana, le Bénin, le Nigeria et le Burkina Faso ;
- d'apprécier l'expérience malienne ;
- d'avoir des échanges inter actifs avec certains partenaires techniques tels que la CEA et l'UEMOA ;
- de bénéficier des outils appropriés pour faciliter le plaidoyer auprès de vos gouvernements respectifs pour donner au processus le caractère de crédibilité et de transparence qu'il doit nécessairement revêtir ;
- d'instaurer un dialogue enrichissant et des échanges constructifs entre organisations de la Société Civile de l'Espace CEDEAO ;
- d'approfondir la réflexion sur l'établissement de cadres nationaux et régionaux de concertation sur le MAEP

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En ce qui me concerne, je suis convaincu que l'Atelier de Bamako sur le partage des bonnes pratiques du MAEP va largement contribuer d'une part à créer les conditions requises pour une participation qualitative des organisations de la Société Civile dans la mise en œuvre du processus du MAEP et d'autre part à encourager l'adhésion des autres pays de l'espace CEDEAO qui n'ont pas encore accédé au mécanisme

C'est sur cette note d'espoir que je déclare clos les travaux de l'Atelier de formation sur « les leçons apprises par les organisations de la société civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest dans le processus du Mécanisme Africain d'Evaluation par les Pairs».

**Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.**

## **DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE DE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT DE L'ONG ASSAFE**

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- Excellence Monsieur Le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration africaine
- Monsieur le Président de la Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant Résident du PNUD au Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique
- Monsieur le Directeur Général et Madame la Coordinatrice du Bureau pour l'Afrique de Partenariat Afrique Canada
- Madame la Représentante de AFRIMAP
- Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Banque Africaine de Développement
- Honorables invités
- Mesdames et Messieurs
- Chers Participants

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine, votre présence parmi nous ce jour, témoigne de tout l'intérêt que le Gouvernement de la République du Mali porte non seulement à la mise en œuvre du MAEP mais aussi au rôle de la société civile dans ce processus.

La valorisation des ressources humaines, condition nécessaire au développement économique et social de l'Afrique, reste toujours problématique.

Ainsi, la mise en route avec succès de ce mécanisme continental à vocation intégrative au plan social, économique et politique est certainement une option pour relever les grands défis du développement de notre continent.

L'Afrique qui représente 12% de la population mondiale n'assure que 1% du PIB mondial et 2% des échanges commerciaux. Malgré tous les efforts enregistrés au niveau des Etats pris individuellement, l'Afrique demeure marginalisée et occupe toujours une place négligeable dans l'économie mondiale.

Aussi, les analystes s'accordent à dire que le développement de l'Afrique a été, entre autres, freiné par des obstacles d'ordre politique parmi lesquels on peut citer :

- l'instabilité institutionnelle des Etats
- la persistance de conflits internes ou inter étatiques

- la marginalisation d'une frange importante de la société que constituent les femmes
- les difficultés enregistrées dans les processus électoraux
- le déficit de démocratie dans la gouvernance de la chose publique.

Dans le cadre du MAEP, se pose la question centrale de l'existence de mécanismes crédibles à même de maximiser les résultats obtenus en matière de développement humain durable.

Cependant, les obstacles pour parvenir à l'appropriation du MAEP par un grand nombre de citoyens subsistent.

Il ressort plus que jamais nécessaire de faire valoir l'équité genre et l'accès aux ressources. Il importe aussi de considérer fortement, la qualité, la pertinence et l'efficacité des actions individuelles et collectives.

Il importe de souligner que l'utilisation de modalités complémentaires d'apprentissage et de renforcement de capacités des acteurs de la société civile reste une démarche capitale dans le suivi des plans d'action nationaux.

Cette conjonction de facteurs pose du coup les questions qui nous interpellent. Il convient donc de s'assurer que les instruments du MAEP, permettent de préserver l'enjeu de notre propre développement. De ce fait, leur appropriation constitue une exigence nationale et supranationale.

Il se dégage là toute la problématique de renforcement mutuel possible par le biais de la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement ; d'une part et d'autre part, entre pays développés et les nôtres en vue de soutenir les multiples et précieuses initiatives de la société civile dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pauvreté, l'exclusion et la corruption.

- **Excellence Monsieur Le Ministre**
- **Mesdames et Messieurs**
- **Chers participants**

Pour que le MAEP soit une réussite, l'ensemble des acteurs que sont le gouvernement, le secteur privé, la société civile doivent s'associer pour créer un cadre de dialogue et de travail qui assure une bonne implication de tous et à tous les niveaux.

C'est pourquoi ASSAFE, en collaboration avec la Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP au Mali, PAC (Partenariat Afrique Canada), la CEA et AFRIMAP s'implique activement dans la dynamique de mobilisation de la société civile ouest africaine à travers la recherche, la formation, l'information, la sensibilisation et le plaidoyer.

Cette dynamique se présente comme une force de proposition et d'interpellation susceptible de créer une nouvelle synergie par la recherche - action, la production de mécanismes d'influence en faveur du MAEP.

En renforçant le rôle des acteurs nationaux par la mise en valeur des ressources humaines en matière d'information, d'éducation et de formation, ASSAFE cherche à imprimer un nouvel élan à la participation de la société civile dans la réalisation des enjeux prioritaires du MAEP au Mali.

- **Mesdames et Messieurs**

- **Chers invités.**

Je ne s'aurai terminer mes propos sans adresser toutes ma reconnaissance au gouvernement du Mali à travers la Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP. Ma reconnaissance va aussi à l'endroit de : PAC (Partenariat Afrique Canada), la CEA et AFRIMAP dont les contributions auront permis la tenue de cette rencontre sous régionale ouest africaine de la société civile sur le MAEP.

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre, Chers collègues et participants des autres pays recevez nos chaleureux remerciements et toute notre gratitude.

**Merci à Toutes et à Tous.**

## **DISCOURS DE CLOTURE DE MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT DE L'ONG ASSAFE**

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- Excellence Monsieur Le Ministre du Développement Social, de la Solidarité et des Personnes Agées
- Monsieur le Président de la Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant Résident du PNUD au Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique
- Monsieur le Directeur Général et Madame la Coordinatrice du Bureau pour l'Afrique de Partenariat Afrique Canada
- Madame la Représentante de AFRIMAP
- Monsieur le Représentant de OSISA
- Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine
- Honorables invités
- Mesdames et Messieurs
- Chers Participants

Nous voilà au terme de nos travaux. Et la moisson, vous conviendrez avec moi, a été belle. Belle parce que des stratégies pertinentes ont été identifiées.

Etant un processus consultatif et participatif, le document cadre du MAEP a souligné, je le rappelle, le rôle central des citoyens tout au long du processus. Le MAEP offre à la population des pays participants l'opportunité de s'exprimer sur l'état de la bonne gouvernance dans leur propre pays. C'est le cas de la Société Civile (SC) qui doit constituer une des composantes des Commissions Nationales du MAEP, créées pour coordonner l'ensemble du processus au niveau national.

Les expériences des pays pionniers qui ont fait l'objet d'échanges immensément riches durant ces trois jours, ont démontré que l'implication de la société civile n'est pas toujours aisée. S'il est vrai que des OSC ont dans certains pays démontré une bonne participation dans le MAEP, il n'en demeure pas moins que le rôle de la société civile dans les évaluations reste limité en raison de quelques facteurs dont :

- ✓ le manque de volonté politique
- ✓ la connaissance limitée du contenu du MAEP et des attentes du processus par la Société Civile
- ✓ la faiblesse de capacités de la Société Civile pour s'engager pleinement dans le processus.

Le recentrage de la vision, des missions et la dynamisation du partenariat dans la mise en œuvre du MAEP, autant d'éléments issus de la présente rencontre sont des atouts certains pour un nouvel envol de la société civile ouest africaine. Il s'agit véritablement d'un envol soutenu par un engagement certain de toutes les parties prenantes.

Au cours de nos travaux, nous avons revu les stratégies utilisées, examiné les forces et les faiblesses des différentes pratiques et échangé sur les différentes opportunités à saisir pour favoriser une véritable implication de la société civile dans la mise en œuvre du MAEP et du suivi des Plans Nationaux d'action.

En tant que société civile, seule notre interaction pourra constituer un catalyseur en faveur de la mobilisation de toutes les forces vives dans nos pays respectifs pour la réussite du processus.

A cet égard, il est heureux de constater que les résultats de nos travaux illustrent cette volonté de mise en commun de nos efforts en vue d'une harmonisation efficace et efficiente de nos différentes pratiques en matière de dialogue politique et d'appropriation des outils d'évaluation.

Les engagements pris doivent être traduits en actes concrets si l'on veut créer un mouvement fort de la société civile pour le succès du mécanisme dans notre sous région.

- Mesdames et Messieurs
- Chers Participants

Permettez moi de vous dire encore toute notre gratitude pour l'engagement dont vous avez fait preuve, trois jours durant et qui ont abouti aux intéressantes propositions contenues dans nos résolutions et recommandations.

Je ne saurais terminer mon allocution sans remercier la Commission nationale de la Bonne Gouvernance du MAEP au Mali, PAC, CEA, AFRIMAP, pour leur appui financier et leur constante disponibilité pour la tenue du présent atelier.

Il devient dès lors impérieux de continuer notre combat pour le respect des principes tendant à promouvoir un processus transparent, participatif et efficient. Ceci serait le témoignage de notre ferme volonté de contribuer à l'édification d'une Afrique où règne la bonne gouvernance de la chose publique.

**Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.**

**Atelier sous-régional sur le  
MAEP de Bamako, 28-30 juillet 2008**

**Allocution d'ouverture de Mme Engudai Bekele Partenariat Afrique Canada**

- Excellence Monsieur le Ministre des Maliens de l'Extérieur et de l'Intégration Africaine
- Monsieur le Président de l'Association du sahel d'Aide à la femme et à l'Enfance
- Monsieur le Représentant Résident du PNUD au Mali
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Commission Economique pour l'Afrique
- Monsieur le Directeur Général de Partenariat Afrique Canada
- Monsieur le Représentant de AFRIMAP
- Monsieur le Représentant de l'Union Economique Monétaire Ouest Africaine
- Monsieur le Représentant de la Banque Africaine de Développement
- Monsieur le Président de la Commission Nationale de la Gouvernance du MAEP du Mali

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs

Il me fait un grand plaisir de vous adresser ces quelques mots à l'ouverture de cet atelier sous-régional sur le Mécanisme africain d'évaluation par les pairs – le MAEP. Cet atelier a lieu à un moment très important dans l'évolution du MAEP en Afrique de l'ouest. Quelques pays ont déjà complété leurs évaluations – le Ghana, le Bénin, le Burkina Faso et le Nigeria, tandis que d'autres pays se préparent à entrer dans le processus. Le Mali lui-même est en pleine évaluation. Quel moment propice pour échanger entre nous sur les diverses leçons apprises ! Et quelle occasion intéressante et agréable de se retrouver entre amis à Bamako !

Cet atelier cible surtout la société civile des pays de l'Afrique de l'ouest. Sachant l'importance du rôle des organisations de la société civile dans la mise en œuvre du MAEP, les organisateurs de cet atelier ont voulu rassembler au moins un acteur principal de la société civile de chaque pays pour y être représenté. C'est chose faite, en nous nous réjouissons de la participation des nos sœurs et nos frères de tous ces pays. Nous sommes convaincus que cet atelier va pouvoir vous fournir l'occasion d'un échange riche entre vous pour faire avancer le MAEP et la bonne gouvernance dans cette région.

En collaborant à l'organisation de cet atelier, Partenariat Afrique Canada a voulu poursuivre son travail d'appui aux organisations de la société civile à travers l'Afrique. En effet, depuis 2006, PAC collabore avec des partenaires dans de nombreux pays à l'organisation d'ateliers sur le MAEP.

Certains de ces ateliers ont été organisés en collaboration avec la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique et avec l'AfriMAP, et nous sommes très heureux de nous trouver de nouveau à collaborer ensemble ici à Bamako.

Pour conclure, je voudrais féliciter l'organisateur principal de cet atelier – ASSAFE - son Président, Monsieur Sékou Traoré, et ses collègues, d'avoir pu consacrer d'immenses efforts pour nous rassembler ici ce matin. Nous l'apprécions énormément, car organiser un événement international de cette envergure n'est pas facile.

Enfin, j'aimerais remercier le Centre de Recherches pour le Développement International – le CRDI – et l'Agence Canadienne de Développement International – l'ACDI – de leur soutien très apprécié, sans quoi nous n'aurions pas pu appuyer cet atelier.

Excellences, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je me sens privilégiée de pouvoir être ici parmi vous à cet événement important. Au nom des mes collègues de Partenariat Afrique Canada qui m'accompagnent à cet atelier, permettez-moi de vous souhaiter plein succès dans vos travaux. Merci.

**Madame Engudai Bekele**  
**Coordonnatrice, Bureau pour l'Afrique**  
**Partenariat Afrique Canada, Addis Abeba.**

## Annex 6

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE SUB-REGIONAL APRM WORKSHOP BAMAKO – 28-30 JULY 2008

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