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## Mission visits Ghana as Peer Review process gets under way

**GHANA**, the first of four countries selected for review, was visited from 24-29 May 2004 by a support mission of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) led by Dr. Chris Stals, a member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons.

The team of eight, including the Lead Consultant for the APRM, Dr. Kerfalla

**Ghana is more advanced than most countries**

Yansane, was composed of the APR Secretariat and representatives of the following Strategic Partner Institutions: the African Development Bank (ADB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The purpose of the support mission was to access the processes and mechanisms put in place by the country to undertake its self-assessment and prepare its preliminary Programme of Action and, subsequently, be reviewed by the APR Panel.

The support mission was motivated by the fact that Ghana is more advanced than most countries in creating the requisite structural prior conditions including:

- **Appointing an independent National APRM Governing Council (NAPRM-GC);**
- **Establishing a National APR Secretariat to provide support to the Governing Council;**
- **Commissioning four independent, non-governmental technical advisory bodies to assist with the assessment process in the respective four thematic areas of democracy and good political governance, and macro-economic management, corporate governance and socio-economic development; and**
- **Embarking on a sensitisation campaign throughout the country to educate and involve all national stakeholders in the self-assessment process.**

### **Visit to President**

Dr. Stals, Prof. S.K. Adjepong, the Chairman of Ghana's National Governing Council of the APRM, accompanied by two other Governing Council members, Ms. Gloria Ofori Boadu and Prof. S.K.B. Asante, as well as the Executive Secretary of the National APR Secretariat, Dr. Francis Appiah, and the APR Panel Support Officer, Mr. Mufor Atanga, paid a courtesy visit to the Head of State, President John Kufuor.

The President, in the presence of his Minister for Regional Cooperation and NEPAD, Dr. K.K. Apraku, emphasised the importance of the APRM and stressed the independence of the Governing Council that has been set up by Ghana to oversee the integrity of the national process.

He said Ghana will give its full cooperation to the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and declared that he had no doubt that the Panel's work will contribute towards fostering good governance on the continent.

An APR National Stakeholders Forum was held on 27 May. Vice-President Aliu Mahama, who presided over the Forum, assured Ghanaians that the APRM process in Ghana will not be compromised by political factors.

In his keynote address, he echoed the words of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, who declared "the independence of Ghana is meaningless unless it is linked up

**Fostering good governance on the continent**

**Process is  
all-inclusive  
and  
participatory**

with the total liberation of the continent". He said the purpose of the APRM process was economic independence and regional integration, which is another step towards the total liberation of the continent.

Dr. Stals told the forum that the APRM is first and foremost a process initiated and conducted by the country itself. The APR Panel of Eminent Persons only provides support and advice to the country.

### **Memorandum signed**

Dr. Apraku, on behalf of the government of Ghana and Dr. Stals, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the APRM (APR Forum), signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Technical Assessment Missions and the Country Review Visit of the APRM.

A briefing session was organised to update the APR support mission on the preparedness of Ghana for the African Peer Review process.

This provided the opportunity for the support mission to interact with the lead technical institutions engaged by the National APRM Governing Council to assist in the country's self-assessment in the four identified thematic areas.

The lead institutions are:

- **Centre for Democratic Development, for Democracy and Good Political Governance;**
- **Centre for Policy Economic Analysis, for Economic Governance and Management;**
- **Private Enterprise Foundation for Corporate Governance; and**
- **Institute for Statistical, Social, and Economic Research, for Socio-Economic Development.**

The lead institutions briefed the support mission on the proposed methodologies for undertaking the country's self-assessment.

The discussion centred on the importance of the National APR process being all-inclusive and participatory in nature.

The National APRM Governing Council organised a three-day National Stakeholders' Workshop from 27 – 29 May, to further discuss the methodology and tools and processes of the APRM.

**A support mission for Rwanda is scheduled for 21 - 24 June 2004 while that for Mauritius is scheduled for 27 - 30 June. It is expected that Kenya will receive a support mission soon after.**

*The scheduled interview with the African Peer Review Mechanism Chairperson, Ms Marie-Angelique Savané, of Senegal, on the current status of the African self-monitoring mechanism is expected to be available for NEPAD Dialogue No. 52.*

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## **Update on the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism**

**EFFORTS have been made by the Chairperson of the APR Forum to popularise and encourage accession to the APRM. In this context, the Chairperson of the APR Forum wrote a letter to all member states of the AU who are not members of the APRM informing them of the process and encouraging their accession.**

Benin and Egypt have recently acceded to the APRM and a number of other countries, including Angola and Lesotho, have also indicated their willingness to volunteer for the process. Finalisation of the formal accession prerequisites for these countries is under way.

### **Documents:**

All the documents to guide the country review process have been finalised. The Questionnaire, which contains detailed criteria and indicators to assist countries to undertake their own self-assessment and draft the national preliminary programme of action was the most recent document to be developed and is available to countries.

### **National structures:**

The Inaugural meeting of the APR Forum which was held in Kigali on 13 February 2004 adopted the draft work programme and proposed budget of the APRM.

The first four countries selected for review are Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya.

Interactions continue for establishing the status of preparedness of all participating countries in the APRM. The Chairperson of the APR Panel, Ms Marie-Angelique Savané has met with various Heads of State and Government to underscore the importance of putting in place appropriate structures at national level as well as ensuring broad based participation for the effective implementation of the APRM.

The APR Panel also continues to interact with the Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee of NEPAD to explore modalities of speeding up the national level preparatory process.

### **Partner Institutions and the Pool of Experts:**

Three categories of Partner Institutions have been approved to support the APRM process: Strategic Partners, Regional Resource Institutions and International Resource Institutions.

The following institutions were designated strategic partners for the APRM: the Organs/Units of the African Union; the African Development Bank; the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; and the United Nations Development Programme Africa Bureau.

Interaction has been made with strategic partners and modalities for collaboration elaborated. Additionally, all the Strategic Partners for the implementation of the APRM participated in a brainstorming meeting with the APR Panel during the Fifth Meeting of the Panel held on 29-30 April, 2004, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

These institutions have given support to the APRM including technical assistance in the development of the APRM tools; human and institutional support of the APR Secretariat; information to assist in the development of countries; and support with regard to the implementation of the national level and continental APR processes.

UNDP, AfDB, and UNECA participated in the recent support mission to Ghana and have indicated willingness to assist in the forthcoming support missions in Rwanda and Mauritius.

Efforts to establish the pool of experts to provide technical assistance with the implementation of the APRM and the country review process are ongoing.

#### **Civil Society and the APRM:**

As a policy, the APRM puts strong emphasis on finding ways to involve all key stakeholders in the APRM at country and continental level, including rural populations, religious groups, trade unions, the media, women and youth, and the private sector. The importance of information dissemination to civil society both at national and continental level has been stressed.

#### **Financing:**

Each participating country has been asked to contribute to the running of the APRM. The UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa has also been requested to work out the modalities for establishing the APRM Trust Fund with a view to ensuring sustainable funding for the APRM process. Discussions on the establishment of the Trust Fund are at an advanced stage and there have been commitments from both countries and development partners towards contributing to it.

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## **APRM COUNTRY SUPPORT MISSIONS TO GHANA, RWANDA AND MAURITIUS PRESS RELEASE**

The First Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the African Peer Review Mechanism (APR Forum) that was held in Kigali, Rwanda on 13 February 2004, approved among others the programme of work of the APR Panel and the Calendar for the APRM Country Reviews. The Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM (APR Panel) has started the process in countries with the Support Missions.

The purpose of the Support Mission is to ascertain the extent of preparedness and the capacity of the

country to participate in the peer review process, and particularly to undertake its self-assessment and draft its National Programme of Action. The Support Mission is also intended to create common understanding of the overall APRM processes and instruments, and to ensure that the institutional and organisational arrangements provide for active involvement and participation of major stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

The first APRM Country Support Mission was conducted in Ghana from 24 – 28 May, 2004, and it was led by Dr. Chris Stals, APR Panel Member. The team of the Support Mission to Ghana included experts from the APR Secretariat, and from the following Strategic Partner Institutions: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

**Rwanda and Mauritius are the next countries to receive APRM Support Missions.**

Mrs. Marie Angelique Savané, Chairperson of the APR Panel will be leading the Support Mission to Rwanda from 21st – 24th June 2004. The team to Rwanda will include the participation of the following:

- i) Mr. Augustin Fosu, Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Executive Secretary, UNECA;
- ii) Mr. Kojo Busia, Development Management Officer, UNECA;
- iii) Mr. Michael Mahmoud, Senior Financial Sector Advisor, the African Development Bank;
- iv) Ms. Zemenay Lakew, Senior Regional Programme Coordinator, UNDP; and
- v) Mr. Moise Nembot, Coordinator, Democracy and Good Political Governance, APR Secretariat.

The APRM Country Support Mission to Mauritius will take place from the 27 – 29 June 2004, and will be led by Mr. Mourad Medelci, APR Panel member. The following will also be part of the team:

- i) Mr. Kerfalla Yansane, APRM Lead Consultant, APR Secretariat;
- ii) Mr. Hakim Ben Hamouda, Director of the Trade and Regional Integration Division, UNECA;
- iii) Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECA;
- iv) Mr. Michael Mahmoud, Senior Financial Sector Advisor, the African Development Bank;
- v) Ms. Zemenay Lakew, Senior Regional Programme Coordinator, UNDP; and
- vi) Ms. Evelynne Change, Coordinator, Corporate Governance, APR Secretariat.

After the APRM Country Support Missions, countries are expected to proceed with their self-assessment and the drafting of the Preliminary National Programme of Action. Subsequently, the APR Panel will conduct the Country Review Visit culminating with the APRM Country Review Report.

It is anticipated that all participating countries would put in place the requisite national structures or organisations for the APRM, paying due regard to the approved calendar to allow the programme of the support missions to continue without hindrance.

**Issued by:**

**The APR Secretariat, Johannesburg, South Africa, 18th June 2004.**

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## Calendar of Events

- Joint Africa Institute (JAI)/Africa Development Bank (ADB) Seminar on NEPAD Regional Integration 21-25 June 2004, Tunis, Tunisia
- East African Submarine System (EASSy) Cable Project Management Committee June 23- 29 , 2004- Kampala, Uganda
- NEPAD and Private Sector Eastern Africa Conference- 24-25 June, 2004 Nairobi, Kenya
- African Ministerial Council (AMCOW) on Water 28-30 June 2004, Tunis, Tunisia
- NEPAD Advisory Board Meeting 28 June 2004 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- NEPAD Science and Technology Coordinators Conference 28 – 30 June, 2004, Pretoria South Africa
- ADB Water Week 1 - 3 July, 2004, Tunis, Tunisia
- NEPAD Steering Committee – 3 July, 2004 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Innovative Approaches to Meeting the Hunger MDG 5 July, 2004 Addis Ababa-Ethiopia
- NEPAD Heads of States and Government Implementation Committee (HSIGC) Summit 6 July 2004 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 3rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly (AU Summit) 5 - 7 July 2004 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Commonwealth Business Council and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) LDC Stakeholders' Forum & Summit on ICT July 7-9 Mauritius
- NEPAD Science and Technology Steering Committee Meeting 13 - 14 July Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
  
- NEPAD French West Africa Editors' Workshop, 19-21 July , 2004, Dakar Senegal
- NEPAD Follow-up Continental Advocacy Campaign Workshop 22-23 July, 2004, Dakar, Senegal
- NEPAD ICT Broadband Infrastructure Workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa July 28 - 30, 2004, Pretoria, South Africa

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