

Aide-memoire

**Regional training workshop on the African Peer Review
Mechanism continental monitoring evaluation and
reporting system**

16-17 March 2018

Kigali

A. Context

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a democratic and governance agenda of the African Union. It is an African owned self-assessment mechanism, which was adopted by African Heads of State and Government in March 2003 as a peer learning and self-assessment mechanism enshrined in the framework of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). The African Peer Review Mechanism is people-centred and through a participatory process creates a platform for citizens to play a direct role in the efforts to address governance deficiencies.

Membership of the African Peer Review Mechanism is voluntary and open to all member countries of the African Union. The review process is not intended to ostracize or punish countries, and no conditionality is attached to the recommendations of the Mechanism. National ownership and leadership of the review process by the country being reviewed are essential features of the African Peer Review Mechanism. The process is designed to be open and participatory, guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, technical competence and credibility, and free from political manipulation.

The African Peer Review Mechanism has a comprehensive approach to the review process, characterized by independent and inclusive policy dialogue, peer-learning, compliance monitoring and follow-up. The mechanism establishes mutual accountability among peers at the national and external levels. Unlike other mechanisms, the African Peer Review Mechanism takes a holistic view of all the aspects of a country's governance system, covering four thematic areas: (a) democratic and political governance; (b) economic governance and management; (c) corporate governance; and (d) socioeconomic development.

The African Peer Review Mechanism country review reports and the African Peer Review Mechanism national plan of action are the main outputs of the process. Both documents are a result of competent assessments and recommendations to address the governance deficiencies observed in the reviewed countries.

The ultimate strength of the African Peer Review Mechanism process depends on the quality of policymaking that goes into the national plan of action and more importantly, subsequent implementation. More specifically, technical assistance from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) concentrates on preparing countries to track progress on implementation of the national plan of action. In addition, one of the most significant value additions from and achievements of the mechanism has been to flag and diagnose openly and frankly systemic and structural governance issues that most of the African States participating in African Peer Review Mechanism face in their governance systems.

The twenty-eight African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government decided to extend the mandate of the African Peer Review Mechanism to include tracking implementation and overseeing monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the continent's key governance areas, specifically Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals. Such developments have further solidified the position of the African

Peer Review Mechanism to drive the governance agenda in Africa and restored confidence in the value and credibility of the process.

During the African Peer Review Mechanism methodology forum organized in Midland, Johannesburg in March 2017, it emerged that a continental monitoring and evaluation system was needed to track and report on performance of key governance activities against activity milestones, output, outcome and impact indicators as outlined in the national plan of action of countries and the synthetization of commendable practices and key lessons learned.

B. The continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system

With the above developments in mind, ECA and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat designed a continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system that provides a platform for all African Peer Review Mechanism stakeholders to track, monitor and evaluate the implementation process of the national plan of action of the African Peer Review Mechanism member countries, and to align it with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

The continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system outlines the essential processes and procedures necessary in managing an efficient and effective implementation of a national plan of action and the recommendations of the country review reports. The system uses robust tools and systems to provide reliable feedback in real time or at regular intervals on the progress achieved, towards the implementation of the national plan of action and other African Peer Review Mechanism programmers. The continental level monitoring, evaluation and reporting system is also to serve as a proactive decision-making forecasting and reporting tool or early warning system for detecting and/or managing possible causes of conflict and/or shortcomings in governance. Finally, the continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system serves as an accountability tool and a platform.

On 30 and 31 October 2017, ECA and the African Peer Review Mechanism continental secretariat organized an expert group meeting in Djibouti to validate the African Peer Review Mechanism monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. The validation exercise brought together leading experts and representatives of the African Peer Review Mechanism member States in the field of governance monitoring and evaluation to rigorously review and provide pertinent feedback on the report of the continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system in order to finalize it. The alignment of the core indicators and indexes of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda with the proposed indicators of African Peer Review Mechanism to track progress that the African Peer Review Mechanism participating countries had made in the implementation of the two agendas was of particular importance to the exercise.

The document on the system includes a set of profiled indicators and a narrative highlighting the use and application of the document at various levels. It is important to have the monitoring, evaluation and reporting system domesticated at national and continental levels in a manner that adheres to agreed norms and standards. This will require a set of guidelines

encapsulated in a manual to be used in guiding and training key target groups at different levels on the application of the framework.

In this regard, a training manual was designed based on the validated monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. The manual outlines the essential processes and procedures required in designing and undertaking continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting and also affords the best opportunity to learn how to exploit synergies among national, continental and global agendas, such as Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, in order to provide accurate and sufficient information to manage the African Peer Review Mechanism continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. The training manual will be used to train all African Peer Review Mechanism national and continental stakeholders on the sustainable management of the system.

C. Objective of the regional training programme

The main objective of this regional training programme is to enhance the capacity of the relevant African Peer Review Mechanism national and continental stakeholders so that they can effectively monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of their respective national plan of action, and give them more opportunity for sharing country experience.

The workshop will seek to provide similar information and capacity skills to members of the national governing council, national secretariat and continental bodies to then train colleagues on how to ensure the development, implementation and monitoring of a coherent national plan of action through the existing national development strategy by:

- Familiarizing with and understanding the major concepts, issues and skills that are required in the design and implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism national plan of action;
- Identifying the competencies for successful harmonization of the national plan of action with existing development strategies based on the African Peer Review Mechanism guidelines;
- Applying lessons and successful practices based on case studies;
- Acquiring strategies for the systematic collection of data, information and coordination of ministries, departments and agencies in the formulation of the national plan of action;
- Exploring guidelines for special circumstances (for example shortfall in funding);
- Identifying approaches to monitoring and evaluation suitable to the country's planning system.

D. Expected outcome

The main targets of the regional monitoring, evaluation and reporting training are the members of the national governing councils/national governance commissions and staff of the national secretariats from the 22 countries that have been peer reviewed and are at various stages of implementing their national plan of action and staff of the continental

secretariat. The staff of the continental secretariat are expected to contribute to the national training programmes on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, which are scheduled for the next year (African Development Bank programme). The workshop will therefore provide a real opportunity for national and continental experts to learn from the experience of their peers, address the key challenges and suggest concrete tools and actions, which will make their national plan of action, monitoring, evaluation and reporting credible and operational.

In this regard, the regional workshop will assist the African Peer Review Mechanism experts to:

- Identify the main stakeholders of the continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system and their respective responsibilities;
- Integrate the national into the continental monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Fund implementation of the continental monitoring and evaluation system.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and progress in implementation of the national plan of action.

The organizers expect that at the end of the workshop, the African Peer Review Mechanism experts would have acquired enough technical knowledge to effectively manage the continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting system at all levels for stakeholders.

The organizers will also make presentations on the synergies between Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

E. Format of the training programme

The regional training programme will be fully participatory through interactive dialogue and presentations by experts from the African Union Commission, African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, think tanks, independent consultants and ECA. The training programme will be organized in plenary and breakout sessions that will address all sections of the continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting training manual. The training programme will be held in French and English.

F. Documentation

Participants will receive the following documents:

- Aide-memoire on the workshop;
- Provisional agenda for the workshop;
- Training manual on the African Peer Review Mechanism continental monitoring, evaluation and reporting (draft);
- Presentations and notable inputs from experts during the meeting;
- Final draft of the African Peer Review Mechanism monitoring and evaluation system.

G. Partnerships

The African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat and ECA will jointly organize the workshop.

H. Contacts

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**Annex 1: PROPOSED APRM CORE INDICATORS TO BE ADDED TO
AGENDA 2063 FRAMEWORK**

Table 1: Proposed Indicators

Thematic Area	Objectives	Proposed Indicators	No.
1. Democracy and Political Governance	1.1 Entrenching Constitutional Democracy and the Rule of Law	1.1.1 Observing and Protecting minority right	1
	1.2 Upholding the Separation, Checks and Balance of Powers	1.2.1 Proportions of enforced Judicial decisions against the other branches of government	2
	1.3 Prevention and Management of Intra and Inter-State Conflicts	1.3.1 Proportion of population displaced as a result of conflict (ethnic, political, etc.)	3
	1.4 Promotion and Protection of Civil and Political Rights as enshrined in African and International Human Rights Instruments	1.4.1 Number of politicians/ Journalists arrested due to their political opinion	4
	1.5 Ensuring Accountable, Efficient and Effective Public Service Delivery at the National and Decentralized levels	1.5.1 Percentage of population (both employed and unemployed) who believe that there is equal access to employment process	5
	1.7 Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Young Persons	1.7.1 Proportion of provisions in the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child that implemented by countries	6
2. Economic Governance and Management	2.1 Design and implement economic policies for sustainable development	2.1.1 Share of total budget allocated to social services sector	7
	2.2 Encourage ownership and participation of key stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation	2.2.1 Proportion of people who believe that there is ownership and good participation of stakeholders in public policy formulation and implementation	8
	2.3 Promote sound public finance management	2.3.1 Use of accepted (regional or international) accounting standards in public finance reporting	9
		2.3.2 Level of tax breaks and incentives for compliance	10
	2.4 Fight corruption and money laundering	2.4.1 Number of public and private officials investigated, prosecuted and convicted of corruption in public procurement	11
2.5 Accelerate and deepen regional integration in the monetary, trade and investment domain	2.5.3 Percentage of foreign Africa national in the country who own businesses (i.e. in the trade and investment domain)	12	

Table 1: Proposed Indicators -Continue

Thematic Area	Objectives	Proposed Indicators	No.
3. Corporate Governance	3.1 Promoting an Enabling Environment and Effective Regulatory Framework for Business organisations and other entities	3.1.1 Ease of doing business index	13
	3.3 Ensuring Ethical Conduct Within Organisations	3.3.1 Proportion of organizations charged for non-compliance with laws and regulations	14
	3.5 Ensuring that Organizations Act as Good Corporate Citizens	3.5.1 Number of projects initiated by organizations to promote gender equality and social welfare (i.e. poverty reduction/job creation/skills development/education /health/HIV/AIDS)	15
4. Socio-economic Development	4.1 Promote and accelerate broad-based sustainable socioeconomic development	4.1.1 Proportion of population expressing satisfaction with public consultation processes as well as inclusiveness, by sex, age, disability, population groups, rural/urban	16
	4.2 Encourage broad-based participation in development	4.2.1 Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population groups	17