THE NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

BROAD BASED PARTICIPATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION: ***the role of parliament in the implementation of the APRM***

Background

- The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) is the Strategic Policy Framework and Socio-economic Development Programme of the African Union (AU).

- The vision of NEPAD is "to eradicate poverty and to place countries, individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development, and at the same time to participate actively in the world economy and body politic".

- The APRM is a self-monitoring mechanism voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the AU with the aim of fostering the adoption of policies, standards and practices that will lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and economic integration.

Countries that have acceded to the APRM

FIRST SIXTEEN

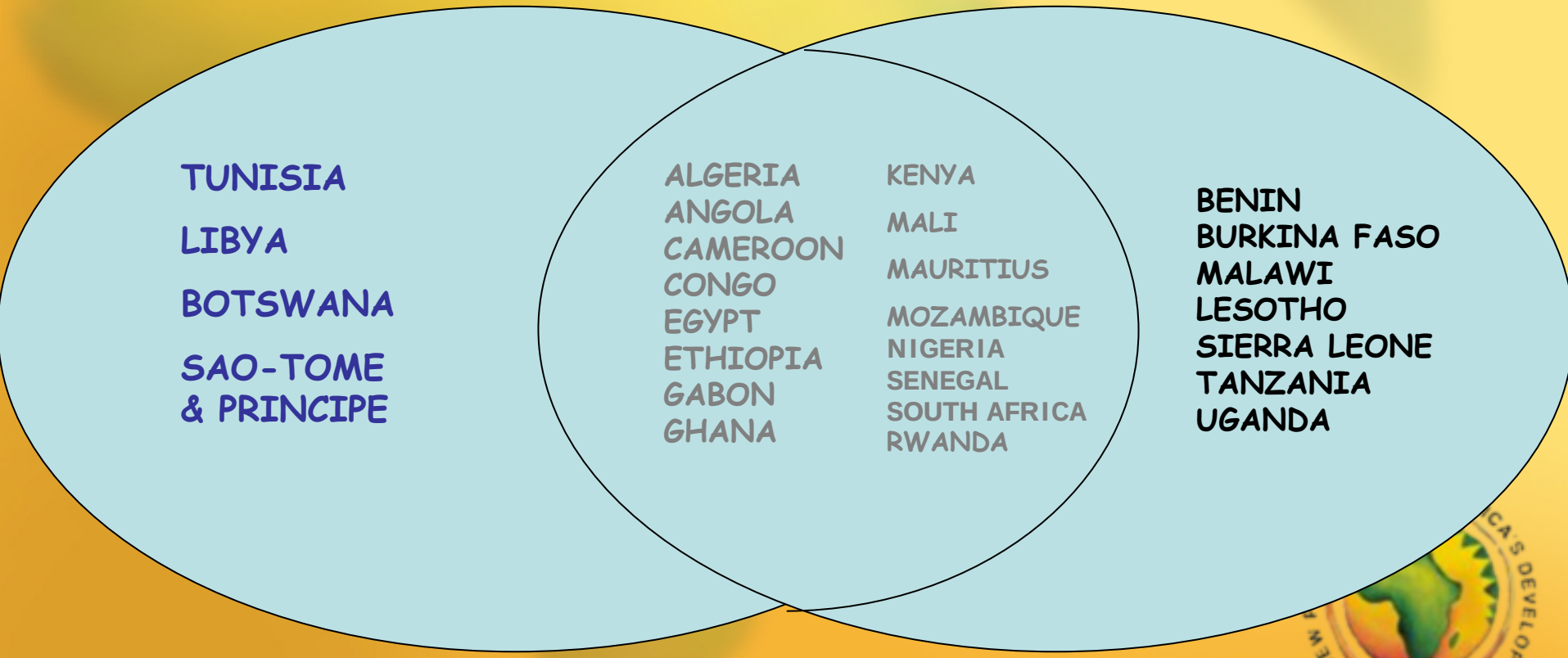
Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda

RECENT ACCESSIONS

Benin, Egypt.

Angola, Malawi, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Tanzania,

African Countries in NEPAD'S Committees



Operational Structure of the APRM

- The overall responsibility of the APRM is vested in the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the APRM (APR Forum].
- A Panel of Eminent Persons [APR Panel] appointed by the Heads of States oversees the conduct of the APRM process and ensures its integrity.
- The APR Secretariat provides the secretarial, technical, coordinating and administrative support services for the APRM.

AREAS COVERED BY THE APRM

- Democracy and Political Governance;
- Economic Governance and Management;
- Corporate Governance, and;
- Socio-Economic Development.

APRM Principles

- National **ownership** and **leadership** by the participating country are essential factors underpinning the effectiveness of the APRM.
- The APRM process is designed to be **open** and **participatory**.
- The APRM is also guided by the principles of **transparency**, **accountability**, **technical competence**, **credibility** and **freedom from manipulation**.

APRM Documents

- The Foundation documents of the APRM namely, the *Memorandum of Understanding on the APRM*, the *Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance*, the *APRM Base Document*, the *APRM Organisation and Processes* Document, and the document on *Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the APRM [OSCI Document]*.
- The Rules and Procedures of the APR Panel and Secretariat;
- The Guidelines for Countries to Prepare for and to Participate in the APRM;
- The Code of Conduct of the APR Country Review Teams;
- A draft MOU to be signed with participating countries;
- A draft MOU to be signed with partner institutions;
- Questionnaire for Self Assessment

The APR Processes

- **Stage One** comprises: the establishment of the national focal point; sending out of the questionnaire by the APR Secretariat; the development of the country's self assessment based on the questionnaire and preliminary Programme of Action; and the submission of these to the APR Secretariat. At this stage the Secretariat also prepares a Background Paper on the Country for comparison with the self assessment.

- **In Stage Two** the country review team visits the country to undertake wide consultations with stakeholders.

- **Stage Three** is the drafting of the report by the country review team and its submission to the APR Secretariat and APR Panel.

- **Stage Four** is the submission of the Country Review Team's report to the APR Forum.

- **Stage Five** which is the final stage of the APR process involves making public the country's report and related actions.

Responsibilities of the participating countries

The (MOU) that countries sign on accession to the APRM defines the following responsibilities of the participating country:

- Firstly, to sign the MOU on Technical Assessments and the Country Review Visit;
- Secondly to contribute fully to the funding of the APRM;
- Thirdly to Conduct the self-assessment against the APR Questionnaire;
- Fourthly, to develop a National Programme of Action Fifthly, to ensure the participation of all stakeholders in the process.

The National Process

The APRM *Guidelines for Countries to Prepare for and to Participate in the APRM* elaborate on the modalities for countries to organize a transparent and participatory process at national level. It is the responsibility of the participating country to

- Appoint **Focal Point** for the APR process, which should be at a Ministerial level, or a person that reports directly to the Head of State or Government.
- Establish **National Commission** with representatives from the key stakeholder constituencies.

The Role of Parliament in the National Process

- Provide information on the APRM to the grassroots
- Help their constituencies understand and define a roadmap for participation in the APRM
- Publicise the feedback mechanism between different levels of stakeholders participating in the APRM.
- Ensure participation by relevant stakeholders in the elaboration of the Programme of Action.
- Follow up on the implementation of the Programme of Action arising from the assessment.
- Ensure the participation of stakeholders at all levels in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

How Parliamentarians can participate in the national process

- **Participation in Intra-Governmental processes** which link national processes to local level processes e.g engaging their constituents and bring local level inputs into the national level policy formulation.
- **Participating in workshops** at regional and local government levels in order to obtain local level inputs to set priorities, determine public action choices, and make the necessary trade-off decisions in the Programme of Action,
- Soliciting **Community** information on local circumstances, so as to create national ownership and commitment in the implementation of the National Programme of Action.

The Importance of Parliamentarian's participation

- Can **supplement conventional data sources** and capture the perceptions of good governance and development.
- **Map the status and priorities** at a more disaggregated level (geographically/demographically).
- **Reveal information about the needs of people** and their reactions to policy proposals, and thus provide information about the effectiveness of different strategies.
- **Negotiation between different stakeholders** over priorities can broaden the ownership and thus strengthen the commitment and buy-in to implement the strategy.
- **Strengthen capacity**
- **Enhance transparency and accountability**
- **Enhance the credibility and impact of the findings.**

Where we are now

- Four Countries already on self assessment, Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius and Kenya.
- The APR Forum held its second meeting in Algiers Algeria in Nov and approved the revised Budget and Work Programme of the APRM.
- According to the Work Programme the Panel will undertake at least three support missions quarterly, making for a total of twelve support missions in 2005.

Way Forward

- The following countries will receive support visits by the first quarter of next year, Mali, Uganda and Mozambique.
- During this time, advance visits shall also be sent to Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa and Senegal with a view to assessing their status of preparedness for the support mission.
- The rest of the countries shall follow based on the proposed calendar.
- A number of countries, including the first four countries will also receive technical assessment and country review visits, following their completion of the self assessment exercise.
- In the meantime, interactions will continue with newly acceding countries, and their programme for review submitted going forward.

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. Rwanda										
. Mauritius										
. Kenya										
. Mali		a x								
. Uganda		x								
. Mozambique		x								
. Nigeria		a	x							
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1. Senegal			a	x						
2. Benin			a	x						
3. Angola			a	x						
4. Burkina aso				a	x					
5. Cameroon				a	x					
6. Congo				a	x					
7. Egypt					a	x				
8. Ethiopia					a	x				
9. Gabon					a	x				
0. Lesotho						a	x			
1. Malawi						a	x			
2. Sierra eone						a	x			
3. Tanzania							a	x		

Challenges

- **Funding:** Tension between ownership and partnership, problem of coordination

- **Participatory process**: role of civil society, and problems of broad base consultation: who to select and how to select?

- **Capacity of countries**: capacity for self assessment, and elaboration of the National Program of Action

- **Incentives for countries to join the APRM:** problem of "carrot and stick"; problem of benefit and enforcement; conditionality

CONCLUSION

- As a policy, the APRM puts strong emphasis on finding ways to involve all elements of civil society and non-state actors including rural populations, religious groups, trade unions, the media, women and youth, and the private sector in the APRM at country and continental levels. The importance of information dissemination to civil society both at national and continental level is stressed.
- APRM recognizes the role of Parliament as the traditional seat of deliberation of governance issues. Reports to be tabled at key sub-regional fora including the Pan-African Parliament. Parliament also important for Peer Learning and Sharing of Experiences.