



# **African Peer Review Mechanism, New Partnership for Africa's Development – A Communication Perspective**

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Africa's Development (NEPAD): A Communication Perspective assigned to me is very apt at this time. Since I have very limited time to deliver this paper and given the reality of the near neglect of the communication component in most government programmes in the continent, may I therefore be obliged to make the assumption – and I hope it is not too far-fetched, that this discussion should focus on the basic information of the objectives, structure, functions and challenges of NEPAD and APRM as it strives to build continental momentum for economic development and transformation. Africa has come of age and should drop the toga of the dispossessed and dependency after several years of independence.

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), aims to promote sustainable democracy and good political governance; economic governance and management; corporate governance; and socio-economic development.

# **NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT**

**The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was adopted in 2001 by African Leaders as a means of owning the processes of changing the political, social and economic fortunes of Africa for the better.. It is a vision and strategic framework for Africa's renewal.**

## **NNEPAD Primary Objectives**

- ▶ Eradicate poverty;
- ▶ Place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development
- ▶ Halt the marginalisation of Africa in the globalisation process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy; and
- ▶ Accelerate the empowerment of women

**NEPAD targets the following areas for action: combating desertification; wetland conservation; global warming; environmental governance, and financing.**

# AFRICA PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

The APRM is as instrument for setting Africa loose from the noose of economic and political dependence and dispossession.

To date 37 African countries have voluntarily subscribed to the ideals and principles of APRM 17 of these 37 countries have been peer reviewed.

## **Other objectives are:**

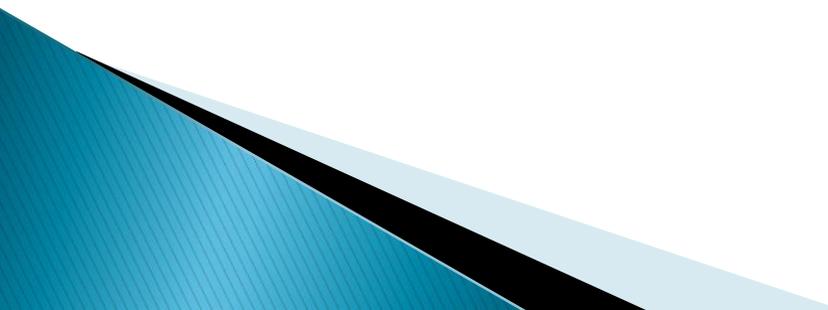
- ▶ Serve as an indigenous African instrument for revitalising the political, social and economic foundation of participating member states;
- ▶ Tool for promoting the rebirth of institutions of political and economic governance;
- ▶ A means for holding the leaders accountable,
- ▶ Seek collective sustainable and equitable solution to common problems and
- ▶ Put in motion a strategic reorientation towards universal African values.

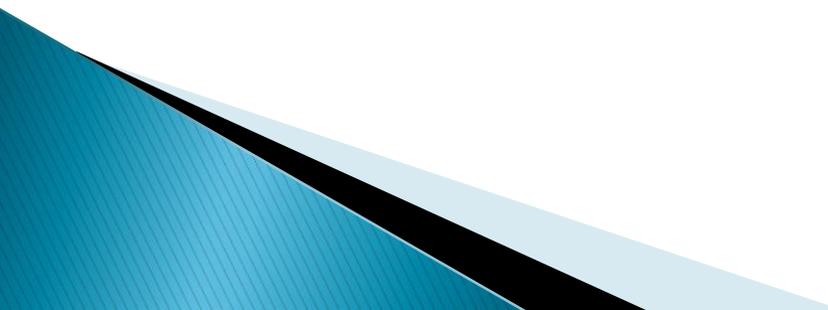
# APRM ORGANISATION AND PROCESSES

The following documents provide the basic instruments for the operationalisation of the APRM both at the continental and individual country levels:

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the APRM;
- Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance;
- African Peer Review Mechanism Base Document;
- African Peer Review Mechanism: Organisation and Processes;
- Objectives, Standards, Criteria and Indicators for the Africa Peer Review Mechanism; and,
- Outline of the Memorandum of Understanding on
- Technical Assessment and the Country Review Visit

Framework Document and Declaration. The codes and standards that are referenced in the Declaration are those agreed to by the African Union.

- ▶ Democracy and Political Governance;
  - ▶ Economic Governance and Management;
  - ▶ Corporate Governance;
  - ▶ Socio-economic Development.
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- ❑ The Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government (the APRM Forum) is the highest decision-making authority
  - ❑ The Panel of Eminent Persons (*APR Panel*) is to ensure the integrity of the process, consider review reports and make recommendations to the APR Forum.
  - ❑ The APRM Secretariat and the Country Review Team (APR Team) respectively provide technical support service and undertake visits to countries to review progress with each country's Programme of action.
  - ❑ At the national level, an all-inclusive APRM organisation with a highly proficient country secretary and cooperating technical institutions are required.
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## **Policy/Institutional Challenges**

- Lack of awareness on NEPAD and APRM programmes
- Lack of adequate co-ordination between various NEPAD arms in Nigeria
- Lack of adequate capital to implement NEPAD programmes.
- Poor funding

## **Recommendations**

## **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**

- Greater emphasis on harnessing local resources to be more self-reliant in implementing NEPAD
- Need for greater public/private sector collaboration in implementing NEPAD Nigeria
- Government should expedite APRM process and provide adequate fund for its implementation

# NEPAD and APRM

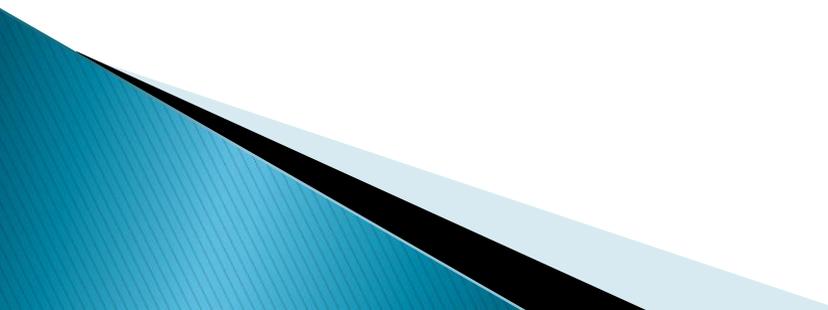
- NEPAD was Africa's strategy for changing past faulty foreign determined development models.
- NEPAD articulated a home grown new development paradigm for Africa based on home grown ideas;
- The APRM principles were developed to realize NEPAD's objectives;
- APRM progress so far has confirmed the genuineness of African ownership of their destiny;
- Country reviews provide avenues for national and continental dialogue;
- The reviews have taken development beyond the donor-imposed approaches to better national policy making formulation

# APRM – A Paradigm Shift in Africa's Development Process

- Peer review through a comprehensive self-assessment
- Inclusive policy dialogues between state and society, and among African leaders – unprecedented in the history of development in Africa.
- Empowering of civil society to actively engage in the policy process
- Promoting of long-term development planning and setting of priorities;
- Institutionalizing participatory monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.
- Transferring of country specific best practices from one country to another, thereby encouraging intra-regional cooperation and intra-technical assistance.
- Early warning of impending conflicts and collective efforts at solving problems.

## The Shift in Paradigm from external to Domestic Accountability in Policy making

- A shift away from satisfying the conditions and preferences of external actors (IMF/WB) to internal constituencies of citizens.
- A shift away from dependency on external ideas to more internally driven policy making and setting of priorities.
- More regional orientation of policies – comparing progress with each other rather than with other regions of the world – South-South cooperation rather than North-South unequal interaction with a psychological boost of self-confidence.
- This inward looking approach to policy research, formulation and accountability to domestic rather than external constituents has led to institutional capacity development that is organic rather than superimposed from outside.

- The governance framework**
  - The organizational capacities**
  - The tri-partite partnership - State, civil society and the private sector**
  - The original momentum**
  - Ensure that all the stakeholders are effectively carried along.**
  - Adopt best practices of communicating all decisions, findings and progress at all times.**
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Political will to implement the outcomes of the APRM processes.

APRM Strategic Partners to be more committed and make the programme a truly African success story.

- The emerging new generation of political leadership to embrace and take it to higher pedestal

- Rigorously use communication strategies in all the programmes of both NEPAD and

- APRM.

