

Closing remarks by Prof. Eddy Maloka

APRM-UN DESA workshop on accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

Cape Town 30/10/2021

Good morning excellencies, African brothers and Sisters,

- Allow me first to thank all of you for availing your time and expertise to be with us in this workshop for three days. I guess it was an extremely successful and insightful peer-learning exercise between AU member states after a long time of human disconnection emanated from the COVID-19 and its consequences on our daily lives.
- Our gratitude and appreciation go to all our strategic partners from the AU sister organizations, especially the AU Commission, UN agencies, and the UN Resident Coordinator in South Africa for joining our efforts to sustain this continental exercise for the 2nd time. Your collaboration echoes our coherent approach for addressing the institutional resilience issues and emphasis the multilateral and cooperative spirit between our organs.
- Over the past two days, we have discussed various cross-cutting issues pertinent to how to strengthen our public institutions to speed up implementing both continental and global agendas'; Agenda 2063 "the Africa We want" and Sustainable Development Goals. Although the workshop does not sufficiently answer the million trillion questions on *how to build effective and inclusive institutions*, especially in the time of crisis or global shocks, as the current pandemic continues, it though found out key **takeaway messages** to be considered:
 1. Political will and leadership are imperative to boost institutional and administrative reforms in many African countries. We have seen examples from Kenya, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Botswana and Uganda how governments are adopting many reforms and policies to tackle the sustainable development issues alongside the modernization of national civil service. Further attention is needed to link national achievements with regional progress. The APRM thus remains eager to strengthen its connection with the Regional

Economic Communities (RECs) to ensure that key governance recommendations are considered at different levels to enhance governance progress in many African countries.

2. The impact of the pandemic on many countries across the globe, including Africa, will be with us for some time. As Prof. Moleketi alluded, economic crisis and food insecurity are amongst the major threats for the continent. Yet, the pandemic offers a Silverline opportunity to address long-lasting issues and build back better and responsive institutions with developed and digitalized tools, as seen in the example of Mauritius. Developing new thinking of strategies to improve subsidiarity, sound policy making and inclusiveness, offered by CEPA, shall be supported to assist governments in addressing many national and continental concerns.
3. Investing in African human capital, especially youth and women, requires further alignment between the partners' strategies and national priorities. We need to provide capacity building programs to advocate some policies including CEPA principles. the APRM newly developed Governance hub shall provide a variety of courses, in partnership with AAPAM and other members of APRM-CEPA Taskforce for Africa.
4. While APRM Baseline Study remains a starting point for tackling many governance issues at the national level, APRM shall work on deeper assessment for operationalizing these principles at the national level. Further targeted reviews on some aspects of these principles, based on the requests from our member states. In 2022, we shall also start developing a toolkit to assist member states in this exercise in partnership with UN DESA and other regional partners.
5. The voluntary National and Local Review on SDGs and Agenda 2063 offered a significant chance for many countries to encourage the whole-of government and whole of society approach. Having that said, reporting on CEPA principles or some strategies shall be implemented in tandem with this process. As the APRM serves as a continental peer-learning mechanism on VNRs at the regional level under its expanded mandate, we shall consider mainstreaming CEPA principles in this annual exercise and highlight its significance for member states and AU organs.

6. Encouraging the agencies to move away from working in silos and work in a more coordinated and collaborative manner was also emphasized by many speakers. In APRM, we always open our doors for new partnerships to serve our continent. Thus, I believe our partnerships with all these organs and newly developed ones, i.e., the Egyptian Agency for Partnership, can offer new horizons for collaboration and regional integration on the continent.

7. Let me finally recall Madiba's famous quote "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead". I hope APRM may continue, in partnership with other organs, lead this mindset and institutional change in the continent.

I thank you,