

Presentation on Follow up and Review at the Intergovernmental negotiations on UN post 2015 development agenda by Amb. Fatuma Ndangiza- Chairperson of the African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons

New York, 21st January, 2015

-Excellencies Permanent Representatives,

-Distinguished Participants,

-Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure and honour for me to address this August audience on Follow Up and Review of the Post 2015 development agenda and share APRM perspectives.

On behalf of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and my own behalf, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Co-facilitators of Intergovernmental negotiations on United Nations Post-2015 development agenda for the invitation and organizing this timely interactive dialogue.

This is a unique opportunity to make our voices heard and participate in the setting of the new development global agenda. You will recall that in 2000 when MDGS were adopted, Africans had little say in defining the agenda but went ahead and implemented MDS. Evidence shows that Africa has made progress in attaining MDG goals. Progress have been recorded in primary school enrollment, gender parity in primary education, representation of women in Parliaments and decision making organs, decline in HIV AIDS Prevalence rates. Yet Africa has to adequately address social inequalities and pressing need to eradicate poverty and provide employment for the additional more than 200 million youth expected to join the labour force during the next decade.

The post-2015 development agenda presents a framework that builds on MDGS that made huge impact on recent development processes around the world and influenced our thinking about human development, prioritizing policy actions and allocating resources. It is encouraging to note that whereas the 17 proposed sustainable development goals are universally applicable, there is recognition of national and regional realities, different capacities and levels of development as well as being mindful of national policies and priorities.

The Common African position(CAP) drawing from African Union's 2063 long term vision is a resolve to deliver on our various declarations and commitments on the social and economic integration, poverty reduction and employment generation for the peoples of Africa. CAP aims at re-orienting development paradigm away from externally driven initiatives towards domestically inspired and funded initiatives. Central to the building blocks of CAP is a strong commitment to good governance. Enhancing the implementation and impact of existing continental mechanisms in particular NEPAD and APRM is vital for accelerating Africa's development and post-2015 development agenda.

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

The African Peer review mechanism (APRM) was established in 2003 as a self-monitoring initiative to promote good governance in Africa has contributed to the attainment of the goals of NEPAD and MDGS. APRM is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by AU member states with the aim of fostering the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and economic integration. The objective is achieved by sharing experiences and reinforcing good practices, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the capacity building needs of participating countries. APRM promotes peer learning and sharing through constructive dialogue and persuasion.

As of 2014, thirty four (34) countries have voluntarily acceded to APRM and 17 have been peer reviewed. The APRM assessment is conducted within the framework of agreed values, codes and standards enshrined in the African Union declaration on democracy, political, economic and corporate governance under substantive thematic 4 areas:

1. Democracy and Political Governance
2. Economic governance and management
3. Corporate governance
4. Socio-economic development

APRM Guiding principles

- The APRM is a process that is nationally owned and led
- The review process must be open, inclusive and participatory
- Every review must be technically competent, credible and free from political manipulation

APRM Governance structure is as follows

APR Forum of Heads of State and Government

APR Panel of Eminent persons-----APRM Focal Points

APR Secretariat

Continental level

APRM Focal Points APRM National Governance commission

National APRM secretariat

Technical research institutions

Country level

APRM guidelines based on base documents

These include:

- Accession MOU
- Guidelines for countries to prepare national programs of action
- APRM Master questionnaire
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework

APRM process

Stage1: National self-assessment that is inclusive and participatory of all stakeholders. Citizens attend stakeholders forums and articulate their views on all areas of review. A draft report and preliminary National programme of action are prepared and submitted to the APR secretariat.

Stage 2: The Country review team visits the country and undertake wide, independent consultations with stakeholders.

Stage 3: Is the drafting of the report by the country review team led by the Panel

Stage 4: Is the peer review at the level of the Heads of State and Government participating in the APRM.

Stage 5: Which is the final stage of the APRM Process involves making public the country's report and commencement of implementation.

APRM lessons for the Follow up and Review of post 2015 development agenda

1. National ownership and leadership by the participating country are essential factors underpinning the success of the review
2. Peer review at the highest level sustains political commitment
3. Participatory and inclusive development processes to ensure desired development outcomes for all.
4. Global goal setting is important but implementation should be national/regional contextualized.
5. Importance of peer sharing and learning at various levels of actors through regional workshops and forums etc
6. Monitoring progress is critical and existing monitoring instruments should be utilized and integrated in post-2015 development agenda
7. Effective institutional framework with defined roles of each governance layer is key.
8. Need to build an effective Secretariat to ensure technical coordination and delivery on the mandate
9. Need to focus on realistic thematic areas, goals and targets
10. Voluntary review by member states should be accompanied by incentives
11. Linkage to grassroots constituencies
12. Resource mobilization strategy
13. Robust communication and information management strategy

Conclusion

In conclusion the process of developing a follow up and review framework for post 2015 development agenda should build on existing local and regional review mechanisms. Clearly, the APRM is a useful instrument in the pursuit of the development agenda because it not only monitors and evaluates the extent to which commitments are implemented, it also provides the opportunity for policy makers and citizens to hold each other accountable.

At the 23rd AU General Assembly held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea on 24-26 June 2014, a decision was adopted to integrate APRM as an autonomous entity within the AU system. This decision will catalyse the ability of the APRM to play a greater role within AU system. The AU Commission has observed the participation and inclusion of

all stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 is one of the building blocks of agenda 2063. APRM can make an invaluable contribution to the implementation of both agenda 2063 and Common African Position.

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APRM as the premier governance flagship of AU is being repositioned to be a knowledge hub on governance and to undertake an even more enhanced monitoring and accountability role for the continent in the framework of post-2015 development agenda and post 2015 agenda.

APRM will continue to play an important role in promoting good governance on the continent through peer review which can complement global monitoring.

The greatest benefits for every stakeholder and partner will come from closer cooperation and the joint pursuit of the multiplier effects that flow from better participatory governance and a clearer focus on achievable goals that are shared and prioritized by everyone.

More intergovernmental negotiations consultations are needed to put in place a common approach to Follow up and review of post 2015 development agenda. There is need for a greater focus on previously marginalized issues like governance, conflicts and fragility and inclusive economic growth. Let us stay engaged, active and participatory in this process so that we reflect what is the consensus that we must take as we continue to shape our own global development agenda and where we want to be in the next 15 years.

I thank you for the kind attention,

