

## CONCEPT NOTE

**‘APRM as best Practice for South-South Cooperation on Governance in Africa’  
Occasion : 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
March 20-22, 2019**

### Summary

<b>Dates</b>	March 20 (1-3 pm)
<b>Venue</b>	General Hall of the Nation - Archivo General de la Nación Leandro N. Alem 246, Capital Federal <b>(Transportation is provided)</b>
<b>Organized by</b>	African Peer Review Mechanism
<b>Moderator</b>	Osten Chulu, SDGs & Agenda 2063 Expert (APRM) tbc
<b>Partners</b>	HLCSSC, NEPAD, BRICS Policy Centre, UNOSSC and AU member states
<b>Participants</b>	The audience of BAPA+40 conference from Decision-makers, Government representatives, Senior representatives from AU organizations, Eminent scholars, experts, and NGOs
<b>Working Languages</b>	English
<b>Thematic areas of the panel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- APRM role in promoting good governance through SSC</li> <li>- NEPAD’s significance in promoting SSC in Africa from an operational perspective.</li> <li>- Presenting Africa Governance Report outcomes</li> <li>- SSC in the context of Agenda 2063 for Africa and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.</li> <li>- AU member states experiences in South-South Cooperation: key challenges and lessons learnt.</li> </ul>
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raising awareness on APRM’s mandate, activities and commitments to Agenda 2063 (Aspiration 3) &amp; SDGs (Goal 16) and sharing AU member states’ experiences with the APRM reviews</li> <li>- Highlighting the APRM-NEPAD joint efforts as Pan African Organizations working for promoting SSC in the continent from governance and operational perspectives.</li> <li>- Reinforcing partnerships and networking between APRM and concerned agencies, thinktanks and associations concerned with SSC.</li> </ul>



## Brief:

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a specialized organ of the African Union created to promote and foster good governance for socio-economic development on the African Continent. The APRM has become the continent's pioneering self-monitoring tool for promoting good governance and serves as a socio-economic development blueprint for the continent designed to make African countries themselves responsible for upholding standards of democracy and good governance. The APRM additionally serves as a platform for sharing best practices and experiences, identifying deficiencies and assessing capacity building needs to ensure that the policies and practices of participating states conform to the agreed political, economic and corporate governance values, codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance.

Since the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, African states have subscribed to numerous charters, conventions, treaties, declarations and other instruments with significant and binding substantive obligations to establish and operate rules-based, transparent and accountable governance. However, this commitment to human rights, democracy and good political, and economic governance has not always been fully matched by the institutional capacity by which compliance with those commitments would be expedited, monitored and enforced.

It is this important gap that the APRM was designed to fill, albeit in a voluntary and non-coercive manner. Conceived at the dawn of the Millennium as part of the NEPAD initiative, the APRM was formally launched on 9 March 2003 when 11 countries signed the *Memorandum of Understanding on the African Peer Review Mechanism* in Abuja, Nigeria. Membership to the mechanism is by voluntary accession, and today, out of the 55 African Union member States, 37 African countries (67%) have acceded to the Mechanism, while 23 peer review studies have been conducted to the acceding member states.

Based on the AU's Heads of State summit decision in 2017, the APRM has further been tasked with supporting the AU member states in reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the African Union's long-term development framework called Agenda 2063 'Africa We Want' which was launched at the AU Summit in Addis Ababa in 2013.



Taking due cognisance of the congruence between the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063, which has been established to be at least 90%, the APRM in collaboration with other continental intergovernmental and multilateral institutions has embarked on an ambitious strategy to domesticate and integrate the two frameworks into national development plans and strategies. Although APRM was originally mandated to promote good governance as promulgated by Agenda 2063 Aspiration 3 'An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law' which is reflected in SDG 16 which focuses on Peace, justice and strong institutions as it aims to promote inclusive institutions and societies, the APRM acknowledges the complex inter-linkages amongst all SDGs. The APRM is thus engaged with the UN specialized agencies and pan-African organizations to ensure coherence between the global and continental development agendas for Africa. Furthermore, the mechanism has organized continental workshops to prepare Member States to prepare Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) as well as share best practices of Voluntary National Reviews on the SDGs implementation.

As part of preparations towards BAPA+40 and its commitment towards the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda and the 2063 Agenda, the APRM, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations, hosted a high-level dialogue in May 2018 in Johannesburg to discuss Africa's perspectives on the role that SSC has in contributing to the attainment of the objectives of both Agendas and to evaluate the role of the APRM as a unique model of SSC among African countries and the consultative and cooperative platform it has created for its leaders.

The two-day dialogue discussed Africa's position in the institutionalized SSC channels, the impact of SSC on the implementation of both agendas 2030 and 2063 in Africa and the role of UN in promoting SSC through effective partnership with African organizations.

At international fora, the APRM partook in the Global South-South Development Expo organized at the UN headquarters in New York from 27-30 November. The APRM Secretariat engaged with this Expo to showcase its knowledge products and national peer reviews conducted for many African countries to enhance governance cross-cutting issues.



## **Objectives of the APRM side event in BAPA+40:**

The APRM and its partners intend to host a side event on the margins of the second high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation. The side event will be in the form of a panel discussion and cross-fertilisation of ideas by experts, strategic partners and member states on topical issues in South-South Cooperation, with a focus on how the ground-breaking APRM model can be replicated in other regions facing similar developmental challenges.

This panel will highlight the role of APRM over the last 15 years in promoting good governance in Africa through the peer review studies as well as various regional workshops and discussions on implementing institutional reforms at the local level. In addition, the panel will also discuss the current activities implemented by the APRM to support AU member states for the preparations of the UN Voluntary National reviews on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

This aspect of the panel discussion will also include NEPAD's experience in SSC on the African continent. The APRM secretariat is keen to share NEPAD's contribution to galvanizing South-South Cooperation through its development projects and programs. As the implementing arm of the AU development programs and policies as well as being involved in preparing the first African SSC report, it is undoubtedly useful to share NEPAD's experience in streamlining the SSC cooperation into the African countries development plans, ensuring the alignment of SSC projects with Agenda 2063, and sharing the lessons learnt from this exercise.

The panel will also demonstrate the key challenges towards promoting SSC within the continent by displaying some African countries' experiences. As the APRM has a membership of 37 AU member states, the mechanism will invite few countries' representatives – who will be participating in BAPA+40 - to reflect on the APRM's contribution to enhancing good governance in their respective countries in addition to the national lessons learnt and expectations from the SSC initiatives in Africa. Leading strategic partners such as the UNOSSC, the OECD, and other relevant UN partners will also be invited to provide insights on how SSC has contributed to overall progress towards achieving the SDGs/Agenda 2063 and other developmental frameworks.

## **Contacts:**

Enquires on the organization of the side event should be directed to



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