



ECA



REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM

Promoting Universal Accession to the APRM for
an Enhanced Regional Integration among Ecowas
member countries

CONCEPT NOTE

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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0 / INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM IN ECOWAS

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has fifteen Member countries. These countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. From this list, eleven are members of the African Peer Review Mechanism (MAEP), i.e 31.42% of the total of APRM member countries as of 1 January 2016. This means that ECOWAS is the largest regional economic community with the highest number of members of the mechanism as they represent 73.33% of the countries of the community. Furthermore, it should be noted that out of the seventeen APRM members that have already been assessed and reviewed by the Heads of State and Government, six are ECOWAS members, which accounts for 35.29% of this total. The six countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

There is therefore in West Africa the largest number of countries that advocate and promote good governance on the continent. This gives a special dimension to the regional workshop on the APRM in partnership with ECOWAS, which will take place in November 2016 in terms of wealth of best practices and lessons learned.

In addition to the factors that contributed to the success of the two previous regional workshops on the APRM, one held in Chad with ECCAS in May 2014 and the East of Africa one held in Kenya with IGAD and EAC, which were successful beyond all expectations, the regional workshop intends to introduce some notable innovations. They relate, among other things, to:

- (i) Sensitization on the methodology of the second generation review; the six APRM member States in ECOWAS that have already been peer reviewed might be interested in engaging in this type of review;
- (ii) Sponsoring the four other ECOWAS countries not yet APRM members by some of the APRM Member countries that have already been peer-reviewed, on a voluntary basis. It should be noted that the ultimate goal of this sponsorship proposal is to bring on board, in a short period of time (12 months) after the workshop, ECOWAS countries not yet members to quickly request to join the APRM. In this regard, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, The Gambia and Cape Verde will be invited as observers to participate in the proceedings of the Workshop and to the proposed sponsorship on a voluntary basis;
- (iii) Best practices. Africans need to learn from each other. West Africa abounds with more good practices in the area of good governance than the other parts of the continent which could use them for the well-being of their populations. The regional Workshop on the APRM would like to give the floor to eight countries, including three non APRM members, to share with other countries of the regional economic community only one good governance practice;
- (iv) The information followed by discussions on the current APRM revitalization process will also be on the agenda of the regional workshop.

I / RATIONALE FOR THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM IN ECOWAS

Thirteen years after its establishment, the APRM has many successes at all levels. They are national, regional and local. The mechanism has opened and expanded the political space for democratic debates within its member countries. More importantly, the mechanism has brought the issue of good governance at the top of the political agendas of its Member States. But on the other hand, we recognize more and more that the APRM is suffering from a deficit of instant notoriety and image among Africans on the continent and the Diaspora for whom the Mechanism claims to work for.

Among the salient points, which reinforce the other challenges that the Mechanism is faced with, based on 13 years of practice, the following should be mentioned:

- Slowness of the launching of the process in all countries;
- The need to generalize the self-assessment exercise of governance across the continent;
- The need to strengthen peer learning at all levels;
- The pressing need to include the National Plan of Action (NPoA) in the National Development Plan of the APRM Member States, but also in the work programmes of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs);
- The promotion of collective ownership of the APRM with African political civil societies.

II / OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM IN ECOWAS

The formula of a regional workshop that gathers at the same time Member States and a Regional Economic Community, in the present case, ECOWAS, is chosen for four reasons:

- Promote and improve positive and dynamic interactions between Member countries in a framework of a collective peer learning on the APRM.
- Convince countries that are already members of the Mechanism to learn from each other in order to raise concerns and to clearly see the benefits related to their possible re-engagement in the APRM process.
- Invite AU's member states from ECOWAS, which are not yet acceded to the APRM, here 4 in all to join the group as observers, so that they can benefit from their presence during this ECOWAS Regional Workshop to learn about the APRM (mandate, guiding principles, strengths and challenges, the APRM process, ...) and accelerate their decisions on the accession to the Mechanism.
- Enhance the role of RECs, such as ECOWAS, to contribute and benefit from the mechanism

III / MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)

ECOWAS is a regional group of fifteen countries established in 1975. Its mission is to promote economic integration in "all areas of the economy, namely industry, transport, telecommunications, energy, agriculture, natural resources, trade, currency, and finance as well as social and cultural issues.

Table: ECOWAS member countries

ECOWAS countries members of the APRM	ECOWAS countries Not yet APRM members	ECOWAS Member States that have been peer-reviewed
Benin	Cape Verde	Benin
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Burkina Faso
Côte d'Ivoire	Guinea-Bissau	Ghana
Ghana	Guinea Conakry	Mali
Liberia		Nigeria
Mali		Sierra Leone
Niger		
Nigeria		
Senegal		
Sierra Leone		
Togo		

IV / DRAFT CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM

The following proposed programme is only indicative and is therefore likely to change in the coming weeks. This outreach, training and sharing of experiences programme has six parts:

- Know the APRM better: what the APRM is not; what the APRM is ; the five phases of the APRM process and its key intermediate products; research methodology for self-assessment on governance and the development of a self-review Report; preliminary National Plan of Action (NPoA) ; the Review Report; the APRM achievements and challenges.
- Experience sharing by 5 member countries reviewed by the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government. We are proposing: Ghana, Benin, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Mali.
- Role of governance in the Regional Integration
- Harmonisation of APRM NPoA with ECOWAS strategic plans;
- New methodology for basic review.
- Discussions on the APRM revitalization process.
- Methodology for the second generation review.
- Presentation on best practices in good governance by eight ECOWAS countries [Côte d'Ivoire; Liberia; Senegal; Niger, Nigeria; Cape Verde; Guinea Bissau; The Gambia].

V / PLACE OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE APRM AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER DELEGATION

5.1 Date and place for the regional workshop

The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire offered to host the Regional Workshop from **28 to 29 November 2016**, in Abidjan

5.2 Number of delegates sponsored per country is **2**

Previous experiences in the optimal hosting of regional workshops show that the combination of three factors is crucial: (i) a high level of representation with real decision-making of ministerial type, (ii) an efficient technical ability allowing the implementation of the process, and (iii) a great ability to disseminate the results achieved during the implementation of the process, in particular the National Plan of Action. With this in mind, the APRM Secretariat proposes that each delegation be consisted with two or three people: a delegate at ministerial level or a sitting cabinet Minister, a technician very familiar with the APRM tools and /or a communication specialist.

VI / THE PANEL'S SPECIAL CONFERENCE

It has become a tradition that a member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons comes to a special conference on a topic related to governance and development and discusses the topic with participants. The iconoclastic theme chosen for the event this year is:

" Structural Transformation and Diversification of the Economy in Africa; How to achieve it in a concrete manner?"