

# AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM) NIGERIA



African Peer Review  
Mechanism

## IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS REPORT FOR THE PERIOD



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

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

### **1.1 What is APRM?**

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a mutually instrument voluntarily acceded to by member-states of the African Union (AU) as an African self-monitoring mechanism.

### **1.2 Objectives**

The primary objectives is to foster the adoption by African governments of the policies, standards, values and practices that lead to improved governance.

### **1.3 Core principles**

The APRM is driven by the hallmark principles of demonstrable commitment at the highest level of political leadership of an acceding country, national ownership and popular participations. Other core principles are openness, transparency, inclusiveness and accountability as well as technical competence, credibility and independence from political manipulation.

### **1.4 Focus Areas**

Democracy and political Governance, Economic Governance and Management, Corporate Governance and Socio-economic Development.

### **1.5 Stakeholders**

#### **State and Non-State Actors**

Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Civil Society Organizations, Faith and Community-Based Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Private Sector

## 1.6 Establishment

Nigeria is one of the pioneer members of the NEPAD that acceded to the APRM. Following the country visit to Nigeria by the Country Support Mission from the Continental Secretariat, the structure required for the conduct of the APRM and the Country Self Assessment Process were established to evaluate the perceptions of Nigerians on governance.

## 2. Methodology

A combination of the following research methodology was used to ensure that valid Country Self-Assessment Report (CSAR) and the National Programme of Action (NPOA) were produced:

- Desk study
- Mass Household Survey (MHS)
- Elite/Decision-Maker Interview (EDMI)
- Focus Group Discussions (FDG)

## 3. Main Findings

### 3.1 Awareness of NEPAD and APRM

Low level of awareness of NEPAD and the APRM and its processes among Nigerians but very high level of awareness of the relevant governance issues assed the four thematic areas.

### 3.2 Democracy and Political Governance Standards and Codes in Democracy and Political Governance

Although Nigeria has signed several international codes and standards on democracy and political governance but these have not all been ratified and reflected in Nigerian laws. Also there no proper records are kept of all the Standards and Codes that Nigeria has signed.

### 3.3 Economic Governance and Management Standards and Codes in Economic Governance and Management

Nigeria has signed, acceded to, ratified and implemented directly and indirectly many standards and codes to promote economic governance and management. It can therefore be said that the groundwork for sustainable economic development is being instituted.

### 3.4 Corporate Governance Implementation of Standards and Codes in Corporate Governance

As in the other thematic areas, Nigeria has signed and ratified many of the international standards and codes adopted by African Heads of State and Government as guides for corporate governance reform.

### **3.5 Socio-Economic Development Implementation of Standards and Codes in Socio-Economic Development**

Nigeria has implemented various international standards and codes that relevant to socio-economic development. Furthermore, NEPAD has been institutionalized and its programmes are being implemented at the various levels of government including the private sector to promote socio-economic development.

## **4. Key Recommendations**

### **4.1 Democracy and Political Governance**

- Standards and Codes not yet ratified should be ratified and domesticated in the shortest possible time;
- Constitutional review to correct anomalies;
- Capacity-building of the judiciary and legislature;
- Sustained implementation of ongoing public service reforms;
- Autonomy of anti-corruption agencies should be enhanced;
- Due process should be observed in fighting corruption
- Constitutional review to provide Affirmative Action for Women, and
- Establishment of a National Social Fund to support Government Agencies

### **4.2 Economic Governance and Management**

- Standards and Codes not yet ratified should be ratified and domesticated in the shortest possible time;
- The economic Reform Programme (NEEDS II) should be faithfully implemented
- Passage and operation of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill
- Capacity building of public servants to operate the public procurement Law etc

### 4.3 **Corporate Governance**

- Standards and Codes not yet ratified should be ratified and domesticated in the shortest possible time;
- Evaluation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by outcomes rather than by inputs;
- Corporate integrity measures should be apply to the private sector;
- Shareholders associations should be strengthened as watchdogs;

### 4.4 **Socio-Economic Development**

- Standards and Codes not yet ratified should be ratified and domesticated in the shortest possible time;
- Enhanced institutional capacity for effective implementation of NEEDS, SEEDS and LEADS
- Better coordinator of development planning at all in tiers of government;
- Poverty reduction programmes should be better funded
- Massive infrastructure improvement;
- Improved supervision and monitoring of infrastructure projects;
- Sustained and more effective implementation of the MDG programmes
- Improved access to credit for small and Medium Enterprises; and
- Vigorous promotion of girl-child education.

## 5. **Formation of the National Working Group (NWG)**

In March 2004, a 50member National Working Group, which is an equivalents of the National Governing Council/ National Commission as recommended by the APRM, was inaugurated by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. The number has been increased to about 270 because of the size and diversity of Nigeria and the need to involve the entire spectrum of the society, with a view to achieving popular participation, ownership and sustainability.

### 5.1 **Composition of the NWG**

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) is the National Focal Point. The State are duly represented by the Secretaries to the State Governments (SSGs). Others are representatives of the Executive Arm of Government, the Legislature and the Judiciary. Other members include representatives of public and private sectors, civil societies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, political parties, etc.

### 5.2 **The Mandates of the NWG**

The expanded NWG was inaugurated in November 2007 with the following mandates:

To

- Represent all stakeholders;
- Provide overall policy, leadership, guidance and direction through the APRM National Focal Point to the national review process, with a view to ensuring independence, professionalism and credibility of the process;
- Link national processes to the local level processes;
- Prepare the Country for the APR by the Independent Panel of Eminent Persons and to facilitate their work in the country during the review visit; communicate, via the National APR Secretariat, the APR in South Africa, on the country review process;
- Recommend and engage appropriate national institutions, think tanks or individuals to conduct technical assessment in the four areas to be review under the APR;
- Ensure the active participation of all stakeholders, including the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Independent Agencies, Civil Society, Private Sector and other Stakeholders in the APR self-assessment process;
- Design a monitoring and evaluation framework for the monitoring of the NPoA; submit NPoA Implementation Reports to the APR Panel and Forum, and;
- Coordinate all stakeholders to work as a team to effectively use the NPoA as an instrument to facilitate the attainment of the laudable 7-Point Agenda of the present Administration.

## 6. **Activities of the NWG**

In implementing the final roadmap as adopted in July 2007 by the APR Follow-Up Mission that visited the Country, the newly expanded NWG carried out nation-wide validation workshops in 14 centres across the country between November 19 and December 4, 2007. to effectively do that, the states were grouped into clusters on the draft CSAR and the NPoA. The NWG was grouped into four for the exercise.

The workshops were rounded up with a National Dialogue presided over by the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar' adua on December 11, 2007 at the Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja.

The inputs from the Nigerian public during the validation workshops led to the updated versions of CSAR and NPoA. It is pertinent to say that these two documents have been adopted by the NWG on December 28,

2007 thereby paving for the visit of the Country Review Mission from February 2 to March 3, 2008.

### **6.1 Election and inauguration of the National Steering Committee (NSC)**

On December 28, 2007, some members of the NWG were elected and inaugurated as Steering Committee. The NSC and NWG members subsequently held series of sensitization workshop in all the zones across the country to prepare for the visiting Country Review Mission.

Both NSC and NWG members were deeply involved in the Local Organizing Committee for the visiting Country Review Team (CRT). They participated in the detailed programmes of events which the APRM Panelist in South Africa adopted on January 17, 2008.

## **7. The Role of NWG in CRM**

The NWG, as the principal host of the CRM, is concerned with the preparation for the successful outcome of the visit.

In the past few months, the NWG has:

- Distributed millions of copies of the CSAR
- Sensitized the populace on the CSAR through zonal workshops