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Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

As this year comes to an end, it is befitting that I reflect on the achievements of the APRM in year 2022. We've had an incredibly successful year, that it is very difficult to summarise those successes into one sign-off but I am going to give it my best shot. Before I dive into these accomplishments allow me to express my gratitude to a few.

Primarily I would like to thank the staff at the APRM Continental Secretariat under the stewardship of our Chief Executive, Prof. Eddy Maloka for always being there to assist in our never-ending requests. My heartfelt appreciation also goes to the APRM Champions under the Chairmanship of Mr. Emmanuel Bensah for their unwavering support, dedication, and contribution in creating awareness and advocacy on the work of the APRM. The APRM Champions have demonstrated their utmost commitment at being the extension of the APRM in places we couldn't reach, and I admire and appreciate each one of them so much. It is a real blessing to work with such creative and hardworking individuals.

I also would like to shine a light on our communications and IT teams: I am endlessly appreciative of

the tireless dedication that these teams display in spite of challenges, hurdles they may face. A special appreciation goes to the African Union Commission (AUC) and to all the APRM structures for their continued support and commitment to the ethos of Promoting Good Governance in Africa.

I am sure you did not miss the unveiling of our 20th Anniversary branding as well as of the new APRM logo - as we respond and align to being an institution of the African Union. I also encourage readers to visit the new and exciting APRM website which appeals to the eye and a breeze to navigate for our resources.

With our goal to achieve universal accession by 2023, I am proud to announce the accession of The Republic of Burundi, as the 42nd Member of the APRM, has put us on the 80% mark of having all Members of the AU to voluntarily accede to the APRM. The Comoros and The Republic of Guinea Conakry are expected to join the APRM family at the next APRM Forum, in 2023.

In year 2022, we also fielded Targeted Reviews to Lesotho, Sierra Leone, The Comoros and Guinea Conakry as part of gathering data for The Africa Governance Report (2023), whose focus is on Unconstitutional Changes of Governments. We have also, for the very first time, held a joint retreat of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons and the AU Panel of the Wise to discuss early warning mechanisms towards conflict prevention.

The APRM in partnership with the government of Uganda held a very successful 4th APRM Youth Symposium in Kampala. The APRM in partnership with the AGA Platform have recently concluded a seminar on the Pan-African Inter-Party Democracy



Platform on Governance whose objection was to interrogate the strategic significance of political parties to democratic governance, peace-building and socio-economic development in Africa.

Lastly, the year 2023 marks 20 years since the APRM was established. To mark celebrations for this important milestone, the 20th Anniversary Task Force, under the leadership of former Member of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, Ambassador Attia Mona, has in store a series of exciting events, projects and initiatives. Stay tuned to our social media platforms - that is where more detailed information will be shared.

Speaking about social media, a big thank you to our more than 7K friends on Facebook and to our almost 10K followers on Twitter. You can also follow us on Instagram - @AfricanPeerReviewMechanism.

Let me conclude by thanking you, our readers, stakeholders, collaborators and partners for your determination towards the realization of the ideals of the APRM. I wish you a peaceful and joyful festive season.

Shukran



**H.E. Julius
Maada
Wonie Bio**

**President of the Republic
of Sierra Leone and
Chairperson of the APR
Forum of Heads of
State and Government**



H.E. Julius Maada Wonie Bio

As Head of State, President Bio presided over the conduct of the first democratic elections in Sierra Leone in nearly three decades. In Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Wonie Bio is popularly referred to as the “Father of Democracy” because of his outstanding contribution towards the restoration of democracy and attainment of peace in Sierra Leone.

Fountain Head of Unity, Honour, Freedom, and Justice

On May 12th, 2018 H.E. Julius Maada Wonie Bio was inaugurated as the 5th President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Born on May 12th 1964 in Tihun, Sogbini, Bonthe District, Julius Maada Wonie Bio is one of 35 children born to Paramount Chief Charlie Wonie Bio II, Sogbini Chiefdom.

H.E. President Bio completed his primary, secondary and undergraduate education in Sierra Leone. Always driven by a passion to serve his country, H.E. President Bio started his illustrious public service journey as a school teacher before joining the Sierra Leone Army where he rose through the ranks as Brigadier. He previously served as Chief Secretary of State, Chief of Defense Staff, Minister of Information, Minister of Marine Resources, Deputy Head of State, and ultimately as Head of State of Sierra Leone from January to March 1996.

President Bio is a well-known Philanthropist and Humanitarian through the work of the Maada and Fatima Bio Foundation. The Foundation donated food and other items to victims and families affected by the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone and during the environmental disasters of 2015.

Most recently, he was a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bradford, United Kingdom, pursuing a doctorate programme in Peace Studies.

H.E. President Bio credits his mother, Mamie Amie, as the person from whom he acquired all his driving principles in life – calmness, hard worker, and a staunch believer in God.





H.E DR JULIUS MAADA BIO LEADS THE DISCUSSION ON UNCONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT AT THE 16TH EXTRAORDINARY AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT



28 May 2022, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. At the recently held 16th Extraordinary Summit in Malabo, the Assembly mandated the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to undertake evidence-based research to assist the African Union (AU) to comprehend better unconstitutional changes of government. This new development signals a novel way to approach this phenomenon of unconstitutional changes of government for the AU. Prior to this, mediation and sanctions were advocated and pursued as effective remedies.

This decision, it is hoped, will inform the AU's understanding of the phenomenon through the APRM methodology as a diagnostic Tool and Early Warning Mechanism which will reflect issues related to unconstitutional changes of government on the Continent.

Moreover, the Africa Governance Report

(AGR) 2023 will be developed using the APRM Targeted Review Methodology that will bring a new dimension to the response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government. It will involve consultations with relevant stakeholders including the United Nations Peace and Security-related mechanisms, African Union bodies, Subregional mechanisms as well as sanctions committees. The APRM will further engage with relevant Member States on the drivers of unconstitutional changes of government in different contexts. Consequently, the findings from the APRM Targeted Reviews will be used to analyse and assess the effectiveness of International, Continental and Regional Frameworks in promoting constitutionalism, democracy, the rule of law and inclusive governance which are safeguards against unconstitutional changes of government.

H.E Dr Julius Maada Bio further said that “Member States affected by unconstitutional changes of government should be encouraged to collaborate and cooperate with the APRM and AGA in conducting targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of government as part of the development of the AGR-2023. The APRM targeted reviews are a collaborative and facilitative approach that is used to address specific issues related to governance challenges. It ensures that the outcomes, findings, and recommendations are African-driven and African-owned which is critical in building collective resilience and strengthening capacities of Member States in addressing the structural, catalysts and trigger causes of unconstitutional changes of government.”

The Assembly reaffirmed that the APRM is a diagnostic tool for early warning on the continent. The AGR 2023 will be an original undertaking that will provide recommendations leading to legal and policy reviews within the AU, Regional Economic Communities/ Regional Mechanisms and Member States. The APRM appreciates the daunting nature of the project ahead but believes that collaborating with the AU Commission and other relevant stakeholders in the governance landscape will ensure that it is conducted in a way that is inclusive, objective and solution-oriented.

The AU Extraordinary Summit on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government in Africa was held at SIPOPO Conference, in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea from May 27 to 28, 2022.





APRM Media Training Workshop in the Kingdom of Lesotho



28 June 2022 Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho. The APRM held the first Media Training as part of a sensitization mission led by Prof Eddy Maloka on the 27th and 28th June 2022 in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho. The training consisted of a series of workshops. The workshop was co-organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Relations, and Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Lesotho.

The Opening Remarks were presented by the Honourable Hon. Sam Rapapa Minister of Communications of the Kingdom of Lesotho. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness of the APRM mandate, processes, and tools. Specifically, the workshop provided a platform to engage stakeholders such as media towards the establishment of a network of communicators to disseminate information for increased visibility of the mechanism within the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The training workshop was attended by APRM partners including the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, and the South African Institute of International Affairs. It was highlighted that the training was part of a sensitization mission which involves meeting with the Government of Lesotho towards reviving the APRM, considering the rejuvenated interest.

Representatives of the Continental Communicators Network founded in 2019, Ms. Susan Mwape and Mr Emmanuel Bensah,

shared their experiences of the mechanism. They also highlighted the importance of promoting an African-led initiative and the need to raise awareness of the APRM. A background of the African Peer Review Mechanism and importance of good governance and democracy were also presented. Further discussed were APRM processes, ongoing initiatives, and the expanded mandate.

As part of efforts to grow the APRM media network, nominations of focal points from the Kingdom were made, to add to the Communicators network from various forms of media such as radio, television, and print. The new members include, Mr Kananelo Boloetse, Mr, Rapitso Rapitso, Thoboloko Ntšonyana and Salemone Ramangoaela.

The training workshops reiterated The African Peer Review Mechanism's commitment to collaborate with partners and stakeholders within the Kingdom of Lesotho. Certificates of participation were awarded to media personnel for successfully participating in the training workshop. The APRM highlighted that this is part of a series of training workshops, that span the whole Continent.





Ahead of the 2023 SDGs Summit:

The APRM-UN DESA Partnership is Forged for Accelerating the Implementation of Agenda 2030 and 2063 in Africa

29 October 2022 Cape Town, South Africa. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in cooperation with UNDP South Africa, the Department of Public Service and Administration of South Africa (DPSA) organized a regional workshop on 'Strengthening National Institutional Capacities for the UN Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063'.

This is the third annual regional workshop designed to explore common challenges in building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels in Africa to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. Senior Government officials and policymakers from across Africa including Benin, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and as well as resident United Nations agencies shared in-depth knowledge and experience in guiding African societies towards a more sustainable future for all, leaving no one behind.



The CEO of APRM, Prof. Eddy Maloka, displayed that this workshop is taking place in the context of preparations for the high-level political forum (HLPF) in July 2023 and the UN 2023 SDG Summit) in September 2023, where Heads of State and Government will reconvene to comprehensively review progress in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and provide political guidance for the way forward for accelerating the full implementation of the SDGs in the remaining years towards 2030. Further, recommendations are also made to enrich the current evaluation of the First-Ten Year implementation Plan (FTYIP) and inputs for the Second Ten-year implementation Plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063 “The Africa we want”.

In her opening remarks, H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission commended the work the APRM and UNDESA have been carrying over the years with various African governments and encourage the current initiatives. She also explained that the revamped AU-UN Regional Collaboration Platform for Africa (RCP), has provided a platform to discuss continental development priorities and devise ways to drive their implementation with efficiency. In the

same vein she added that “I would like to urge both organizations to explore the institutional nexus between gender and good governance, as well as the e-governance potentials in achieving the set goals...the African Union Continental Digital Transformation Strategy provides a unique opportunity to build a sustainable, viable, efficient and accountable Governance architecture for our nations”

African countries used this continental platform to share experiences in preparations for the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in the HLPF 2022 and how reporting on CEPA principles can be incorporated to improve reporting on SDG 16 and Aspiration three- Africa with good governance, democracy and rule of law. Experts emphasized that reporting has improved on Agenda 2063 in aligned with SDGs, but more capacity building is needed at national level to advocate for the latter agenda and develop citizen-centric approach.

Experts also alluded that Africa is going through a perilous moment as the impacts of recent crises have put the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 under threat. Africa’s



economic growth has slowed considerably as countries contend with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, rising inflation, increasing debt, conflicts, and consequences of the war in Ukraine. These interlinked crises have put both Agendas in danger and have reversed of years of progress. Urgent and transformative action is therefore needed to get back on track and regain progress on implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 to achieve sustainable development in Africa.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Minister Thulas Nxesi, Acting Minister of Public Service and Administration of South Africa, noted that “CEPA principles, especially those pertinent to building competence of civil servants, sound policy making, Accountability and leaving no one behind, have strong resemblance to our guiding principles for transformative public service as stated in the “Batho Pele” white paper.” He also emphasized that “DPSA will ensure referencing to those principles during the implementation of APRM National Plan of Action for the second South Africa assessment review conducted by the APRM.”

On another note, Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development at the United Nations alluded to the persistent issue of financing SDGs in Africa. “Funds need to be unblocked and put to productive use for Africa’s development. Importantly, Governments need the institutional capacity to ensure proper management of these public financial assets so that they are not lost in a long chain of transactions or become part of illicit financial flows,” he added.



Mme. Geraldine Moleketi, the Chairperson of UN CEPA clarified that “issue of building or rebuilding trust in government, as well as in actions of the private sector, is important for the success of initiatives and policies that tackle poverty and inequality... Citizens must also have confidence in their leadership, and leaders must be accountable to their citizens,

with mechanisms that enable them to see and to check if leaders are living up to their responsibilities” she concluded.

Ambassador Collen V. Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and the Global Chair of the Group of Landlocked and former president of ECOSCO asserted that African countries, despite all challenges, recorded highest number of VNR submitted countries in the HLPF 2022. He added “such a record high number out of 44 countries that presented VNRs at the HLPF in July – and in the middle of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic – demonstrated the strong commitment by African countries to pursue an SDG-led recovery from the pandemic through accelerated implementation of the SDGs by 2030”.

It is worth noting that the workshop builds on efforts to implement the recommendations reached in previous joint APRM/DESA events held in 2019 and 2021, in which there has been a clear call for continued support to African countries in accelerating the implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063, Africa’s blueprint for sustainable development. The two Agendas constitute the most important instruments of change towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies on the African continent. Reflecting on the workshop in general, Ms. Saras Jagwanth -Advisor at DESA- and Ms. Sara Hamouda – coordinators of the workshop, announced that more tailor-made national capacity building programs will be provided to African countries based on national requests to enhance awareness and reporting on CEPA Principles and 2030 in the upcoming two years, guided by the AU-UN framework for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.





GHANA SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN CREDIT RATING AGENCY

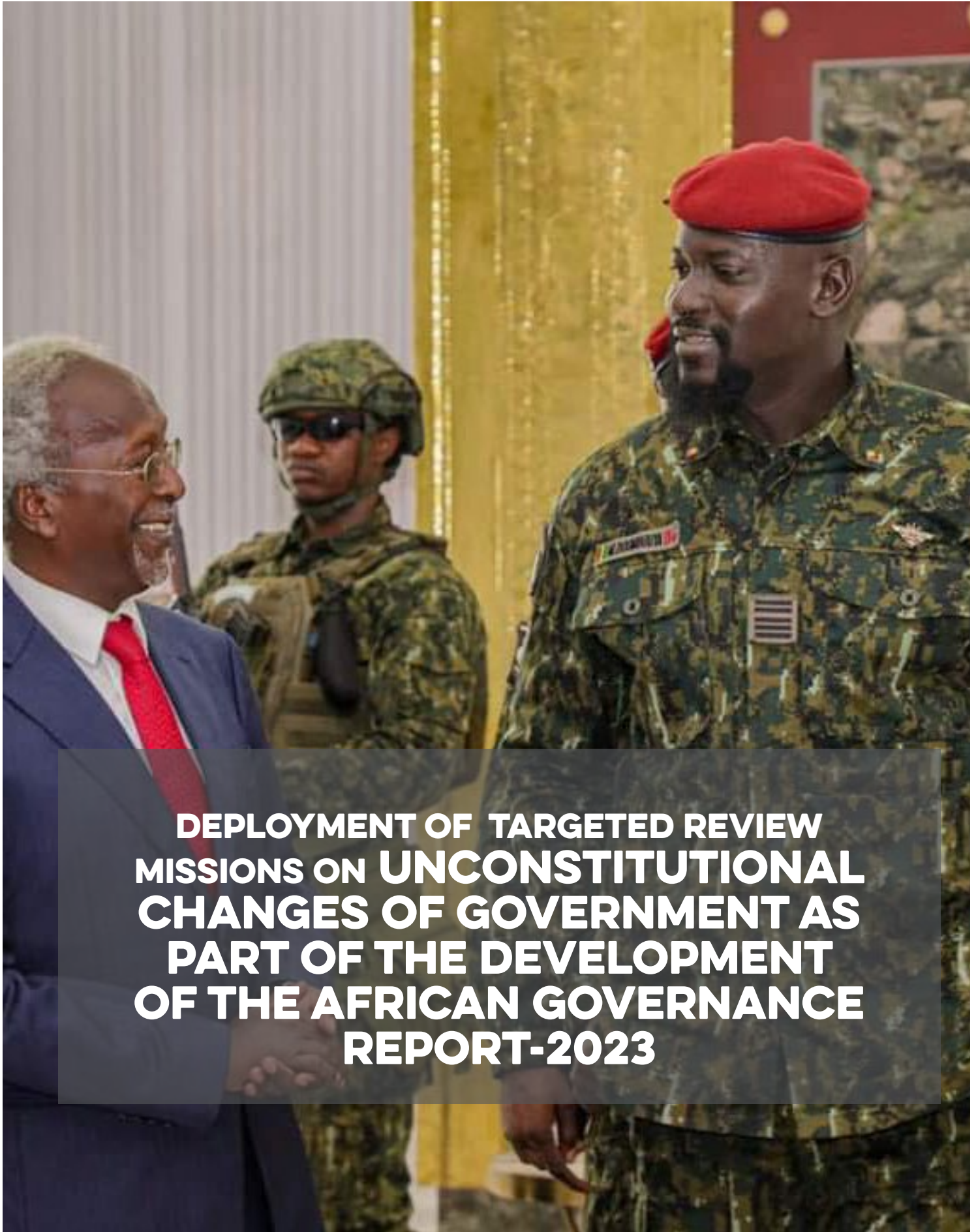
The APRM delegation, led by Dr. Abdoulie Janneh, who is the Vice Chair of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Prof. Eddy Maloka, the Chief Executive Officer of APRM Continental Secretariat, met with the Vice-President of Ghana, Hon. Mahamudu Bawumia during their official visit to Ghana. Ghana reaffirmed its support to the establishment of an African Credit Rating Agency. Ghana is already Championing the establishment of the three African Union Financial Institutions - the African Investment Bank (AIB), the African Monetary Fund (AMF) and the African Central Bank (ACB).

The APRM was mandated by the 4th African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to undertake a study on Financial, Structural and Legal feasibility of establishing an African Credit Rating Agency. The outcomes of this study are scheduled to be presented to the 5th STC meeting, which will be held in Lusaka, Zambia from the 21 - 22 July 2022 for consideration, endorsement and recommendation to the relevant policy structures of the African Union.

The need for an African Credit Rating Agency has been reiterated by the Chair of the AU, President Macky Sall of Senegal and President

Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana, during the 54th Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (CoM2022) and 35th Africa Union Summit, respectively. The establishment of an ACRA is an important step towards complementing the AU financial institutions and accelerating continental integration providing capabilities for AU Member States to access capital and integrating the continent with global financial markets, which makes tremendous reference to credit ratings.





**DEPLOYMENT OF TARGETED REVIEW
MISSIONS ON UNCONSTITUTIONAL
CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT AS
PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE AFRICAN GOVERNANCE
REPORT-2023**



The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in collaboration with Africa Governance Architecture (AGA) Platform Members is launching a series of targeted review missions on Unconstitutional Changes of Government from 22 September 2022 to 30th October 2022, a first for Africa and the world. The targeted review missions on unconstitutional changes of government forms part of the process of developing the African Governance Report (AGR) which prepared by the APRM in collaboration with AGA and presented to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly) for consideration at its ordinary session every two (2) years. The AGR is developed pursuant to Article 6 (1) (c) of the APRM Statute and in accordance with Assembly Decision Ext/Assembly/AU/Dec.1 (XI) and Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.758(XXXIII).

The third edition of the Africa Governance Report, the AGR-2023, is designed to focus on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) following the submission of H.E Julius Maada Bio, President of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the APRM Forum of Heads of State and Government and as directed by African Union Head of States and Government on 28 May 2022 at the 16th Extraordinary Summit in Malabo. The decision for the AGR to focus on unconstitutional changes of government was made in response to the serious concern expressed by the

Assembly over the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government on the continent.

The AGR-2023 on UCG is adopting a unique methodology of evidence-based cases studies on the topic for the purpose of gathering primary data from country experiences and best practices on UCG through the use of a questionnaire also known as a Governance Gap Analysis Tool. The exercise will ensure the full assessment of the causes, triggers and efficacy of AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)/Regional Mechanisms (RMs) normative frameworks in addressing UCG in Africa.

The overall objectives of the AGR-2023 are: i) review the continental legislative framework on UCG, ii) highlight best practices on restoration of normal constitutional for peer sharing; iii) identify governance gaps and challenges and make recommendations to enhance governance in AU Member States. This broad-based exercise will see the participation of state actors and non-state actors and will provide a basis to formulate an in-depth analysis, realistic conclusions and practical recommendations in the



AGR-2023 for the ultimate consideration by the AU Policy Organs and benefit of African citizens.

The AGR-2023 targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of government will be participatory process led by APRM Panel of Eminent Persons who will ensure the integrity, independence, professionalism and credibility of the process. The process will also involve African expertise consisting principally of both national and continental experts as well as AU and RECs/RMs experts, in six (6) African Union Member States to guarantee the independence and African ownership of the report.

The AGR-2023 Targeted Review Missions focusing unconstitutional changes of government will commence in September 2022. The following AU Member States have agreed to undertake targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of government: Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic Sierra Leone, Republic of Burkina Faso, Republic of Chad, Republic of Comoros and Republic of Guinea.

Targeted Reviews are voluntary or special reviews which are short, focused, cost effective. They cover a particular theme/sector of interest within the five (5) thematic areas of good governance for the APRM namely: Political and Democracy Governance, Economic Government and Management, Socio-Economic Development, Cooperate Governance, State Resilience to Shocks and Disasters. Whereas traditional and comprehensive country reviews covering all thematic areas of good governance of the APRM are conducted in APRM Member States countries only, the targeted review can take place in both APRM and non-APRM Member states in line with APRM's flagship endeavour 'Towards Universal Accession'. Country and Targeted Reviews are conducted on a voluntary basis and are based on a specific request by the country.





The Kingdom of Lesotho Pioneered APRM's Targeted Review Mission on Unconstitutional Changes of Government



Kingdom of Lesotho, Maseru. The much-anticipated African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Targeted Review Mission on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) kick started in Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho, from 24 September to 5 October 2022. The APRM Targeted Review Mission on UCG is undertaken as part of the development of the African Governance Report which is developed by the APRM in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture Platform Members (AGA) and presented to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State (Assembly)

and Government at its Ordinary Sessions every two (2) years. The Targeted Review Mission is also done pursuant to the decision of the 16th AU Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on Terrorism and Unconstitutional Changes of Government held in Malabo, Republic Equatorial. The Assembly had mandated the APRM and AGA to remodel the third edition of the biannual African Governance Report (AGR 23) which is to be presented to the Assembly in February, 2023 to reflect issues related to UCGs on the continent.



The Kingdom of Lesotho was one of the countries identified to undergo the Targeted Review based on the invitation from H.E Maada Julius Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and Chairperson of the African Peer Review (APR) Forum of Heads of State and Government. The Right Honourable Dr Moeketsi Majoro, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, welcomed the APR Forum Chair's invitation for Lesotho to be one of six AU Member States to undergo a targeted review on UGG and share

best practices for successful transition from previous unconstitutional changes of government.

The APRM Mission was led by Amb. Aly Hossam El -Din EL HEFNY MAHMOUD lead panelist for Lesotho. The Mission arrived in Lesotho with the aim to generate country case study chapter for the AGR-23 that will identify and analyze the causes, catalysts and triggers of UCG. The methodology utilized by the Mission in examining the drivers of unconstitutional changes was a Governance Gap Analysis Tool developed by the APRM. This research methodology also considered the underlying factors leading to UCGs such as human rights violations, constitutionalism and state legitimacy, integrity of democratic elections, economic governance and public sector accountability, popular uprisings and military interventions.

The delegation paid a courtesy call to The Rt. Hon. Dr Moeketsi Majoro, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the 4th of October 2022. During the meeting the APRM lead Panelist, Amb. Aly Hossam El -Din EL HEFNY MAHMOUD thanked Rt. Hon. Prime Minister for the very warm hospitality and welcome accorded to him and the entire team since their arrival in Lesotho. He further expressed his satisfaction with the wide-ranging consultations the team conduct since arriving in Maseru. He also thanked the Government and People of Lesotho for the demonstration of national leadership, determination, and commitment to democracy and good governance that have enabled the review team to complete the targeted review mission.

As part of stakeholder engagement, the APRM delegation met with Members of Cabinet, President of Senate, the Chief Justice, the Attorney General, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Auditor General, Director of Public Prosecutions, Ombudsman Director General of the Directorate of Corruption and Economic Offences, Speaker of Parliament, the Independent Electoral Commission, Principal Secretaries, and other Senior Government Officials.

The mission also met with representatives of the Private Sector, Political Parties, Academia, Religious Groups, Traditional Leadership, Development Partners, Civil Society Organization as well as Media.

The key outputs of the targeted review mission in Lesotho will be a targeted review report that will be tabled at the 32nd APR Forum of Heads of States and Governments for peer review. Furthermore, the key outputs of the report will form a case study chapter which will form part of the AGR 2023. The report will highlight the root causes of UCG, share best practices and lessons learnt as well as recommendations aimed at preventing future cases of UCG.

The delegation is very humbled and grateful for the excellent facilitation of the various engagements despite the fact that the country is gearing towards national elections scheduled to take place on the 7th October 2022.

The APRM as a premier AU institution that promotes democracy and good governance on the continent wishes people of the Kingdom of Lesotho free, fair and peaceful elections





APRM - AfCFTA COLLABORATION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW MECHANISM (AfIRM)

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in collaboration with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat successfully convened a three (3)-day Continental validation meeting (validation meeting) to consider and validate the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation Review Mechanism (AfIRM) Proposal. The Main objective of the validation Meeting was (i) to further analyse, discuss, and validate, the proposal prepared by the APRM focusing on the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation Review Mechanism (AfIRM) (ii) engage in brainstorming sessions about the proposed tool that will pave the way for future tracking efforts undertaken by State Parties to implement the AfCFTA agreement, and (iii) draw a program for presenting the AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism (AfIRM) proposal to the Bureau of AfCFTA institutional structures and APRM structures.

The workshop was officially opened by the Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Prof Eddy Maloka and the Chief of Staff of the AfCFTA Secretariat, Mr. Silver Ojakol. The two principal heads in their opening remarks

underscored the importance of the collaboration between the two institutions towards improving development outcomes on the Continent. The opening remarks noted the progress made since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and emphasized their enduring commitment to fulfill the objectives of the MOU. It was highlighted that there is need for further collaboration with other African Union



institutions to best utilize available resources and expertise towards the implementation of the AfCFTA.

The validation meeting was attended by representatives from the Federal republic of Nigeria; the Republic of Uganda; the Regional Economic Communities including East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Southern African Development Community (SADC); the AfCFTA Secretariat, APRM Secretariat; Strategic partners including the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA); GIZ African Union Liaison Office; Former Permanent Representatives to WTO; and the Pan African Centre for Policy Studies.

The discussions during the validation exercise were fruitful and it was emphasised that the AfCFTA needs to be supported by an effective and sustainable review mechanism, broadly focusing on implementation. This mechanism will be designed to support countries to implement their commitments and realise their developmental objectives as embedded in the AfCFTA Agreement. The review exercise is likely to be a highly resource-intensive process, for which capacity building at national and continental levels will play a critical role.

The meeting further agreed that while the mechanism needs to be designed to contribute towards compliance of the objectives of the AfCFTA Agreement, it should also be guided by transparency, burden sharing and solidarity. Having looked at the existing similar processes at the APRM, and the WTO Trade Policy Review Mechanism, the proposed AfIRM was validated. The meeting developed a revised proposal on the AfIRM following the extensive discussions. In addition, it was highlighted that, to support the review mechanism, there is need for the AfCFTA Secretariat to develop and prepare relevant tools for the review mechanism. APRM indicated its willingness to support this process.





20TH ANNIVERSARY ROADMAP

Item	Deliverable	Country	Notes	Proposed Dates	Responsibility
1.	Media Training	Lesotho	Conducted a media training in Lesotho with the hope to revitalise its national structures and actively participate in APRM activities	July22-completed	APRM Comms & Comms Network
2.	Media & Civil Society Training	Malawi	Conduct media & civil society training in Malawi with the hope to revitalise its national structures and actively participate in APRM activities	Oct 22- deferred	APRM Comms & Comms Network
3.	Media & Civil Society Training	Togo	Conduct media & civil society training in Togo with the hope to revitalise its national structures and actively participate in APRM activities	Oct 22-deferred	APRM Comms & Comms Network
4.	Media & Civil Training	Seychelles	Conduct media & civil society training in Seychelles with the hope to revitalise its national structures and actively participate in APRM activities.	Nov 22-deferred	APRM Comms & Comms Network
5.	APRM 20 th Anniversary branding materials, calendars, t-shirts, caps., jackets, bags, pens, diaries, pins, banners, logo.	APRM	In preparation of the 20 th Anniversary these would be the apparel we need.	Ongoing	APRM Comms
6	Publish an Opinion Pieces from well respected African scholars and personalities which critically assess the work of the APRM in the last 20 years	APRM	To identify and approach these personalities in 2022 already	Nov 2022	20 th Task Team
7	Radio & TV Interviews	APRM	Task team leaders to be interviewed at every opportunity	On going	APRM Comms
8	Documentary Video from MAEP founding fathers, current and former heads of states of the APR.	Preparations of the congratulatory videos from founding fathers	This needs to be costed- and idea of video production time?	Dec 2022	APRM Comms
9	AGR 2022 Launch	Sierra Leone	Launch of AGR 22 ti be held in Sierra Leone	12 Jan 2023	APRM Comms

10	An event on the margins of the AU summit	Ethiopia	Host a side event on the margins of the AU summit e.g a presidential dinner to celebrate APRM@20 special guests will be the founding fathers	Feb 2023	APRM Comms
11	APRM Summit	Sierra Leone	APRM Summit,	Feb 2023	APRM Comms
12	20 th Anniversary Special Edition Newsletter	Print / Online	Work with all stakeholders and partners	09 March 2023	APRM Comms
13	20 th Anniversary Celebrations	Algeria/Nigeria/South Africa	Host the 20 th Anniversary celebrations & gala dinner	09 March 2023	APRM Comms, 20 th Task Team, Comms Network
14	Public Lectures- APRM @20, Challenges and Lessons Learnt	Senegal and The Comoros	To ensure regional representation - choose university partners beyond Anglophone. Potential speakers:	March 2023 & July 2023	Comms Team & AGR Team
15	Social Media Activation, Campaigns, quiz, blurbs, profiling.	Online	Heralding the preparation work towards the 20 th Anniversary and publishing teasers on chapters of the AGR 2023	On going	APRM Comms
16	20th Anniversary International Celebration on the margins of the UN HLPF Side- Event	New York	To hold an international meeting promoting the work of the APRM	July 2023	APRM Comms

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YEARS

Promoting Democracy and Good Governance in the Continent



Meet the APRM 20th Anniversary Task Force



Suzan Mwape

My expectation is to contribute to a sustained celebration that will amplify and highlight 20 years of APRM on the continent. I hope these efforts will inspire Universal accession for countries that are yet to join, reinvigorate those that have been dormant and inspire those making progress to do more through 2nd generation reviews and targeted reviews



Emmanuel.K.Bensah Jr

My biggest expectation from the APRM taskforce is for it to help amplify the great work of the APRM across the continent in a very important 20th anniversary



Caroline Obure

Leveraging on this milestone to amplify the APRM agenda and reinforce the relationship between Continental and National Secretariat through effective communications and coordination of activities.



Gabriel Baglo

For this 20th anniversary: My expectation from the APRM taskforce is to create a momentum in each country in Africa that highlights the achievements of the APRM in the continent and globally.



Adam Alqali

- More active engagement about APRM across various social media platforms
- More stories and op-eds about APRM and APRM@20
- Twitter Spaces on APRM@20
- Increased visibility for APRM in African media organizations (i.e TV, radio, print and online).



Mr Thulani Tshefuta

Chairperson of the APRM NGC in South Africa. He is also the Leader of the Civil Society component at NEDLAC, which is the apex platform of social dialogue in South Africa with government, business and organised labour.



Ambassador Mona Omar

A career diplomat, she has 35 years of experience in diplomacy, ranging from being Ambassador of Egypt in many countries, to being the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Africa, for more than 5 years.

member of the Panel of Eminent Personalities of the African Peers Review Mechanism



Dr. Albert Byamugisha

Associate Professor and a Senior Technical Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Head of SDG Secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister- Uganda.



Ms. Alicia Clark


Sixth Region/Diaspora (USA) .Chief Strategist and Director of Global Partnerships and Resource Development at the Center for Global Africa (CGA) at Delaware State University (DSU).



Doreen Apollos

An exemplary media expert, currently working at the African Union. She has over 15 years of extensive experience in broadcast journalism, digital media and brand management. She has served as a Communication Advisor to two Deputy Chairpersons of the African Union Commission during which she managed and led various activities on communication, stakeholder engagement and relations and shaped conversations about Africa and the African Union. She is also a speech writer.

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ESTEEMED APRM FAMILY,
PARTNERS AND FRIENDS,
I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO WISH YOU A

MERRY
Christmas AND A *Happy*
New Year

I WISH YOU A GLORIOUS AND
CHEERFUL FESTIVE SEASON

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION,
SELFLESSNESS AND SACRIFICE THIS
YEAR. OUR ACHIEVEMENTS COULD NOT
HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU

WITH MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE

Prof. Eddy Maloka,
CEO APRM Continental Secretariat



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African Peer Review
Mechanism
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