



DPMF

Development Policy Management Forum

The African Peer
Review Mechanism
(APRM)

e-NewsForum

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Development Policy Management Forum – A Regional CSO (Civil Society Organization) covering sub-Saharan African Countries
Free Electronic Newsletter

Introductory Note

This DPMF e-NewsForum or electronic newsletter comes out every two months, its main purpose being to:

--Exchange information on issues of interest to the three constituencies of the DPMF Network- i.e. Policy Makers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Researchers/Lecturers/Scholars.

--Make relevant information and data of interest available and easily accessible to members of the DPMF Network.

--Introduce online discussions on current issues of concern to the three constituencies of the DPMF and encourage their participation in such discussions as interactions through the forum intensify.

Since its inception in March 1995, DPMF has carried out important activities focusing on (a) democratic governance and the national process of African Peer Review (APR), (b) Governance and Regional Integration, and (c) Pre-Civil War small scale conflicts and peace-building, (d) strengthening the conceptual knowledge and capacity of senior policy makers and CSO leaders with respect to critical issues related to democratic governance. The DPMF is now expanding its research to include such themes as policies on gender and social policies. DPMF has created and is rapidly expanding a pan-African network of concerned individuals and institutions with committed interest in the above areas in order to enable African countries to face the challenges of development in the New Millennium and reconstruction in post-conflict situations, thereby getting them involved in the African renaissance.

DPMF's fundamental objective is to deepen and institutionalize democratic governance in African countries. Its constituency includes three main groups: (a) policymakers and managers, (b) civil society leaders and (c) researchers. These three groups are major actors in society, each with their own perspectives of challenges, opportunities and constraints in areas of concern to the DPMF. By bringing these three groups of people together to interact, discuss and exchange perspectives and experiences, it is hoped that a better and deeper understanding will be created of the evolution, complexity and implications of policy issues that will subsequently help African governments to reach better and informed decisions. Thus, capacity supported with substantive research findings and country experiences about strategies and policy options for deepening democratic governance, will be enhanced among the three constituencies of the DPMF.

Your contributions to and active participation in the DPMF Network to make a success of this electronic newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

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DPMF News and Events (For additional information or details, please refer to the DPMF website at www.dpmf.org.)

A meeting, jointly hosted and organized by the Center for Governance and Development (CGD) and the Development Policy Management Forum (DPMF) was held in Nairobi on the 4th of March 2004. The theme of the meeting was **“Deepening Regional Integration For Democratization and Development Through Networking/Coalition Building in the East African Community (EAC)”**. The meeting was organized under a project of the Ford Foundation’s Special Initiative for Africa (SIA) that, through an earlier workshop, mandated the DPMF to develop a program for mobilizing CSOs and Research Institutions (RIs) to “promote regional cooperation for democratic governance and monitoring the APRM process”. www.dpmf.org

Another meeting of networks took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on the 29th of March 2004. The objective of the meeting was to create and **develop a network of CSOs and RIs working on democracy and development issues in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)**. The main focus of the initiative was on the following: (1) Monitoring, through research, the status of democratic governance in SADC countries; (2) Creating support for and advocating the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) within SADC; (3) Monitoring the effectiveness of SADC protocols relating to democratization, and implemented at national and regional levels.

The third Sensitization Workshop on **“Good Governance for Senior Policy Makers of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Regional State (SNNPRS) of Ethiopia”** which was scheduled to take place in May 2004 in Awassa town, has been postponed. The exact date of the workshop will be announced on the DPMF website at www.dpmf.org. The main aim of the workshop is to raise the awareness of the regional policy makers and upgrade their capacity to provide a more informed leadership with a view to deepening the democratization process and enhancing the effectiveness of national development efforts.

Other News and Events (This section is for News and Events other than DPMF’s, believed to be useful to the DPMF Network)

The **Fifth Meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons (APR Panel)** hosted by the NEPAD Secretariat, was held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa from the 29th to the 30th of April, 2004.
<http://www.sarprn.org.za/documents/d0000801/index.php>

According to a NEPAD communiqué issued at the recent meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons held in Johannesburg, South Africa, Lesotho’s intention to sign up for the APRM was discussed. The mechanism, overseen by the panel, monitors a country’s progress towards political and economic reform and was put in place earlier this year. So far, seventeen African countries have signed up for review. Further details at:
<http://www.pambazuka.org/index.php?id=22122>

“AFRICA: Leaders set timetable for peer review”: At a two-day conference held in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, African heads of state agreed to start the review process on key areas of governance, democracy, human rights, transparency and domestic business environment under NEPAD’s APRM.
http://www.plusnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=39504&SelectRegion=Great_Lakes&SelectCountry=Africa

In April 2004, the Minister for Regional Co-operation and NEPAD, Dr Kofi Konadu Apraku, launched the **NEPAD West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) and APRM** at Koforidua, with a call on peoples of Eastern Africa to assume ownership of the initiatives which have been people-centered strategies for both Ghana and Africa.
<http://www.ghana.gov.gh/governing/article.php?id=0000005069>

The **peer review mechanism of the NEPAD** was given an impetus in February 2004 as African leaders agreed to start a review process on the key areas of good governance, democracy, human rights, transparency and domestic business environment. With the aim of winning over donors and wooing foreign investors, the focus was set on political and economic policies. The purpose of the peer review is to foster the adoption of appropriate laws, policies, standards and practices for political stability, high economic growth and sustainable development, as well as improve the profile of peace and security on the continent. http://www.gfn-ssr.org/regional_updates_details.cfm?id=34

The African Leadership Forum's (ALF) annual regional summit of African Parliamentarians was held in Kampala, Uganda. The summit was convened in November 2003 under the theme "**Regional Conference on the APRM**". The conference was part of the process of deepening and widening support for the APRM and was attended by Parliamentarians from twelve African countries that had acceded to the APRM.

<http://www.africaleadership.org/Parliamentary%20Support.htm>

SaferAfrica whose mission is to serve the long-term security and development needs of Africa and its peoples, in accordance with the vision of African Renewal and values of Pan-Africanism, has a programme on "**AU-NEPAD**". This programme is fully engaged in the on-going transformation of Africa's peace, security and governance. It provides expertise and supports the development of capacity for the APRM process and facilitates consultative meetings for the AU Commission on the policy and operationalization of new AU and NEPAD structures.

<http://www.saferfrica.org/Programmes/Nepad/NepadProgramme.asp>

Useful Resources (The following are some electronic resources that could be useful to DPMF network members)

"**Communiqué of the Fifth meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons (APR panel)**", 29-30 April 2004, Johannesburg, South Africa. http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000801/P918-Communique_5thAPRPanel_April2004.pdf

"**Communiqué issued at the end of the First Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government in the APR Forum**" held in Kigali, Rwanda on the 13th of February 2004.

<http://www.iss.co.za/AF/RegOrg/nepad/aprmcomfeb04.pdf>

"**The APRM: An Assessment of Concept and Design**" A Paper by Ravi Kanbur, January 2004. This paper is a contribution to the debate of APRM in terms of concept and design. It derives design criteria for peer review mechanisms after looking at some functioning examples. The author argues that while the APRM is a welcome addition to the pan-African institutional structure, its design would have to be improved for it to be truly successful.

<http://www.arts.cornell.edu/poverty/kanbur/APRM.pdf>

A paper on "**The NEPAD, The APRM**". This brief paper contains basic information about the mandate of the APRM, its purpose, principles, participation in the APR Process, leadership and management Structures, the APRM process, stages of the peer review process, duration of the peer review, funding of the peer review mechanism and review of the APRM.

<http://www.dfa.gov.za/au.nepad/nepad49.pdf>

APRM Organization and Processes, March 2003. <http://www.touchtech.biz/nepad/files/documents/48.pdf>

"**Objectives, standards, criteria and indicators for the APRM**". <http://www.iss.co.za/AF/RegOrg/nepad/aprmobject.pdf>

"**Memorandum of Understanding on the APRM**." March 2003. <http://www.iss.co.za/AF/RegOrg/nepad/aprm mou.pdf>

An article by Matome Sebelebele : "**AU's peer review kicks in**" 2003. The author discusses the case of Ghana, likely to be the continent's first nation to fall under the microscopic eye of the APRM. He argues that Ghana will voluntarily open its doors to the APRM country review team to check if its house rules and plans conform to those of the NEPAD and related development programmes. http://www.safrika.info/what_happening/news/au-peerreview_060803.htm

A 2003 article by Jimmy Seepe on "**Peer review mechanism boosts credibility of NEPAD**".

http://www.news24.com/City_Press/City_Press_News/0..186-187_1367432.00.html

"**Communiqué issued at the end of the third meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons**" Issued in Abuja (Nigeria), 14-15 November 2003. <http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000605/P631-Communique18112003.pdf>

"**Peer Review: Who Owns the Process?**" October 2003 Issue of eAfrica, the electronic journal on governance and innovation. This issue of eAfrica examines the intended APRM system and compares it to the peer review system used in the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD).

<http://www.wits.ac.za/saia/eAfrica/eAfricaOct2003.pdf>

Speech delivered by Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on "**NEPAD's peer review mechanism**" on the occasion of the Second Meeting of the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons at the Hilton Hotel, Sandton, South Africa , 3rd of October 2003.

http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000564/P518_Zuma_03102003.pdf

Report of the conference hosted by the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) from May 26 to 27, 2003 on "**The role of African civil society in strengthening democracy through NEPAD**". The report provides a detailed account of the conference deliberations including main resolutions and recommendations.

http://www.eisa.org.za/PDF/Conference_NEPAD_Report.pdf

“The APRM” a presentation by Smunda S. Mokoena made at the 4th Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service in Stellenbosch, South Africa on May 6, 2003. The presentation outlined the primary purpose and principles of the APRM; the APRM base document; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on APRM; the APRM organization and processes; objectives, standards, criteria and indicators for the APRM and related latest developments.
<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cafrad/unpan009734.pdf>

“Peace and security through good governance: A guide to the NEPAD’s APRM”. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Paper 70, April 2003 by Jakkie Cilliers. http://www.sarpn.org.za/documents/d0000286/P285_ISS_Paper%2070.pdf

“NEPAD Africa's New Partnership: African 'peer review' is taking shape”. An article from the Africa Recovery Magazine Vol.16, No. 4, February 2003 discussing one of the most anticipated and controversial elements in the NEPAD, namely the creation of a "peer review" process to improve standards of human rights, economic management, conflict resolution and democratic decision-making on the continent.
<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol16no4/164nepd4.htm>

A Policy Brief by the Center for Policy Studies (CPS) entitled **“An African Peer Review Mechanism: a panacea for Africa's governance challenges?”** by Malachia Mathoho, Issue No. 29, August 2003. This paper explores both the strengths and weaknesses of the APRM and the prospects of it impacting positively on Africa’s governance challenges.
<http://www.cps.org.za/cps%20pdf/polbrief29.pdf>

NEPAD Briefing No. 7 on **“The peer review mechanism”**. This is one of the series of informative reports on NEPAD prepared by the Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU). <http://www.nepru.org.na/NEPAD/nepad-briefs-7.pdf>

An article from the African Security Review Vol. 11 No. 4, 2002 on **“THE NEPAD APRM: Prospects and Challenges”**.
<http://www.iss.co.za/Pubs/ASR/11No4/Editorial.html>

Useful e-Newsletters



African Peer Review Mechanism / Mécanisme Africain d'Évaluation par les Pairs <http://www.infonepad.org/>

E-discussion forum on the APRM hosted by the African Parliamentarians Forum for NEPAD. Participation in the forum is possible through the Web at <http://www.infonepad.org>. Otherwise, all interested can participate in the Forum by sending an e-mail to african-peer-review-join@infonepad.org.

NEPAD Dialogue
Focus on Africa

<http://www.touchtech.biz/cgi-bin/nepad/mojo/mojo.cgi>

The weekly electronic newsletter of the NEPAD secretariat. The “NEPAD Dialogue: focus on Africa” gives up-to-date information about the NEPAD News.

Africa InfoServ NEPAD

<http://www.africafiles.org/recentarticles.asp?ThisURL=/nepad.asp>

The Africa InfoServ features current reports on African events and issues drawn from a variety of sources. Africa InfoServ- NEPAD is one of the categories which contains recent news on NEPAD.

Useful Links



NEPAD

<http://www.nepad.org/>

NEPAD is a vision and programme of action for the re-development of the African continent. It is a plan that has been conceived and developed by African leaders. NEPAD is a comprehensive integrated development plan that addresses key social, economic and political priorities in a coherent and balanced manner. It is a commitment that African leaders are making to African people and to the international community, to place Africa on a path of sustainable growth.



AU

<http://www.africa-union.org/>

The AU is Africa's premier institution and principal organization for the promotion of accelerated socio-economic integration of the continent, which will lead to greater unity and solidarity between African countries and peoples. As a continental organization, it focuses on the promotion of peace, security and stability on the continent as a prerequisite for the implementation of the development and integration agenda of the Union.



<http://www.sarpan.org.za/>

SARPAN's ultimate goal is to contribute to the sustainable reduction of poverty through effective pro-poor policy, strategy and practice in the SADC region. Its purpose is to deepen and widen debates on policy, strategy, practice and decision-making processes that impact on poverty in the region. SARPAN provides platforms that widen participation by bringing people together across the region to exchange ideas, and disseminates information to deepen understanding of poverty issues and improve policy and practice.



Strategic Partnership with Africa

<http://www.spa-psa.org>

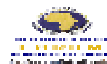
The goal of SPA is "to support poverty reduction in Africa by increasing the quality and quantity of aid." SPA aims to increase the quantity of aid by encouraging donors to meet the pledges to increase development assistance to Africa and by monitoring their performance in doing so.



ADF

<http://www.uneca.org/adf/adfv/>

The African Development Forum (ADF) is an initiative led by the ECA to set up an African-driven development agenda. It is designed as a process of initiating dialogue, building consensus and mobilizing partnerships on emerging issues among Africa's stakeholders.



African Parliamentarian's Forum For The NEPAD

<http://www.parlanepad.org>

A forum dedicated to the dissemination on the Internet of information and news concerning the members of the network; dissemination on the Internet of international information on NEPAD.

e-Newsletters that previously appeared in the 8 th issue of the DPMF e-NewsForum, March 2004	
International Monetary Fund (IMF) Civil Society Newsletter	http://www.imf.org/external/np/ext/cs/eng/index.asp
Civil Society	http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/civil-society.html
ICSC Newsletter	http://www.icscpd.org/3.html
CCS-I -- African Civil Society Discussion Forum	http://lists.nu.ac.za/mailman/listinfo/ccs-1

Links that previously appeared in the 8 th issue of the DPMF e-NewsForum, March 2004	
CARE International	http://www.care-international.org
Center for Alternative Development Initiatives (CADI)	http://www.cadi.ph/
Society for Participatory Research In Asia (PRIA)	http://www.pria.org/cgi-bin/index.htm
Civil Society International	http://www.civilsoc.org/default.htm
The Caribbean Civil Society Database	http://www.islandsystems.com/csdatabase/
Center For Civil Society	http://www.ukzn.ac.za/

CONECCS Consultation, the European Commission and Civil Society	http://europa.eu.int/comm/civil_society/coneccs/index_en.htm
International Society for third –Sector Research	http://www.istr.org/

Acronyms used in this issue:

Acronym	Definition
ADF	African Development Forum
ALF	African Leadership Forum
APF	African Parliamentarians' Forum (based in Benin)
APR	African Peer Review
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	Africa Union (based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)
CGD	Centre for Governance and Development (based in Nairobi, Kenya)
CPS	Centre for Policy Studies (based in Johannesburg, South Africa)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAC	East African Community (based in Tanzania)
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa (based in Ethiopia)
EISA	Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (based in South Africa)
ISS	Institute of Security Studies (based in South Africa)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development (based in South Africa)
NEPRU	Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (based in Namibia)
OECD	Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (based in France)
RI	Research Institution
SADC	Southern African Development Community (based in Botswana)
SARPN	Southern African Regional Poverty Network (based in South Africa)
SIA	Special Initiative for Africa (Ford Foundation Initiative)
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Regional State
SPA	Strategic partnership with Africa
WAMZ	West African Monetary Zone

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