

**THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM) SUPPORT MISSION TO
SOUTH AFRICA, 9th to 11th November 2005**

COMMUNIQUE

From 9th-11th of November 2005, Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Eminent Member of the APR Panel led a Country Support Mission to South Africa. The team comprised of: Dr. Bernard Kouassi, the Executive Director and other officials from the APRM Secretariat, Prof. Achi Atsain (African Development Bank), Ms. Zemenay Lakew (United Nations Development Programme Africa Bureau); and Mr. Patrick Bugembe, (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa).

The purpose of the Support Mission was to assess the processes and mechanisms put in place by South Africa to undertake its self-assessment and subsequently draft its Programme of Action. The support mission was also to conclude negotiations and sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the Technical Assessment Missions and the Country Review Visit.

The team noted the following progress made by South Africa in implementing the APRM:

- Appointing a Focal Point for the APRM, the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Honourable Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi;
- Establishing the National Governing Council (NGC) that was inaugurated on the 29th of September 2005 at the 1st National Consultative Conference. H. E. President Thabo Mbeki, attended and launched the APR Process in South Africa. In addition to the NGC, South Africa has put in place Provincial APRM Governing Councils, which is a commendable innovation;
- Developing a number of tools for implementation of the APRM, including a simplified questionnaire, brochures, call centres and APRM jingles;
- Organizing various consultative sessions on the APRM process and tools;
- Articulating a Road Map and Research Plan for APRM implementation nationally.

Overview of Discussions with Stakeholders

The Country Support Mission began in Cape Town on the 9th of November 2005, with a briefing session with the National APRM Focal Point. Hon. Fraser-Moleketi provided a detailed update on the APRM structure and progress at national level. The team also had constructive sessions with Parliament and Western Cape Traditional Practitioners and Leaders.

The Mission traveled to Pretoria to continue discussions with stakeholders over the period of 10-11 November 2005. The team met with representatives of Constitutional bodies and civil society organizations (NGOs, CBOs, labour, youth, women, universities, business and media etc).

Prof. Adedeji emphasized the issues of national ownership and broad based participation in the implementation of the APRM. He reiterated the importance of a national commission that is inclusive of all stakeholders and noted that the APRM is not an event but an ongoing process.

Stakeholders expressed their support and willingness to participate in the APRM. It was agreed that the Peer Review process is not only focused on public policy, but entails self-assessment by

all stakeholders. With respect to funding, the importance of continued efforts to mobilize resources over and above government contributions were highlighted. In particular, the business community has promised to assist with resource mobilization including provision of human and institutional support to the National APRM Secretariat as needed.

Meeting with the Governing Council

The team met with the NGC on the 11th of November 2005. The meeting reviewed the outcome of the support mission. Consensus was reached between the Support Mission and the NGC on the following points:

- The NGC is to be expanded to include the Alternate Members;
- The NGC will meet monthly with representatives of Provincial Governing Councils;
- Professor Adedeji will undertake a return visit in December 2005 which will include visits to Limpopo and Eastern Cape;
- The 2nd Consultative Conference is proposed for late February/early March 2006, with the exact date to be finalized;
- South Africa expects to complete its Self-assessment and draft Programme of Action (POA) in March and the entire APRM review by August 2006.

Signature of MOU

The Memorandum of Understanding relating to the Technical Assessment Missions and the Country Review Visit was signed on the 11th day of November 2005 between His Excellency President Thabo Mbeki on behalf of the Government of South Africa and Prof. Adedeji, Eminent Member of the APR Panel, on behalf of the APR Forum. Also present were the APRM Focal Point, members of the NGC and the Support Mission Team.

Appreciation:

The Government of South Africa expressed gratitude to the Support Mission for its contribution to the launching of the National APR process. Prof. Adedeji, on behalf of the Support Mission, expressed his profound appreciation to the Government of South Africa for the warm hospitality and the enthusiasm with which South Africa has embraced the APR process. He also noted the hard work done by support mission team and the country level stakeholders.

Prof. Adebayo Adedeji
Member of the APRM Panel

Hon. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi
Department of Public Service and
Administration

Issued in Pretoria, South Africa, 11th day of November 2005