

**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 15<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW  
MECHANISM PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS  
19-20 JANUARY 2006, KHARTOUM, SUDAN**

1. The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the African Peer Review Mechanism [APRM] Panel of Eminent Persons [APR Panel] was held on 19-20 January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat, Chairperson of the APR Panel. The other Members of the APR Panel in attendance were:

- (i) Prof. Adebayo Adedeji;
- (ii) Prof. Mohammed Babes;
- (iii) Dr. Dorothy Njeuma;
- (iv) Ms. Marie-Angélique Savané; and
- (v) Dr. Chris Stals

2. The APR Panel met to prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the APR Forum, scheduled for 22 January 2006 in Khartoum. The meeting of the Forum would be a special one arranged to conduct the peer reviews of Ghana and Rwanda, being the first two countries to have completed the APRM self-assessment process.

3. The Country Review Reports of Ghana and Rwanda were presented for the consideration of the APR Forum already at its 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit held on 19 June 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria. Since then the APR Panel finalized modalities and procedures for conducting the peer reviews of these two countries by the APR Forum.

4. In Khartoum the Panel met with the representatives of Ghana and Rwanda to prepare for the Summit of the APR Forum. At this meeting Dr. Stals and Dr. Njeuma, the respective Team Leaders of the Country Review Teams of Ghana and Rwanda, introduced the main findings of the peer review exercise of these two countries.

5. The APR Panel highlighted the uniqueness of the peer review exercise which allows not only for a self-assessment process, but also for the sharing of information and experience amongst participating countries. The main objectives are to assist the participating country in its efforts to improve on identified weaknesses in its existing governance structures, and to enable other participating countries to learn from the best practices of the country under review.

6. The representatives of Ghana and Rwanda in turn presented the main elements to be incorporated in the statements to be made at the Forum by the respective Presidents of Ghana and Rwanda. These would include the following:

- A review of the APRM process in the country;
- Motivations for the country's participation in the APRM;

- Highlights of identified strengths and weaknesses;
- The main elements of the Programmes of Action and the countries' priorities and plans for implementation;
- Resource needs as well as a resource mobilization strategy; and
- Ways and means of addressing capacity constraints.

7. The APR Panel stressed the need to make the process more participatory in all its stages and, more specifically in the case of Ghana and Rwanda, in the implementation phases. The Panel also noted that the statements by the Presidents of Ghana and Rwanda to the APR Forum would become important reference documents and must include commitments of the Governments of Ghana and Rwanda to implement the respective Programmes of Action.

8. The Panel was also of the view that the national APRM structures, namely the National APRM Governing Council in Ghana and the National APRM Commission in Rwanda, should play an important part in the implementation phases of the respective Programmes of Action.

9. The Panel also held a briefing session with the representatives of the Heads of State and Government of all participating countries, including the representatives of Ghana and Rwanda, to inform them on the modalities proposed by the Panel for conducting the peer reviews. During this session the Panel explained the roles expected of other Members of the APR Forum in the conduct of the peer review. The representatives were requested to brief their respective Heads of State and Government on the proposed procedures to be followed at the 4<sup>th</sup> Summit of the APR Forum.

10. The next meeting of the APR Panel will take place on 9-10 March 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

**Done on 21 January 2006 in Khartoum, Sudan**