

**THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)
SUPPORT MISSION TO MAURITIUS
28th-30th June 2004**

From 28th to 30th of June 2004, Mr. Mourad MEDELICI, a member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons led an APRM Support Mission to Mauritius. The composition of the team of the Support Mission was as follows:

-Two representatives from the APR Secretariat, namely Dr. Kerfalla YANSANE, Lead Consultant, and Evelynne CHANGE, Coordinator for Corporate Governance.

-Representatives from Strategic Partner Institutions including:

African Development Bank: Dr. Michael MAH'MOUD, Senior Financial Sector Advisor from the African Development Bank (AfDB);

-United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA): Dr. Josue DIONE, Director Sustainable Development Division; Dr. Shamika SIRIMANNE, Senior Economist; and Mr. Guy RANAIVOMANANA, Development Management Officer.

UNDP, Africa Bureau: Ms. Zemenay LAKEW, Senior Regional Coordinator;

The purpose of the Support Mission was to assess the processes and mechanisms put in place by Mauritius 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 and the Country Review Visit.

The Support Mission Team held a preparatory meeting on the 27th of June 2004 to reach a common understanding on the conduct of the mission. The team noted the progress made by Mauritius in implementing the APRM including the appointment of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC), an autonomous statutory entity, as the APR Focal point for Mauritius, and the initiation of the consultative process with stakeholders.

Briefing Session with the National Economic and Social Council

On Monday June 28th 2004, the Support Mission Team met with **Dr. Claude Ricaud, C.B.E, Chair Person of NESC, Mr. Jayaraj RAMJADA, Secretary General** and other staff members of the NESC to review the draft programme for the Support Mission. The Team also received an update of the national level process in Mauritius. The need for broad-based participation including at the national coordinating structure for the APRM, and the importance for all stakeholders to reach a common understanding on the philosophy, process and methodology of the APRM were reiterated.

Courtesy calls on various Dignitaries in Mauritius

The support mission paid courtesy calls on various government dignitaries including: **His Excellency Mr. Raouf BUNDHUN, G.O.S.K., Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius, the**

Honourable Paul Raymond BERENGER, G.C.S.K., G.O.N.M., the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs; **the Honourable Pravind Kumar JUGNAUTH**, the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Minister responsible for the NESC; **the Honourable Jaya Krishna CUTTAREE**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation and **the Honourable Premnath RAMNAH, G.C.S.K.**, Speaker of the National Assembly.

A meeting was also held with officials of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation** led by **Minister's Counsellor, Ambassador Naresh SERVANSING** to finalise the terms and modalities of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The support mission also paid a courtesy call on **the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Dr Navinchandra RAMGOOLAM**.

Mr. MEDELICI, Head of the delegation, outlined the philosophy, objective and modalities of the APRM, reiterating that it was for peer learning and sharing of experiences. He also emphasized the importance of broad-based participation by all stakeholders for the effective implementation of the APRM. The dignitaries welcomed the support mission and wished them success in this momentous endeavour. The government representatives also underscored the commitment of the Government of Mauritius to the successful implementation of the APRM and peer learning among participating countries. The Vice-President and the Prime Minister in particular reiterated the commitment of Mauritius to regional integration in Africa. The Leader of the Opposition commented on the importance of a broad-based participation in the APRM in order to have an accurate picture of the overall situation.

APR National Stakeholders Workshop

On Tuesday, 29th of June 2004, one full day workshop was held for a broad range of stakeholders, including Heads of Government ministries and departments, representatives of the private sector, trade unions, academia, political parties and civil society organizations.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Claude RICAUD, Chairperson of the NESC noted that the support mission was the beginning of a fairly long term exercise for the process of self assessment of participating countries. This self assessment would include a process which is gradually being recognized as a core component of good governance, namely the participation and contribution of civil society in the development programme of the country. Dr. RICAUD acknowledged that it was a great honour for the NESC to have been appointed APR Focal Point for Mauritius.

Mr. MEDELICI Eminent member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons and Head of Delegation emphasized the concepts of ownership and broad-based participation as core guiding principles for the APRM. He conveyed the best wishes of the Panel and its Chair Person Madame Marie-Angelique SAVANE of Senegal to Mauritius as the country undertook this important exercise. He also congratulated NESC on being bestowed this important task and thanked the strategic partner institutions for their support to the exercise.

Dr. Kerfalla YANSANE representing the APR Secretariat presented an overview of the APRM elucidating all stages of the mechanism and modalities for stakeholder involvement. Mr. RAMJADA from the NESC outlined the implementation of the process in Mauritius so far and

the initial propositions with regard to the schedule of activities for the implementation of the APRM.

The second part of the workshop consisted of presentations by members of the support mission in each of the four focus areas of the APRM: Democracy and Good Political Governance; Economic Governance and Management; Corporate Governance; and Social Economic Development. The presentations elucidated the main objectives under each issue area, the expectations from countries and possible modalities for response. It was explained that countries could recast and break down the questionnaire to facilitate understanding and response from stakeholders provided that the collation of responses facilitated cross-comparison among countries.

Stakeholders underscored the importance of the APR exercise given its participatory nature and emphasized the need to maintain the independence of the process. They provided feed back and sought clarification with regard to the modalities for their participation including:

- the structure of the national coordinating body;
- modalities for distributing and for responding to the questionnaire;
- enhancement of capacity to facilitate the process;
- sensitization and raising awareness including through the media; and
- the drafting of the National Programme of Action.

Signature of the MOU

The MOU for the Technical Assessment Mission and Country Review Visit was signed on the 30th day of June 2004 between **Mr. Mourad MEDELICI, Member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons** on behalf of the APR Forum, and **Mr Jaya Krishna CUTTAREE, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Regional Cooperation** on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.

Appreciation:

Mr. Mourad MEDELICI, member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons, on behalf of the Support Mission, expressed his profound appreciation to the Government of Mauritius and the national APR Focal Point for the warm hospitality and the enthusiasm with which Mauritius has embraced the APR process. He also thanked the Delegation and expressed his appreciation for the hard work done by the members of the Support Mission team. Mr. Medelci further acknowledged the invaluable support being provided by the Strategic Partners to the process.

.....
Mr. Mourad MEDELICI
Member of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons

.....
Dr. Claude RICAUD
Chairman of NESCA on
behalf of the Mauritius National
APR Focal Point

Issued at Port Louis this 1st day of July 2004.