

**OBJECTIVES, STANDARDS, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS  
FOR THE  
AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (“THE APRM”)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The African Peer Review Mechanism (“the APRM”) base document (AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex 2) defines the Mechanism as:

*“An instrument voluntarily acceded to by Member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism”*

and its primary purpose as:

*“To foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs of capacity building.”*

1.2 To ensure that the primary purpose is realised, the participating states have committed themselves to adopting appropriate laws, policies and standards, as well as building the necessary human and institutional capacity. They have also committed themselves to adopting specific objectives, standards, criteria and indicators for assessing and monitoring progress in key areas on a regular basis in accordance with the African Peer Review Mechanism base document and the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance (AHG/235 (XXXVIII) Annex 1) [“the Declaration”], as endorsed by the inaugural Summit of the African Union (AU) in Durban, South Africa in July 2002.

1.3 The overarching goal of the APRM is for all participating countries to accelerate their progress towards adopting and implementing the priorities and programmes of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), achieving the mutually agreed objectives and compliance with best practice in respect of each of the areas of governance and development. This can only be achieved through the sustained efforts of the country itself, involving all stakeholders. It requires that each country carefully develops a Programme of Action with time bound objectives and linked to national budgets to guide all stakeholders in the actions required by all – government, private sector, civil society – to achieve the country's vision.

1.4 However, given the differences of historical context and stages of development, countries will start from different base lines and will not be expected to reach their highest level of performance at the same time. The rate of progress will also depend critically on the level of commitment and political will of each country to take deliberate steps to realise its vision. Participating countries will encourage and support each other and exercise constructive peer dialogue and persuasion where necessary to ensure that all countries achieve full compliance by a mutually agreed date.

1.5 The participating countries will agree on goals and objectives to be achieved in respect of each of the areas covered by the APRM and about information to be shared. They will also agree on time frames of achieving the goals and objectives for each country or category of countries taking into account the situation at the time when the base review is conducted.

1.6 Sharing of information will focus on mutual learning in areas of high priority in NEPAD such as strengthening institutions of democracy and human rights, improving budgeting and financial management, fighting corruption,

increasing access to social services such as education, health, water and energy. High priority areas also include improvement in agriculture and diversification of production and exports, increased trade and investment among the participating countries, increased cooperation in mobilising and attracting both domestic and foreign investment.

1.7 Sharing of information will result in increased adoption of best practices and standards and also accelerate the integration of the economies of participating countries. Higher levels of trust will also increase opportunities for intra-country trade and investment, physical infrastructure, production systems and structures and will also foster common African positions for negotiating with other regions.

1.8 To facilitate the measuring of performance and progress, this document identifies the following components in each of the four substantive areas of the Declaration (democracy and political governance, economic governance and management, corporate governance and socio-economic development): key objectives, standards, criteria and indicators.

1.9 First, the **key objectives** that have been prioritised in the NEPAD Framework Document and the Declaration are defined as specifically as possible. Then the codes and **standards** that are referenced in the Declaration are those agreed to by the African Union (AU) with regard to the area and key objectives of democracy and political governance and those that are internationally recognised with regard to other areas and the key objectives of governance and socio-economic development. It should also be noted that many of these codes or standards include detailed tools, templates and methodologies for self-assessment of compliance by countries. The APR Forum will review the codes and standards periodically.

1.10 The **criteria** are whether the government has taken the necessary steps to achieve the objective and attain the standards and the effects or results of these actions. Criteria have been articulated in terms of questions about these matters and can also be seen as issues to be addressed and reference points for targets to be established. Finally **indicators** are used as the means by which it is determined whether the criteria have been met.

1.11 This scheme of concepts that becomes increasingly specific as one moves from objectives to indicators thus provides a framework for the operationalisation of the assessments to be undertaken in the participating countries in the context of the APRM. The more specific the elements of the scheme become, the more important it becomes that the specifics of the country be taken into account in defining them. This document will thus only provide indicative criteria and some examples of indicators as the development of these components is a highly technical task and is best undertaken by those involved in the assessments at the country level in close consultation with the African Peer Review (APR) Secretariat technical staff. This scheme will allow a country's efforts and performance to be assessed against clear standards that have been agreed to in the African and/or the international contexts.

1.12 In the following sections this scheme of concepts – objectives, standards, criteria and indicators - is applied in each of the four areas identified in the Declaration:

- a. Democracy and Political Governance
- b. Economic Governance and Management
- c. Corporate Governance
- d. Socio-economic Development.

1.13 The purpose is to provide a clear framework to guide the design and implementation of the assessments in each of these areas. The key objectives in the area are first listed; then, for each objective, the standards, indicative criteria and some examples of indicators are articulated.

## **2 DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL GOVERNANCE**

2.1 Over the years, successive Summits of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU)/African Union (AU) have taken decisions aimed at ensuring democracy and good political governance. In particular, through the Constitutive Act of the African Union, Member States commit themselves, among others, to the objectives and principles of protecting and promoting democracy, good political governance, human rights and the rule of law. Consequently, the NEPAD Framework Document and the Declaration identify, among others, democracy and good political governance as preconditions and foundation of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

### **A. Key Objectives for Democracy and Political Governance**

2.2 The overall objective is to consolidate a constitutional political order in which democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, the separation of powers and effective, responsive public service are realised to ensure sustainable development and a peaceful and stable society. The key objectives are:

- a. Prevent and reduce intra- and inter-country conflicts.
- b. Constitutional democracy, including periodic political competition and opportunity for choice, the rule of law, a Bill of Rights and the supremacy of the constitution are firmly established in the constitution.

- c. Promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as enshrined in all African and international human rights instruments.
- d. Uphold the separation of powers including the protection of the independence of the judiciary and of an effective Parliament
- e. Ensure accountable, efficient and effective public office holders and civil servants
- f. Fighting corruption in the political sphere.
- g. Promotion and protection of the rights of women
- h. Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and young persons
- i. Promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including displaced persons and refugees.

## **B. Standards, Indicative Criteria and Examples of Indicators**

### **2.3 Objective 1: Prevent and reduce intra- and inter-country conflicts**

#### **2.3.1 Standards**

- a. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- b. Cairo Declaration on the Establishment, within the OAU, of the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution (1993); [or the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2002) when operational]
- c. Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Co-operation in Africa (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (2000)
- d. Declaration on the Framework for an OAU Response to Unconstitutional Changes of Government (2000)
- e. Charter of the United Nations (1945)

- f. Declaration and Plan of Action on Control of Illicit Drug Trafficking and Abuse in Africa (2002)
- g. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)

### **2.3.2 Indicative criteria**

- a. Has the country ratified or acceded to all relevant African and international instruments aimed at preventing, managing and resolving conflicts?
- b. What has the country done to implement the various African and international instruments aimed at preventing, managing and resolving conflicts?
- c. Does the country have domestic institutions, mechanisms and processes to support prevention, management and resolution of intra-country conflicts, with appropriate capacity and resources?
- d. What has the country done to combat drug trafficking and ensure peace and security?

### **2.3.3 Examples of indicators**

- a. Level of ratification and accession to relevant African and international instruments for conflict prevention, management and resolution
- b. Existence and effectiveness of early warning systems capacity
- c. Existence of institutions to manage, prevent or resolve conflicts.
- d. Levels and trends of drug trafficking

## **2.4 Objective 2: Constitutional democracy, including periodic political competition and opportunity for choice, the rule of law, a Bill of Rights and the supremacy of the constitution are firmly established in the Constitution.**

### **2.4.1 Standards**

- a. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)

- b. The Conference of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (2000)
- c. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1990)
- d. Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1999)
- e. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)

#### **2.4.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Are the provisions of the constitution for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution clear and firm with adequate provisions for enforcement?
- b. Are the constitutionally mandated institutions for democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the supremacy of the constitution properly constituted and resourced for their effective functioning?
- c. What is being done to create an enabling environment for meaningful popular participation in all forms and levels of governance?
- d. What is the resulting state of democracy and political governance in the country?
- e. How easy or difficult is it to change the Constitution of the country?

#### **2.4.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Adequacy of express provisions in the constitution
- b. Effectiveness of democracy and law enforcement institutions
- c. Independence and effectiveness of Electoral Commission to ensure fair and free elections
- d. Adequacy of legal framework for free association and formation of non-governmental organisations and unions
- e. Effectiveness of independent media in informing the public and providing freedom of expression

- f. Public perceptions of and the degree of satisfaction with democracy and political governance
- g. Congruence of the national Constitution with the Constitutive Act of the African Union

**2.5 Objective 3: Promotion and protection of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights as enshrined in all African and international human rights instruments.**

**2.5.1 Standards**

- a. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- b. Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration and Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (1999)
- c. UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948)

**2.5.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Has the country acceded to and ratified all the relevant African and international instruments?
- b. Does the country have the relevant institutions such as the human rights commission and public protector, with appropriate capacity and resources?
- c. What has the government done to implement the various international instruments guaranteeing respect for economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights to which it has acceded and ratified?
- d. Does the country have the necessary technical, financial and other capacities to fulfil its domestic and international obligations in these regards?
- e. To what extent are these rights realised in the country?

### **2.5.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Effectiveness of institutions and processes for implementation, oversight and public awareness of human rights principles and the country's obligations therein.
- b. Regularity and quality of country reporting to treaty bodies;
- c. Adequacy of budgetary provisions and effectiveness of inter-departmental committees to give effect to the country's international obligations.
- d. The overall state of these rights in the country

## **2.6 Objective 4: Uphold the separation of powers, including the protection of the independence of the judiciary and of an effective Parliament.**

### **2.6.1 Standards**

- a. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- b. The Conference of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (2000)

### **2.6.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What is being done to ensure effective separation of powers between the various arms of government? How is the independence of the judiciary assured? What measures have been taken to ensure the effectiveness of Parliament?
- b. What is the state of the country with respect to the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary and the effectiveness of Parliament?

### **2.6.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Security of tenure of the judiciary and its access to resources

- b. An effectively independent judicial services commission to ensure professionalism and integrity with responsibility for the appointment of judges.
- c. Inter-party committees within Parliament exercising effective oversight functions over various areas of public interest.
- d. Overall assessment of state of governance in these areas

## **2.7 Objective 5: Ensure accountable, efficient and effective public office holders and civil servants?**

### **2.7.1 Standards**

- a. The Conference of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (2000)
- b. NEPAD Framework Document

### **2.7.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Are the provisions in the constitution and other laws and regulations effective in ensuring accountability of public office holders?
- b. Are the institutions, such as a public services commission, effectively structured and resourced to ensure professionalism and integrity in public service?
- c. Is there a code of conduct for public office holders or a citizens' charter?
- d. What is the overall efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of delivery of service?

### **2.7.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Mandated reports by the Executive branch of Government to the country
- b. Provisions for public hearings to which public officials can be called to account;

- c. A constitutionally mandated public service commission that is effectively structured and resourced
- d. A legal instrument embodying a code of conduct for public office holders.
- e. Results of overall assessments or citizen charter reports

## **2.8 Objective 6: Fighting corruption in the political sphere**

### **2.8.1 Standards**

- a. United Nations and African Union anti-corruption codes
- b. The Conference of Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation (CSSDCA) Solemn Declaration (2000)
- c. NEPAD Framework Document

### **2.8.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Are there independent and effective institutions, mechanisms and processes for combating corruption?
- b. Are there precedents for dealing effectively with proven cases of corruption?
- c. What is the overall assessment of the level of corruption in the country?
- d. Are there measures for enhancing integrity and probity in public life?

### **2.8.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Constitutional provision for fighting corruption and effectiveness of institutions carrying out the mandate
- b. Accessibility of the proceedings of Parliament and the reports of its various committees to the public.
- c. Requirements for periodic public declaration of assets by public office bearers and senior public officials;
- d. Results of overall assessment of corruption in the country

## **2.9 Objective 7: Promotion and protection of the rights of women.**

### **2.9.1 Standards**

- a. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- b. Convention on the Eradication of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- c. Beijing Plan of Action (1995)

### **2.9.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Has the country acceded to and ratified the relevant United Nations and African Union instruments protecting the rights of women?
- b. Are promotion and protection of the rights of women adequately entrenched in the constitution and are the laws consistent with these provisions?
- c. What has the country done to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of women in everyday life?
- d. What are the results for the improvement of the status of women in the country?

### **2.9.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Accession and ratification of the relevant African and international instruments on the rights of the women and girls
- b. Effectiveness of constitutional provisions and laws, and institutions protecting and promoting the rights of women;
- c. Consequential steps taken to ensure full and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of national life, particularly in political and economic domains.
- d. Results of overall assessment of status of women

## **2.10 Objective 8: Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and young persons**

### **2.10.1 Standards**

- a. African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)
- b. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

### **2.10.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Does the constitution effectively guarantee the rights of the child and young persons
- b. Are the institutions established to implement these constitutional provisions effective?
- c. Has the country acceded and ratified the relevant United Nations and African Union instruments protecting the rights of the child and young persons?
- d. What has the country done to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and young persons in everyday life?
- e. What assessments have been made to monitor the improvement of the status of children and youth in the country?

### **2.10.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Effectiveness of constitutional provisions and institutions to advance the rights of the child and young persons.
- b. Accession to and ratification of the relevant international instruments on the rights of the child and young persons, and the measures taken to implement them.
- c. Consequential steps taken to ensure the realization of the rights of children and young persons

- d. Results of overall assessment of status of children and youth in the country

## **2.11 Objective 9: Promotion and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons and refugees.**

### **2.11.1 Standards**

- a. The OAU Refugee Convention of 1969
- b. UN Convention on Refugees

### **2.11.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Are the constitutional provisions guaranteeing the protection of vulnerable groups adequate?
- b. Has the country acceded and ratified the relevant African Union and United Nations instruments protecting the rights of vulnerable groups?

### **2.11.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Adequacy of constitutional provisions and legal and regulatory steps to enforce them
- b. Accession to and ratification of the relevant international instruments on the rights of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons (IDP's) and refugees, and the measures taken to implement them.
- c. Consequential steps taken to ensure the realization of the rights of vulnerable groups
- d. Enactment and enforcement of legislation to stop human trafficking
- e. Results of overall assessment of status of vulnerable groups in the country

## **3 ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

3.1 The NEPAD Framework Document and the Declaration define good economic governance and management as an essential prerequisite for promoting economic growth and reducing poverty.

**A. Key Economic Governance and Management Objectives**

- a. Promote macroeconomic policies that support sustainable development
- b. Implement transparent, predictable and credible government economic policies
- c. Promote sound public finance management
- d. Fight corruption and money laundering
- e. Accelerate regional integration by participating in the harmonization of monetary, trade and investment policies amongst the participating states

**B. Standards, Indicative Criteria and Examples of Indicators**

**3.2 Objective 1: Promote macroeconomic policies that support sustainable development**

**3.2.1 Standards**

- a. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- b. Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Union (1991)
- c. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- d. National Accounting Standards

**3.2.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What has the government done to make the country's macroeconomic policy framework sound and stimulating sustainable development?

- b. To what extent have these measures resulted in a sound framework that fosters sustainable development?
- c. What measures taken by government to accelerate development in key economic sectors and to stimulate domestic and external investment?

### **3.2.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Measures of sound macroeconomic management (deficit to GDP and its sustainability, Revenue to GDP, inflation rate, debt to GDP and its sustainability, and share of deficit financed by Central Bank)
- b. Positive impacts on socio-economic development, including the rate of unemployment or job creation in both formal and informal sectors

## **3.3 Objectives 2 and 3: Implement transparent, predictable and credible government economic policies and promote sound public finance management**

### **3.3.1 Standards**

- a. Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency
- b. Guidelines for Public Debt Management
- c. International Standards in Auditing
- d. International Accounting Standards
- e. Code of Good Practices on Transparency in Monetary and Financial Policies
- f. Principles for Payment Systems
- g. Core Principles for Securities and Insurance Supervision and Regulations
- h. Core principles for Effective Banking Supervision

### **3.3.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Has the country assessed its compliance with the relevant standards listed above and taken steps to address shortfalls and capacity gaps?
- b. Are the Public Administration, the Central Bank, and the Regulatory Authorities effective and operating in a transparent manner?
- c. Does the country have a Medium-Term-Expenditure-Framework or other medium term planning instruments or any predictable planning framework?
- d. Are public sector expenditures consistent with Medium-Term-Expenditure-Framework or other medium term planning instruments?
- e. Does the government account and report publicly all revenues received and receivable?
- f. Does the country have the necessary financial, technical capacities and regulatory framework for implementing sound public finance management?
- g. What is the overall assessment of the adherence to best practice in these institutions?

### **3.3.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Autonomy and effectiveness of the national auditing body
- b. Credible and Reliable Budget Process
- c. Preparation and publication of interim financial reports
- d. Demonstrable autonomy of the Central Bank
- e. Enactment and enforcement of effective competition regulation
- f. Medium-term-expenditure-framework or other domestic medium-term-planning instruments or any other predictable planning framework
- g. Results of overall assessment of adherence to above mentioned standards and codes and steps taken to address shortfalls and capacity gaps.

## **3.4 Objective 4: Fight corruption and money laundering**

### **3.4.1 Standards**

- a. United Nations and African Union anti-corruption codes and standards
- b. Recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering (Issuing Organisation)
- c. International Standards on Auditing

### **3.4.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Has the country assessed its compliance with the relevant standards listed above and taken steps to address shortfalls and capacity gaps?
- b. What measures are being taken effectively to fight corruption and money laundering, e.g., including preventive, control, enforcement and prosecution and conviction of violators?
- c. What is the overall assessment of the level of corruption and money laundering in the country?
- d. What measures has the country taken to implement the recommendations on Anti-Money Laundering and fighting other financial crimes?

### **3.4.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Ratification and implementation of International codes and the African Union anti-corruption code
- b. Enactment and enforcement of effective anti-corruption and anti-money laundering laws
- c. Effectiveness of institutions and programmes, e.g., Public Protector, Prosecutor-General
- d. Results of overall assessment of the prevalence of corruption and money-laundering in the country

## **3.5 Objective 5: Accelerate regional integration by participating in the harmonization of monetary, trade and investment policies amongst the participating states**

### **3.5.1 Standards**

- a. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- b. Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991)
- c. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- d. Relevant Treaties, Conventions and Protocols of Regional Economic Communities

### **3.5.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. Are economic policies coherent with and supportive of regional economic integration objectives?
- b. Does the country promote and encourage intra-Africa trade and investment through its policies?

### **3.5.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Country's economic and sectoral policies are coherent with and supportive of regional economic integration objectives
- b. Implementation of MOUs and other regional economic agreements and treaties

## **4 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

4.1 Corporate governance is concerned with the ethical principles, values and practices that facilitate holding the balance between economic and social goals and between individual and communal goals. The aim is to align as nearly as possible the interests of individuals, corporations and society within a framework of sound governance and common good.

## **A. Key Corporate Governance Objectives**

- a. Provide an enabling environment and effective regulatory framework for economic activities.
- b. Ensure that corporations act as good corporate citizens with regard to human rights, social responsibility and environmental sustainability
- c. Promote the adoption of codes of good business ethics (eg. Cadbury and King Codes) in achieving the objectives of the organisation.
- d. Ensure that corporations treat all their stakeholders (shareholders, employees, communities, suppliers and customers) in a fair and just manner.
- e. Provide for accountability of corporations and directors.

## **B. Standards, Indicative Criteria and Examples of Indicators**

### **4.2 Standards**

- a. Principles of corporate governance (OECD and Commonwealth)
- b. International accounting standards
- c. International standards on auditing
- d. Core principles of Effective Banking Supervision
- e. Core principles for Securities and Insurance Supervision and Regulations
- f. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- g. Labour codes of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)
- h. Codes on industrial and environmental safety and hygiene of the World Health Organisation

### **4.3 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What measures have government and corporations taken to ensure compliance with standards and codes?

- b. To what extent are the standards and codes being observed in practice by corporations?
- c. Are the legal and regulatory frameworks in place to govern corporate and government activities effectively?
- d. Has the country developed a national code of corporate governance and other forms of conduct?
- e. Is there effective cooperation in achieving a win-win strategy in employer-employee relations and other elements of the social contract?
- f. What is the overall assessment of the integrity of the corporate sector in corporate governance?

#### **4.4 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Effective regulation of accounting and auditing professions
- b. Effectiveness of legal framework and enabling environment
- c. Effectiveness of protection of property rights and creditors' rights
- d. Timelines and effectiveness of resolving corporate disputes
- e. Effectiveness of private sector regulation
- f. Cooperativeness of employer-employee relations and positive assessments of labour unions
- g. Results of overall assessment of corporate integrity
- h. Level of application of international codes and standards
- i. Level of compliance to reporting and disclosure requirements covering capital market, state-owned enterprises and agencies, banking, insurance and financial sector, etc.
- j. Existence of effective Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) programme

## **5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

5.1 The NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance identifies the eradication of poverty and the fostering of socio-economic development as the over-arching twin objectives of NEPAD.

### **A. Key Socio-Economic Development Objectives**

- a. Promote self-reliance in development and build capacity for self-sustaining development.
- b. Accelerate socio-economic development to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- c. Strengthen policies, delivery mechanisms and outputs in key social development areas (including education for all, combating of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases)
- d. Ensuring affordable access to water, energy, finance (including micro-finance), markets and ICT to all citizens, especially the rural poor
- e. Progress towards gender equality, particularly equal access to education for girls at all levels.
- f. Encourage broad based participation in development by all stakeholders at all levels

### **B. Standards, Indicative Criteria and Examples of Indicators**

**5.2 Objectives 1 and 2: Promote self-reliance in development and build capacity for self-sustaining development, and accelerate socio-economic development to achieve sustainable development and poverty eradication**

### **5.2.1 Standards**

- a. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- b. Right to development in African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- c. African Charter for Popular Participation in Development (1990)
- d. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- e. WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)
- f. UN Millennium Declaration (2000)

### **5.2.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What measures has the government taken to accelerate socio-economic development in line with the NEPAD goals of sustainable development and poverty eradication?
- b. What measures has the countries taken to enhance sustainable capacity to formulate and manage socio-economic development and improve the delivery of public goods and services?
- c. What is the country doing to promote self-reliant and self-sustaining development through greater integration with other countries in the region?
- d. What measures has the government taken to accelerate agricultural production and integrated rural development?
- e. What measures is government taking to diversify production and exports (eg. Agro-industries, beneficiation of minerals and manufacturing)?
- f. Has macroeconomic policies been reviewed to make them conducive to poverty eradication and more coherent with poverty eradication strategies?
- g. What progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the key goals of the WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation?

### **5.2.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Alignment to NEPAD principles and priorities
- b. Level of food security
- c. Contribution of high value-addition industries (eg. Manufacturing) to the GDP and exports
- d. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) indicators
- e. The WSSD indicators
- f. The Human Development Index
- g. Efforts dedicated to poverty eradication
- h. Extent to which small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME's) are promoted and developed
- i. Percentage of GDP spent by the country on scientific and technological research and development.
- j. Extent and promotion of integration of production structures, and physical and institutional infrastructure.
- k. Existence and the extent of implementing planned capacity building programmes for the public sector.
- l. Population living under poverty line.
- m. Gini coefficient.

### **5.3 Objective 3: Strengthen policies, delivery mechanisms and outcomes in key social development areas (including education and combating of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases)**

#### **5.3.1 Standards**

- a. Millennium Declaration (2000)
- b. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- c. WSSD Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)

#### **5.3.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What measures has government taken to strengthen policy, delivery mechanisms and monitoring outcomes in order to make progress towards the social development targets of the MDGs?
- b. What progress has been made?

### **5.3.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Indicators in National Social Development statistics and reports
- b. Indicators in National HIV/AIDS and health reports
- c. Indicators in National MDG report
- d. Indicators in other relevant National reports
- e. Percentage of budget allocated to components of social development and the effectiveness of the delivery

## **5.4 Objective 4: Ensuring affordable access to water, sanitation, energy, finance (including micro-finance), markets and ICT to all citizens, especially the rural poor**

### **5.4.1 Standards**

- a. The Right to Development in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- b. UN Declaration on the Right to Development (1986)
- c. Millennium Declaration (2000)
- d. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990)
- e. World Summit on Social Development Plan of Action (1995)

### **5.4.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What policies, strategies, budgetary allocations and support processes has the government introduced to ensure affordable access to water, sanitation, energy, finance, markets and ICT to all citizens?

- b. What progress is being made in these areas?

#### **5.4.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Percentage of population with affordable access to all the above mentioned services
- b. Official government policy documents and actions specifying programmes undertaken and implemented.
- c. Results of overall assessment of progress

### **5.5 Objective 5: Progress towards gender equality, particularly equal access to education for girls at all levels.**

#### **5.5.1 Standards**

- a. NEPAD Framework Document (2001)
- b. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000)
- c. Millennium Declaration (2000)
- d. Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- e. Beijing Plan of Action (1995)

#### **5.5.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What constitutional, legal, policy and institutional measures has the government introduced to promote gender equality? With what effect?
- b. What policies and mechanisms has the government introduced to ensure that women participate equally in the private and public sectors? With what effect?
- c. What measures has the government taken to increase girl-child school enrolment? With what effect?

- d. What is the overall assessment of progress towards gender equality in the country?

### **5.5.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Effectiveness of constitutional, legal, policy and budgetary provisions
- b. Gender segregated statistics in official government reports permitting assessment of gender equality in all spheres of life

## **5.6 Objective 6: Encourage broad-based participation in development by all stakeholders at all levels**

### **5.6.1 Standards**

- a. The Right to Development in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981)
- b. African Charter on Popular Participation in Development (1990)
- c. World Summit on Social Development Plan of Action (1995)

### **5.6.2 Indicative Criteria**

- a. What measures has government taken to provide opportunities for participation in development by key stakeholder in civil society, the private sector, communities and their organisations?
- b. Does the decentralisation of government and administration include an effective framework and systematic opportunities for community empowerment to manage their own development?
- c. Are budgetary and fiscal policy sufficiently decentralised to give other stakeholders and effective say in their own development?
- d. What is the overall assessment of the effectiveness of participatory development arrangements in the country?

- e. Do organised and representative structures within civil society have the opportunity and capacity to have their views known?

### **5.6.3 Examples of Indicators**

- a. Extent to which rural communities are empowered to manage their own development
- b. Measures of budgetary and fiscal decentralisation
- c. Adequacy and effectiveness of participatory practice in the country
- d. Availability of micro-credit to SMME's and rural communities

## **6 CONCLUSION**

6.1 As stated at the outset, the purpose of these guidelines is to provide participating countries with a framework within which the APRM will take place and within which each country can carry out its own assessment as part of the APRM, with the assistance of the APR Secretariat and develop its Programme of Action to improve its governance and socio-economic development. This framework is enabling rather than prescriptive, specifying objectives and standards, providing indicative definitions of criteria and examples of indicators to ensure broad coherence in the country level work and uniformity at continental level.

6.2 As countries will be expected to accede to the APRM on a voluntary basis, this document will provide a basis and a guideline for those countries that are ready and willing to do so earliest. Later accessions will benefit from the experiences of the participating countries and the APR Secretariat. Participating countries will benefit in sharing policies, standards and practices that will lead to

the improvement in governance and socio-economic development performance. In particular, participating countries will improve their self-reliance on and build capacity to manage their development and national economies. The intention is to learn by doing and to improve practice rapidly by sharing experience and best practice and finding solutions to common constraints.

6.3 The first cycle of the Peer Review process will enable participating countries to determine their initial baseline conditions, which will then become the baselines for the continental exercise, based on a careful review of each country's assessment of its own situation and its time-bound Programme of Action for improving its governance and socio-economic development performance.

6.4 The intention is that the first APR report for a country will provide a basis for assisting the country in improving its Programme of Action and for strengthening its capacities to accelerate progress towards its vision of excellence in performance in the areas being reviewed. It is hoped that the report will also provide a basis for consolidating shared values and standards in these governance areas and accelerating socio-economic development in Africa, leading to more rapid poverty eradication and achievement of the objectives of NEPAD and Millennium Development Goals.

6.5 It is expected that country efforts will be enhanced and strengthened by the APR process and that, after the first review, countries will sustain their efforts to achieve the shared objectives identified in the APRM and their Programmes of Action. This will require updating these Programmes of Action on a regular basis on the basis of self-monitoring results of their own progress and lessons learned from sharing with other countries, which will be facilitated actively by the APRM. On the basis of these activities it is anticipated that they will be able to establish new benchmarks and targets each year in terms of such concepts as outlined here.

Subsequent peer reviews will monitor progress against these benchmarks as defined in the countries' evolving programmes of action. If this happens, the APRM will have served its intended purpose.

*End.*