

## African Peer Mechanism Review intervention at the 21<sup>st</sup> CEPA Session

### Application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development at the subnational level

5 April 2022 from 3-6 PM

**Good afternoon distinguished experts and observers,**

- Thank you for inviting APRM to CEPA session. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected bureau of experts at CEPA. We renew our commitment to support your activities and programs especially those pertinent to application and publicity of CEPA Principles in Africa.
- Over the last three years, the APRM has established strong cooperation with CEPA. We took the lead together with the committee led by the chairperson, Mrs. Moleketi, to convey an annual continental workshop in Africa on CEPA Principles. This workshop offers a regional platform for African countries and national experts to enhance their understanding on CEPA Principles and how it can be domesticated at national and sub-national levels.
- Our CEPA workshops in Cape Town in 2021 and Pretoria in 2019 both alluded that more efforts should be exerted to publicize CEPA principles and develop a benchmark system for its assessment at national levels. Accordingly, we proceeded with initiating a baseline study to assess the level of understanding, awareness, and application of CEPA principles in Africa. The discussed paper is similarly relevant to our study findings on CEPA Principles within the African context. Allow me to give few reflections on the paper presented in this panel:
- **First**, I commend the quality of the paper provided and overall reflections on the application of CEPA Principles at national and sub-national levels. I think the Experts referred to a decisive variable to the extent of which CEPA Principles are applied, the local context. Domestic conditions play significant role in determining the implementation of some of CEPA Principles and associated strategies.
- For instance, our baseline study on CEPA Principles, which was launched in Nairobi last September 2021, adopted the trigger-response approach to understand the rationale of adopting CEPA Principles across 17 African countries. Based on country reviews and CEPA survey, we realized that each country applies the principles based on a series of domestic circumstances.
- For instance, in Kenya, the application of principles pertinent to integrity, transparency and rule of law are inspired by the constitution and adherence to legal order. In Egypt and South Africa, the social unrests and political tensions urged both

countries to work on social initiatives and programs which advocate for leaving no-one behind, participation and collaboration amongst government bodies. Ghana and Senegal, on the other hand, highly focus on strategic planning and improving competence of public sector delivery for the implementation of both Agendas: Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

- **Second**, there is a necessity for benchmark guidelines or toolkit to guide member states regarding the domestication of principles to local communities and subnational levels. Therefore, the APRM developed a questionnaire which assess the level of awareness, knowledge, and implementation of the principles at national levels. We noted in our CEPA study that some principles like subsidiarity, intergenerational equity and leaving no one behind are the least applied in Africa.
- As APRM also supports member states in VNRs preparations every year ahead of the HLPF, we acknowledge the significance of VNRs and the voluntary local review (VLR) to assist African countries enhance reporting on the principles on an annual or a two-year period.
- The APRM, accordingly, remains committed to cooperate with DESA and ECOSCO on the VLRs capacity building training in Africa. This shall assist African countries improve periodic assessment of CEPA Principles and accelerate the application of necessary strategies for the benefit of African citizens.
- Further, we noted that countries can also engage in peer-learning exercise to share best practices on the application of CEPA Principles. The APRM, in partnership with the national institute of governance, led by Dr. Sherifa Sherif, APAAM in Kenya and School of Government in South Africa intend to launch capacity building program on CEPA – in a hybrid format- for public civil servants in three African countries. The training aims to capacitate African national institutions on CEPA principles and strategies i.e., integrity, competence, sound policy making and leaving no one behind.
- **Third**, the multi-stakeholder platforms are noticeably growing amongst many African countries, but still need further inclusion for women and youth. We noted examples from Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Uganda, Morocco and Namibia where various consultative roundtables and awareness campaigns are held to encourage community-driven initiatives. However, ensuring gender parity in institutions and legislative branches in many African countries remain persistent.
- We at APRM are trying to encourage more women to participate and reflect on governance challenges across the continent. Accordingly, I believe our cooperation with CEPA shall also address the gender component and gender-sensitive budgeting as part of our capacity building program for African countries.

I thank you and wish you fruitful deliberations.

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