



THE VALUE OF THE PEER REVIEW MECHANISM FOR BUILDING PEACE IN AFRICA

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The current conflict environment in Africa

Shift from inter-State to intra-State conflict driven by:

- a. Growing Identity Conflicts
 - Ethnicity
 - Religion
- b. Conflicts which are a result of the failed process of integration, driven by domination of one group by the other leading to secession
- c. Conflicts which are a by-product of the Cold War, driven by drug and arms trafficking
- d. Military Conflicts
 - Driven by the proliferation of small arms
- e. Environmental Conflicts driven by:
 - Deforestation
 - Water scarcity, etc

Poor political and economic governance resulting in:

- a. Weak oppressive States
- b. Weak civil societies
- c. Absence of an organised private sector

What is the PRM?

An evolving mechanism

Central features:

- Set of criteria for good political and economic governance
- Independent, impartial panel
- Not punitive but correctional

Problems

- Different levels of development and U.S. approach
- Independent panel—must be people driven
- More clarity needed on punitive vs. correctional

What will lead to peace?

No substitute for :

- Democratic governance
- Sustainable development

What will create the climate for this?

- Building a strong State
- Building a strong civil society
- Need an organised private sector

Value of the PRM for peace building on the continent

- It will provide mutual assistance to States who have difficulties establishing peace and security and improving Governance
- The PRM will be aimed at identifying weaknesses to correct them, not punish
- The PRM will be addressing root causes to conflicts and not just addressing the symptoms
- In order to transform a conflict situation, it is important that the key stakeholders are bought into the process for it to have a long term effect, which the PRM will ensure
- It is voluntary—which means that countries who join will be committed to peace and development.
- It will consist of an independent panel of individuals from outside government who are respected for their impartiality and credibility.
- Findings will be made public, ensuring complete transparency in the process.
- In this way the public will be allowed to participate in the review process and in setting the goals and targets for the next round of assessments.
- The credibility of the PRM process will depend on the extent to which the citizens of the particular country being reviewed consider the panel independent and the process fair.
- Involvement of civil society in this process will assist in building ownership of the process and outcome.

International value of the PRM for peace building on the continent

- Successful implementation will ensure more investment
- It will create respect and confidence in Africa
- It would have succeeded where the international community failed
- Africa would begin to play a greater role in Global affairs