

**BRIEF REPORT ISSUED AT THE END OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW
MECHANISM COUNTRY REVIEW MISSION TO GHANA, 04-16 APRIL 2005,
ACCRA, GHANA**

Introduction

1. The first African Peer Review Mechanism [APRM] Country Review Mission [CRM] was fielded to the Republic of Ghana between the 4th to the 16th of April 2005. Ghana was among the first countries to accede to the APRM which is an African self monitoring mechanism intended to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional and economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful best practices including deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building of participating institutions. The APRM covers four focus areas: Democracy and Political Governance [DPG]; Economic Governance and Management [EGM]; Corporate Governance [CG] and Socio-Economic Development [SED].

2. Ghana has put in place a seven-member National APRM Governing Council [NAPRM-GC], chaired by Prof. Adjepong, to manage the national APR process. A National APRM Secretariat headed by Dr. Francis Appiah, Executive Secretary, supports the NAPRM-GC. The national self-assessment exercise was undertaken by four independent national technical research institutes [TRIS], namely the Centre for Democracy and Development [CDD] -Democracy and Good Political Governance; Centre for Economic Policy Analysis [CEPA] - Economic Governance and Management; Private Enterprise Foundation [PEF] - Corporate Governance; and Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research [ISSER] -Socio-Economic Development.

3. Ghana submitted its Self-assessment Report and a draft national Programme of Action to address capacity constraints to the APRM Secretariat during the first week of March 2005. The APRM Secretariat in conjunction with partner institutions had also compiled background information on Ghana in the four assessment areas. The three documents: the Country Self-assessment Report, the Draft national Programme of Action and the Background Paper have been used to develop an Issues Paper. The main purpose of the CRM is to further explore the salient issues identified in the Issues Paper and to discuss the draft Programme of Action.

4. Dr. Chris Stals, Member of the African Peer Review Mechanism [APRM] Panel of Eminent Persons [APR Panel] led the CRM, which comprised members of the APR Secretariat, Strategic Partner Institutions as well as consultants on the theme areas as follows:

APR Secretariat

- i. Dr. Bernard Kouassi, Executive Director;
- ii. Ms. Evelynne Change, Coordinator: Corporate Governance;
- iii. Mr. Dalmar Jama, Research Analyst: Corporate Governance;

NEPAD Secretariat

- iv. Mr. Sudir Chuckun, Coordinator: Multilateral Relations and Policy;

Partner Institutions

- v. Mr. Seward M Cooper, Chief Counsel and Head of Good Governance Unit, African Development Bank [ADB];
- vi. Mr. Claudius Olowu, Principal Governance Expert, Public Administration, ADB;
- vii. Ms. Zemenay Lakew, Senior Programme Coordinator, AU-NEPAD Support Unit, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] Regional Bureau for Africa;
- viii. Dr. Okey Onyejekwe Senior Regional Advisor, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa [UNECA];

Independent Technical Consultants for the APR Secretariat

- ix. Prof. Michelo K Hansungule, Professor of Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa;
- x. Dr. Afeikhena Jerome, Consultant and Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- xi. Prof. L Adele Jinadu, Executive Director, Centre for Advanced Social Science, Port Harcourt, Nigeria;
- xii. Dr. Omotunde Johnson, Consultant on Economic Issues, former International Monetary Fund Resident Representative in Ghana;
- xiii. Mr. Alfred Mubanda, former UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana;
- xiv. Prof. Ahmed Mohiddin, Director, 21st Century Africa Foundation;
- xv. Ms. Gertrude Takawira, former Country Director, South and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiating Institute [SEATINI] and Managing Consultant, Governance and Development Services, Zimbabwe.

Initial Meetings with Stakeholders in Accra, Ghana

5. During the first week the CRM interacted with a number of stakeholders starting with a meeting with the National APRM Governing Council [NAPRM-GC], and the National APRM Secretariat to agree on the modalities for execution of the CRM. The CRM also met with the TRIs that undertook the self-assessment exercise. In addition, the CRM paid a courtesy call on Hon. Dr. K K Apraku,

Minister of State for Regional Co-operation and NEPAD. Hon. Apraku was accompanied by Dr. Agyeman-Manu, Deputy Minister for Finance and Dr. Nii Noi Ashong, former Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning.

6. Furthermore workshops were held with TUC, Academia and NGOs; Specific Sectors including the Serious Frauds Office, the Committee on Human Rights and Administration of Justice, the Auditor-General; and Chief Directors of Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Visits to the Regions

7. In addition to the Greater Accra region, the CRM visited a number of regional capitals in Ghana and met with stakeholders drawn from various regions as follows, Ho [Volta and Eastern regions], Cape Coast [Central and Western regions], Wa [Upper West, Upper East and Northern regions] and Kumasi [Ashanti and Brong-Ahafo regions]. During the regional visits, the CRM paid courtesy calls on all the respective Regional Ministers namely Hon. Kofi Dzemasi [Volta region], Hon. Isaac Edumazi [Central Region], Hon. Ambrose Dery, [Upper West region], Hon. S K Boafo, [Ashanti region]. The CRM also held workshops with all stakeholders in each regional capital to assess the level of broad-based participation and to seek stakeholders' perspectives on the governance and socio-economic development agenda of the country.

Meetings with Members of Parliament and Development Partners

8. Upon return to Accra, the CRM held a workshop on Thursday, 14 April 2005 with Members of the Parliament of Ghana, one key arm of government and the traditional seat of deliberation on governance and development matters as they concern the populace. The CRM also held a meeting with the development partners.

9. The Head of the delegation further met with the Deputy Minister for Finance and the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana and held discussions on the area of macro-economic policy and management.

Courtesy Call on H.E. Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana

10. On 15th April 2005, the CRM paid a courtesy call on H.E. Mr. John Kufuor, President of the Republic of Ghana. In attendance were Hon. Nana Akuffo-Addo, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Hon. Mr. Kwamena Bartels, Minister of Private Sector Development and Presidential Initiatives.

11. Dr. Stals presented the members of the CRM to the President, which included nationals of 12 African countries. Dr. Stals indicated that the CRM had learnt a lot during the mission in Ghana. He commended the innovative

approaches taken by Ghana in jumpstarting the national and continental APR process.

12. President Kufuor welcomed all Members of the CRM and reiterated Ghana's commitment to the implementation of the APRM. He indicated that Ghana understood the key principles of the APRM, including leadership and commitment at highest levels, inclusivity, broad-based participation and freedom from political manipulation. It is in this light that the National APRM Governing Council has been given full autonomy to pursue its important mission. The President assured the Team that Ghana is ready to address issues of governance comprehensively and to take corrective measures where necessary to achieve sustainable development.

Close of Mission

13. A wrap-up meeting was held between the CRM and the NAPRM Governing Council on Friday, 15 April 2005. There was a general agreement that the Country Review Mission had been successful. The NAPRM Governing Council of Ghana confirmed its commitment to the continued implementation of the APRM and the ongoing engagement with all stakeholders including government, civil society organisations, private sector as well as the development partners. Dr. Stals, once again commended Ghana's commitment to improved governance and the resolve displayed by the general population to achieve a better quality of life. Ghana, being the first country to be reviewed, had led by example in the APRM process.

Appreciation

14. The NAPRM Governing Council on behalf of the people of Ghana expressed gratitude to the Dr. Chris Stals and all members of the CRM for their contribution to the successful completion of the first phases of the APR process. Dr. Stals on behalf of all members of the CRM expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government and the people of Ghana for the warm hospitality and the enthusiasm displayed by Ghana in embracing the APRM process. He also commended the pioneering work done by the National APRM Governing Council, the National APRM Secretariat, all stakeholders in Ghana as well as the CRM.

Done at Accra, Ghana on 15 April 2005

**Dr. Chris Stals
Member of APR Panel**

**Prof. Samuel K Adjepong
Chairperson, National APRM
Governing Council**