



**Towards Universal  
Accession by 2023**

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)  
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# African Peer Review Mechanism

AFROSAI-E Strategic Review 2021



- The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), an organ of the African Union, is Africa's homegrown initiative on governance;
- APRM has 41 Member States, with 24 first peer reviews completed and three second peer reviews as well as four targeted peer reviews by Heads of State and Government from 2005-2021;
- The APRM Strategic Plan for 2020–2024 was adopted by the APRM Heads of State and Government in February 2020;
- The Strategic Plan Outcome Areas address AU Agenda 2063 especially:
  - **Aspiration 3:** An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law
  - **Aspiration 4:** A Peaceful and Secure Africa

# 2020-Q1 2021 Main Achievements and Challenges

## ■ Major Achievements and Challenges

- APRM completed two governance peer reviews at the February 2020 Summit: a full review of Egypt, and a targeted review on youth unemployment for Namibia.
- At the March 2021 Summit, four peer reviews were completed: the full review of Liberia, as well as targeted reviews on mineral resource governance and tourism for Zambia, and on Health governance and the COVID-19 response for Sierra Leone.
- Launched the Preliminary Governance Assessment on AU Member State policy responses implemented to mitigate the COVID-19 Crisis.
- Revised its guidelines for the country review and targeted reviews programmes for virtual work during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Completed the African Governance Report 2021 for consideration by the next AU Assembly meeting. AGR 2021 is an AGA Platform deliverable to the Assembly, led by APRM.
- Published the first edition of the Africa Sovereign Credit Rating Review
- Challenges: COVID-19 crisis has affected the APRM's work output, Slower APRM national processes in Member States due to the crisis has also affected outcomes

# Sudan Gap Analysis

- Completed at the request of H.E the Prime Minister Hamdok in Q4 2020, with the country review mission taking place in November –December 2020, and the final report completed with recommendations submitted to the Government of Sudan in Q1 2021.
- The 30<sup>th</sup> APR Forum of Heads of State and Government was updated on Sudan Gap Analysis Review at a virtual Summit held on 25 March 2021.
- An AFROSAI-E representative took part in the Gap Analysis Mission, and seamlessly contributed to the main findings and recommendations, with a view to strengthening the work and relevance of the supreme audit institution, the National Audit Chamber (NAC) of Sudan.
- The Afrosai-E representative worked on the supreme audit institutions section and used an in-depth understanding of the institutional and legal context, and how a country's audit structure should function to enhance the comprehensiveness of the review recommendations to government in support of audit institutions

# Sudan Gap Analysis

- ❑ The report notes that the operationalisation of the independence and legal framework of the National Audit Chamber (NAC) is amongst the challenges facing the country including its governance structures. The NAC also supports other oversight bodies including Parliament, and promotes coordination with related agencies in ensuring effective transparency and accountability.
- ❑ The review notes that while the NAC has satisfactory administrative independence, government required more timely appointments of its external auditors and a better mechanism for submission of annual performance reports for scrutiny by the National Assembly or other appropriate bodies.
- ❑ The review acknowledged that government is continuing the process of strengthening the good governance structures of the NAC to support and enhance its administrative independence and other appropriate bodies involved in the promotion of transparency and accountability through conducting high quality and independent public sector audits.
- ❑ The review noted that while the NAC is satisfactorily operating, the full work required of a national anti-corruption body is hampered as there is a need for a separate fully established national anti-corruption body. This is required to bolster anti-corruption in key institutions and prevent corruption, economics distortions, sectoral imbalances, and patronage networks and the consequent loss of public trust.
- ❑ The review found that there is a need to reinforce technical competency and skills especially in key institutions such as government departments to effectively implement the mandates assigned to their institutions by law, and this affects the extent to which the SAI- NAC - is able to assure and certify that there is good public financial management, that is transparent, accountable, and responsible in the use of public resources.
- ❑ The Gap Analysis report on the Supreme Audit Institution includes amongst its recommendations to:
  - Continue to facilitate and support NAC's operational, financial, and administrative independence so that the SAI can more effectively execute its external public audit mandate;
  - Establish legal mechanisms that are independent of the executive to process the NAC reports as the country awaits resumption of parliamentary work; and
  - Establish and or strengthen other appropriate anti-corruption bodies in accordance with the existing laws to complement the work of the NAC .

# APRM - AFROSAI-E Partnership

- APRM can work with AFROSAI-E to champion SAI-E independence in all its 40 Member States to:
- Develop a tool for assessment of an AU Member State in auditing to be used in targeted reviews
- Anchor specific targeted reviews assessing a Member State on adherence to particular governance and auditing standards and challenges relevant to the work of AFROSAI-E. For wider relevance, this should be a cross-cutting challenge relevant to a number of Member States
  - E.G. - challenges with Member State extractive industries; corruption; and illicit financing where APRM is part of an AU task force. We can use any tools developed for assessment by AFROSAI-E and its partners.
  - Head of State or Government responds to the main recommendations during a peer review session. This gives visibility at the highest level to the work of AFROSAI-E, builds consciousness.

