

2002 Kananaskis Interim Compliance Report Africa – Peer Review

Commitment:

Encouraging cooperation with respect to peer-review practices, modalities and experiences between the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the ECA, including the participation by the ECA in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) peer-review process where the countries under review so agree.

Background:

The NEPAD leaders adopted on 11 June 2002 the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a key element in the attainment of the plan's objectives. The basis for the African Peer Review Mechanism is the assessment of the political, economic, and institutional aspects of governance, which is conducted through a range of indicators: [1] Political rights and institutional effectiveness (e.g. the functioning of the legislature, judicial, and executive branches, as well as the non-governmental sector); [2] Economic management (e.g. macroeconomic management, public financial management and accountability, monetary and financial transparency, accounting and auditing systems, and regulatory oversight); and, [3] corporate governance, among others. The results of this process will also inform the G8 leaders' decisions in developing enhanced partnerships with African states.

It should be noted that the NEPAD African Peer Review Mechanism is scheduled to start in April 2003 after some outstanding questions are resolved at the next meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State Implementation Committee (February 2003).²⁵ In the interim, the ECA secretariat has stressed that institutional arrangements for mutual accountability already exist—and is basing many of its efforts on the practices of the **OECD** Development Assistance Committee (**DAC**) (peer review of aid practices and the Task Force on Donor Practices).²⁶

While the ECA is already working with over 26 African countries in review of performance of good governance through the APR, there does remain much “fear...[and] reluctance to move forward on this mechanism.” A number of African

²⁵ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, “Senior ECA staff participate in OECD/DAC Peer Review of Canada,” 15 January 2003, <http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm>.

²⁶ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, “Report of the twenty-first meeting of the Committee on Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,” 18 October 2002, <http://www.uneca.org/conferenceofministers/Report_CM_1_11_FIN.doc>.

states expressed concern of the threat to sovereignty,²⁷ as NEPAD's Peer Review is seen to cause “unwanted intrusions in how countries are managed.”²⁸

One very recent development, whose full implications are not yet clear, is the “Third Big Table” which took place in Addis Ababa in January. The meeting focused on the implementation of the new development cooperation agenda and Finance ministers from several African countries, their counterparts from the OECD and representatives from Canada, France, Germany, UK and the US were present.²⁹ Emphasis was placed on approaches to monitoring the performance of Africa and its partners towards meeting shared goals in the context of mutual accountability,³⁰ which may be significant for the peer-review process.

Assessment:

Score	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Country			
<i>Canada</i>		0	
<i>France</i>		0	
<i>Germany</i>		0	
<i>Italy</i>		0	
<i>Japan</i>		0	
<i>Russia</i>		N/A	
<i>United Kingdom</i>		N/A	
<i>United States</i>		N/A	
Overall			0.00

²⁷ Johnson-Sirleaf, “Speech at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,” 19 - 21 October 2002, <http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Speeches/2002_speeches/102002speech_Johnson_Sirleaf.htm>.

²⁸ K. Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of the ECA “Moving NEPAD from Concept to Implementation (Opening Statement at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development),” 19 October 2002, <http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm>.

²⁹ “African Ministers, OECD Meet on Development,” 22 January 2003, <www.avmedia.at/cgi-script/csNEWS/news_upload/LATEST_20NEWS_2edb.African_MinistersOECDMeetOnDevelopment.pdf>.

³⁰ Ibid.

Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

1. Canada: 0

As early as October 2002, Ambassador Robert Fowler, the Canadian Sherpa at Kananaksis and the Personal Representative for Africa, was the only G8 delegate at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at which the APRM was discussed at some length.³¹

More recently, and more revealing of its commitment on this issue, Canada was the first country in the history of the OECD/DAC to invite outside observers—from the ECA—to join the DAC Peer Review Team.³² It is envisaged that this will help the ECA as it works with NEPAD to establish and implement the APRM.³³

2. France: 0

France has remained active in the various OECD forums and was a central participant at the OECD/DAC Forum of Partnership for Development (11-12 December 2002), the final session of which was attended by the leaders of the G8's development agencies.³⁴

France sees development in the context of the rule of law, financial transparency, and good governance. Accordingly, it believes that “the innovative and audacious” Peer Review Mechanism, along with the role of the private sector in the financing of development, is essential for the mobilization of political and economic support.³⁵

³¹ Robert Fowler, <http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Speeches/2002_speeches/10192002CM_AmbassadorRobert.pdf>.

³² As a matter of routine procedure, all members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) are asked to periodically submit their development assistance programme to a review by its peers (on the OECD/DAC). This OECD/DAC-ECA peer review team travelled to Canada and Senegal (a development aid recipient selected by Canada for review) and consulted a number of stakeholders (the government executive, parliamentarians, civil society, multilateral and bilateral donors).

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, “Senior ECA staff participate in OECD/DAC Peer Review of Canada,” 15 January 2003, <http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm>.

³³ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, “Senior ECA staff participate in OECD/DAC Peer Review of Canada,” 15 January 2003, <http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm>.

³⁴ French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Les pratiques d'évaluation des acteurs français du développement et de l'humanitaire,” 17 December 2002, <<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/article.asp?ART=30687>>.

³⁵ French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Discours d'Ouverture du Ministre Delegue a la Cooperation et a la Francophonie, M. Pierre-Andre Wiltzer,” 4 November 2002,

Nonetheless, short of its participation in the OECD/DAC and its general acceptance of the APRM, there is no evidence as of yet of French promotion of ECA-OECD ties.

3. Germany: 0

The German APR Eid has strongly commended the peer-review mechanism adopted by the African Union in Durban, as per the NEPAD framework, and noted that the adoption of this mechanism is an important step towards transparency and in creating a belief in reform.³⁶ However, there has been limited information provided in terms of Germany's role in instituting and encouraging peer-review mechanisms.

4. Italy: 0

While Italy has reaffirmed its commitment to the G8 Africa Plan in its entirety, there is no evidence of movement in terms of supporting the APRM either at the ECA or at the OECD.

The Italian Undersecretary of State, Alfredo Mantica, did point to a concern quietly shared by most participants in the program. The results were not wholly positive, he said, as a number of African states rejected their part of the bargain as envisaged under the G8 Africa Plan—civil and human rights, democracy, and good governance—while expecting the G8 to increase the resources committed to the plan.³⁷

5. Japan: 0

Japan received praise by the ECA's Executive Secretary for its endorsement of the G8 Africa Action Plan and the decision to convene a new Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) in 2003. Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs delivered a policy speech at Addis Ababa on 26 August 2002, indicating that Japan "welcomes the decision of African countries to introduce the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in order to ensure the steady

<<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/bulletin.asp?liste=20021105.html&submit.x=6&submit.y=5#Chapitre4>>.

³⁶ French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Discours d'Ouverture du Ministre Delege a la Cooperation et a la Francophonie, M. Pierre-Andre Wiltzer," 4 November 2002, <<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/actu/bulletin.asp?liste=20021105.html&submit.x=6&submit.y=5#Chapitre4>>.

³⁷ Cristina Clarizia, "Mantica: il nostro Paese ha avuto al summit un ruolo fondamentale. Ma gli applausi a Mugabe..." in *Secolo D'Italia*, 5 September 2002, <<http://www.esteri.it/attualita/2002/ita/interventi/index.htm>>.

implementation of NEPAD,” aided by the OECD experience and Japanese contribution of €100,000.³⁸

6. Russia: N/A

There is no information available to indicate that Russia has complied with this commitment.

7. United Kingdom: N/A

There is no information available to indicate that United Kingdom has complied with this commitment.

8. United States: N/A

There is no information available to indicate that the United States has complied with this commitment.

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³⁸ Yoriko Kawaguchi, “[Policy Speech by Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi](http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan at the United Nations Conference Center,” 26 August 2002, <http://www.uneca.org/what_is_new_home.htm>.