



# APNODE

African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation  
Réseau des Parlementaires africains pour l'évaluation du développement

## **Report of the Third Annual General Meeting of the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation**

Friendship Hall, Khartoum, Sudan,  
15-17 July 2017

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## **Introduction**

This document is an account of the proceedings and outcomes of the third Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the African Parliamentarian's Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE), which took place on 15-17 of July in Khartoum, Sudan.

The third AGM brought together current members of the network, other African parliamentarians, and development partners recognizing the need of evaluation policy and decision making in African parliaments and the use of evaluation by parliamentarians during decision-making. It was attended by 56 participants from 18 countries and welcoming participants from Chad, Egypt, and Niger for the first time.

Hosted by the National Assembly of Sudan, the meeting was organized in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Korean Foundation, the Center for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), UNWOMEN who were also represented at the AGM. The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) was also represented at the AGM. The Secretariat of the Network remains hosted by the Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the AfDB in Abidjan.

This AGM also saw the participation of three African Parliament Speakers, namely the Speaker of the Republic of Sudan, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Uganda and the Speaker of the House of Federation of Ethiopia.

### **I. Opening session**

Honorable Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Sudan delivered the welcoming remarks. The Speaker highlighted the need to link APNODE's objectives with African development. Noting that development evaluation has become a top priority as countries start focusing on evidence based policies and that development in Africa is facing a lot of challenges. He argued that for development goals such as the SDGs to be successful there is a need to involve evaluative practices to demonstrate development results, enhance transparency and fight issues such as corruption in Africa.

Hon. Rebecca Kadega, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Uganda, opened her speech by emphasizing on the need of parliaments to use evaluation to focus not only on approval but also the implementation of programs.

Hon. Prof. Dr. Yalew Abate, Speaker of the Ethiopian Lower House of Federation, opened his speech by noting that he was pleased to have been invited to the meeting and looked forward to learning on the interface between evaluation, parliaments and parliamentarians.

The Chairperson of APNODE, Senator Roger Mbassa Ndine (Cameroon), presented an overview of the agenda for the two-day meeting. The agenda was adopted without any objections. The Chairperson gave the floor to participants to introduce themselves (Annex 1).

### **II. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**

Honorable Imbassou Abbas Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire), member of the Executive Committee of APNODE presented the minutes of the second AGM that was held in Harare on 15-17 August

2016. This session aimed at providing participants with a brief overview of the proceedings of the second AGM. Following the review, the minutes from the previous AGM were adopted.

### **Matters arising from the minutes**

Participants requested that the agenda items in subsequent AGMs be separated to avoid confusion.

### **III. Updates from the National Chapters**

**Sudan:** the local chapter was established in 2017. The chapter currently has 7 members from the parliamentary arm of “committees on economy and development”. The objectives of the chapter is to expand APNODE and apply its objectives in the parliament and parliamentarians’ activities.

**Tanzania:** the local chapter was established in 2017, comprising of 40 parliamentarians, with more than 100 parliamentarians expressing interest in joining the chapter. The chapter has also expressed interest in becoming a permanent committee of the parliament.

**Togo:** 50% of Member of Parliament (approximately 50 of 91) have joined the local chapter. The local chapter has been instrumental in using Monitoring and Evaluation reports and tools in determining the state budget.

**Benin:** the local chapter was established in 2016. The chapter consists of 21 members of which 3 are women. The chapter also informed the AGM of a *Twende Mbele*<sup>1</sup> training foreseen for September or October. Due to limited budget the chapter has not yet undertaken any activity.

**Uganda:** the new chapter has approximately 44 members who have received tremendous amount of support from CLEAR-AA, AfrEA, APNODE Secretariat, and UN-WOMEN. The chapter has a strategic plan developed in 2015. The chapter is expecting a launching date in 2017 targeting the involvement of more than 60% of the 427 members of parliamentarians. The chapter is aiming to boost the capacity of its members in development evaluation by teaming with Global Parliamentarian Forum for Evaluation (GPFE), and the Asian Evaluation Forum. In March 2017, the local chapter with support from APNODE and CLEAR trained 30 parliamentarians on the interface between evaluation and parliamentarians.

**Côte d’Ivoire:** the chapter was instrumental in ensuring that evaluation is included in the country’s constitution, and in drafting the new Ivorian National Development Plan.

**Cameroon:** established in 2017, the chapter has 9 members from the Lower House of Parliament and 10 Senators who are already members and have paid their membership fees.

**Zimbabwe:** established in 2016, the chapter is recognized in the Zimbabwean Parliament, which is also an APNODE Associate member, and supported by the Speaker of the Parliament. The chapter has a proposed list of annual activities among which includes advocating APNODE to Southern African Countries.

**Gabon:** due to the difficult political situation, a national chapter has not yet been established although sensitization of members of parliament on evaluation was undertaken in 2016. There

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<sup>1</sup> Twende Mbele is a collaborative initiative between the governments of Benin, Uganda, and South Africa, CLEAR AA and the African Development Bank to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation systems in Africa.

is an expectation that a national chapter will be created with the objective to help promote the practice and use of evaluation in the country, budget reforms, and work towards having evaluation included in the constitution.

**Mauritania:** the members of parliament have been sensitized on evaluation and on APNODE’s vision, mission and objectives. 20 MPs expressed interest in joining the network. Due to political issues, the national chapter has not undertaken any activity.

**Issues arising from the open discussion included:**

- Proposals to involve Speakers of African parliaments and organize a day to sensitize them to APNODE;
- Retaining members who lose or leave their seats in parliament, in order to keep their knowledge and enthusiasm for evaluation;
- Developing partnerships with the entities such as the Pan-African Parliament, Commonwealth Parliamentary Secretariat, International Parliamentary Union, etc.;
- More time to allocate to the agenda issue “Update of national chapters of APNODE”.

**IV. Annual and Financial Report**

A presentation on APNODE’s Annual and Financial activities for the year 2016-2017 was presented by Ms. Jayne Musumba (APNODE Secretariat/ AfDB). The presentation informed the AGM of the following:

1. Meeting of the EC: Since August 2016 to May 2017, the EC held 4 virtual meetings and one Face-to-Face Meetings.
2. Actions undertaken to:
  - Expand & cement the network;
  - Completion of the yet to be validated medium (3-5 year) Strategic Plan;
  - Share knowledge;
  - Boost communication and advocacy;
  - Build the capacity of APNODE Members; and
  - Improve resource mobilization.

APNODE’s financial highlights for the year 2016-2017 included: total amounts of funds received, expenditure, disbursements, financial commitments and remaining balance, from the Korean Trust fund and the Gates Foundation.

Below is a summary of the financial state of APNODE as at 31<sup>st</sup> may 2017.

Source of funds	Amount (USD)	Cumulative Disbursement as at Dec. 2016 (USD)	2017 disbursement (USD)	Fund available (USD)
Bill and Melinda Gates foundation	150,000	137,819	6,255	5,926
Korean Trust Fund	73,782	17,000	17,000	56,782
Membership fees	8,668	2,200	2,200	6,468
				69.176

The Secretariat informed the AGM that there is an urgent need to come up with resource mobilization strategies in order to support the operationalization of the network.

## **V. Strategic Plan**

The APNODE Strategic Plan (SP) and Action Plan was presented by Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule (Uganda). The presentation gave the AGM a historical perspective on the process and inputs that led to the development of the SP, the SWOT analysis, the theory of change and the strategies to achieve the objectives of the network.

### **The following recommendations were made by the AGM:**

- The SP needs to be aligned with the constitution including the proposed amendments;
- The SP should include a provision on “women, youths and vulnerable groups”;
- The SP should include a section embracing ICT.

### **Conclusion**

The SP and AP was adopted pending amendments.

### **Action Points**

The SP and AP to have segments focusing on women, youth and vulnerable groups.

## **VI. Election**

Prior to the AGM, the EC Members agreed on the following points:

- Positions with only one candidate will be voted by acclamation except positions with more than 1 candidate such as that of Vice-Chair with two candidates: Hon. Kojo Appiah (Ghana) and Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule will go through the ballot system;
- No new candidatures will be accepted at this point in time.

### **During the election process**

- Hon. Dexter Nduna (Zimbabwe) and Hon. Domitien N’ouemou volunteered to be electoral committee in addition to the APNODE Secretariat staff.

### **Election Results**

- The Vice-Chairpost was conducted by secret ballot with 28 votes going to Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule and 11 votes to Hon. Kojo Appiah Kubi (Ghana);
- The EC and the AGM agreed to take into account the late application of Sudan with the AGM agreeing that this would be last time such arrangements were made. The argument was due to the fact that Sudan did not receive the call for election due to lack of email access;
- The election results are presented in Annex 2.
- The three development partners also elected to the EC include: UNWOMEN, AFDB and CLEAR-AA.

## **VII. Proposed amendments to the constitution and membership policies**

Article 2 of the proposed amendments to the constitution was adopted. This means that parliaments will remain as associate members with the emphasis of the network being on parliamentarians. Parliaments are also encouraged to pay the membership fees of their MPs, unless it is agreed internally that each MP is responsible for his/her own membership fees.

Article 2.2, definition of what a “Partner” entails was also adopted. As such “Partner” status shall be explicitly offered upon the approval of the EC to organizations, institutions, etc.

Article 6 of the proposed amendments to the constitution was adopted. This means that EC members are expected to be fully engaged and committed to APNODE for the full duration of their term of office, and to actively participate in APNODE activities and meetings. The EC will establish Rules of Procedure with graduated measures to address any instances of demonstrated lack of commitment, which may include a provision for the replacement of an EC member.

Article 8 of the proposed amendments to the constitution was adopted. This means that the EC shall have the power to initiate and contract partnerships and shall inform the following AGM thereof.

Proposed amendment to the membership policy which entails parliaments paying 5,000 USD as Associate members to APNODE was adopted.

### **VIII. Resource Mobilisation**

A presentation on APNODE's resource mobilization was made by Sen. Andre Richard Moussounda Mikala (Gabon). Sen. Moussounda asked each EC members to contribute to the APNODE donation box. A total 500 Euros, 460 USD 715 Sudanese Pounds was collected.

#### **Open Discussion**

- APNODE needs to hire an experienced resources mobilization strategist to assist the network mobilize resources;
- Other ways of mobilizing resources include: raffle activities, parliamentary speakers buy-in, fundraising meetings, and encouraging new members to join the network;
- APNODE should use the influence of parliamentarians to engage in high-level summit e.g., at the AU, UN, World Bank;
- APNODE to involve heads of state and find a head of state that will champion the network;
- The Secretariat should consider combining the AGM with another conference or call on sponsorship of other companies which will be followed by the AGM.

#### **Conclusion**

- The treasurer and the Secretariat need to work together to mobilize resources for the network;
- APNODE to organize Speakers of Parliaments meetings starting with current speakers championing for APNODE at the Speakers' Forum taking place in South Africa, from 9 - 11 of August 2017;
- All members need to pay their membership fees;
- Need to work with development partners focusing on Human Rights issues;
- Need to have strong marketing campaign and services (supplier of evaluation services) or other training to parliaments;
- Initiate finder's fees scheme which means each member that brings a certain amount of resources/ donors gets a percentage of the funds; and
- Need to develop a resource mobilization strategy.

### **IX. Regional Events and Next Venue**

The AGM agreed that venues for the next AGM will not be approved on spot. Rather countries have 3 months to provide an expression of interest of hosting the AGM to the Secretariat. The

decision will be made by the EC and the Secretariat, taking into consideration the requirements for hosting such an event.

## **X. Any Other Business**

- The partnership request of Réseau Francophone d'Evaluation (RFE) was approved by the AGM through acclamation.
- APNODE to host a women's Conference together with UNWOMEN in national chapters.

### **Recommendations from the AGM to the Executive Committee**

- Travel allowance made equal irrespective of distance travelled.
- Consider Arabic interpretation and translation of APNODE basic documents.
- Consider having a quota of women in the Executive Committee call for application.

## **X.I. Closing Remarks**

The APNODE Chair, Sen. Roger Mbassa Ndine, thanked all the participants for attending the AGM. He reiterated the objective of the network is to enlarge the network Africa wide, and that this can be effectively done when the network has strong national chapters that focus on institutionalizing evaluation in their countries through inclusion in the constitution, and establishing permanent committees in the parliament, amongst others. He concluded by urging all MPs to strengthen and influence the role of evaluation in their individual parliaments.

Honorable Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Omer, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Sudan thanked all participants and the Speakers of Parliament that attended the AGM. He noted that the AGM should be used as an opportunity to share knowledge and experience on development evaluation. The African continent is filled with valuable resources which are underused and under invested because of lack of legislative evaluation processes to enable proper resource management. He informed the AGM that the APNODE Sudan Chapter will spare no resources to ensure it fulfils its mandate. He congratulated Sen, Roger Mbassa Ndine for having been re-elected as Chair and thanked the AGM for having considered the application of Dr. Shareef to the EC.

## **X.II. Training of APNODE Members**

The second part of second day was dedicated to training on evaluation, focusing on "Exploring entry points for evidence within African Parliaments". The training was provided by CLEAR-AA.

The training ended up being cut to 30 mins instead of the planned 1 hr 30mins, this was due to the training being at the end of the programme by which point most parliamentarians had left and the programme was running behind schedule. A discussion on entry points for evidence into parliaments took place. This was facilitated by Ms. Ezethu Mandelize.

**Entry point's discussion:** a discussion took place on the least used ways in which evidence enters different parliaments, the most common, the least effective as well as the most effective ways.

### **Takeaway summary-how evidence enters parliament**

- There is need for a degree of assessment of the system in parliaments , from there one can find loopholes and shortcomings within the system;

- Important role for the media - media plays an important role in evaluating the case of development in Sudan;
- Participants raised the need to bridge the gap between suppliers and parliament.

The training was strongly appreciated by all members of APNODE. It was proposed that partners provide additional trainings at the next AGM to further build MPs' capacity to use evaluation as a tool for effective decision making processes.

### XIII. Annex 1: List of Participants

Participants at the 3 <sup>rd</sup> APNODE AGM				
	Country	Title	Name	Email
1.	Benin	Hon.	Adomahou Jérémie	<a href="mailto:adomjeremie@yahoo.fr">adomjeremie@yahoo.fr</a>
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5.	Chad	Hon.	Ahmat Choukou Abdramane	
6.		Hon.	Madi Maina Tchari	
7.	Cote d'Ivoire	Hon	Imbassou Abass Ouattarra	<a href="mailto:mbassouattara@gmail.com">mbassouattara@gmail.com</a>
8.		Mr.	Martial Dadi	<a href="mailto:martial.dadi@yahoo.com">martial.dadi@yahoo.com</a>
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26.		Mr.	Kamaali Sibira David	
27.		Mr.	James Bamuwamye	
28.		Mr.	Ibrahim Senfuma	
29.		Mr.	Jonathan Moses Kango	
30.		Mr.	Abby Jeam Kisozi	
31.		Hon.	Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule	<a href="mailto:empaka101@gmail.com">empaka101@gmail.com</a>
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40.		Hon.	Hajja Adam Ali	via Thana thanafadul.tf@gmail.com
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43.		Hon.	Abdeen Shareef	
44.		Hon.	El-Zubeir Ahmed Hassan	
45.	Egypt	Hon.	Dawood Soliman Kandel	
46.		Hon.	Gamal Adam Farrag	

<b>List of Development Partners and APNODE Secretariat at the 3<sup>rd</sup> APNODE AGM</b>				
1	<b>AFDB</b>	Ms.	Karen Rot-Münstermann	k.rot@afdb.org
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		Ms.	Aicha Ali	aali@samahi.com
7		Mr.	Kieron Crawley	kieron.crawley@hornbillconsult.ie
8	<b>UNWOMEN</b>	Ms.	Esther Osiel	esther.osiel@unwomen.org
9	<b>AfDb Country Office</b>	Mr.	Abdul Kamara	a.b.kamare@afdb.org
10		Mr.	Darbo Swareh	s.darbo@afdb.org

### **XV. Annex 2: New Members of the Executive Committee**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name / Nom</b>	<b>Country / Pays</b>	<b>Contact details / Coordonnées</b>
Chair-person / president de l'APNODE	Senator Roger Mbassa Ndine	Cameroon/Cameroun	<a href="mailto:ndine.mbassa@yahoo.com">ndine.mbassa@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:rmbassa.ndine@gmail.com">rmbassa.ndine@gmail.com</a>
Vice-Chairperson / Viceprésidente	Honorable Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule	Uganda / Ouganda	<a href="mailto:empaka101@gmail.com">empaka101@gmail.com</a>
Treasure r/ Trésorier	Honorable Raphael Chengeni	Tanzania / Tanzanie	<a href="mailto:rchegehi@yahoo.com">rchegehi@yahoo.com</a>
Member from the previous Executive Committee /	Honorable Jean-Marie Assou Apezouke	Togo	<a href="mailto:apez12@yahoo.fr">apez12@yahoo.fr</a>
<b>Other Elected Executive Committee Members / Autres membres élus</b>			
	<b>Name / Nom</b>	<b>Country / Pays</b>	<b>Contact details / Coordonnées</b>
	Senator Andre Richard Moussounda Mikala	Gabon	<a href="mailto:moussoundamikala@yahoo.fr">moussoundamikala@yahoo.fr</a>
	Honorable David Chapfika	Zimbabwe	<a href="mailto:chapfikadvd@gmail.com">chapfikadvd@gmail.com</a>
	Honorable Arnaud Tody	Madagascar	<a href="mailto:todyarnaud@gmail.com">todyarnaud@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Representatives from the Development Partners / Les représentants des organisations partenaires</b>			
<b>Name of the organization / Nom de l'organisation</b>	<b>Name of Representative / Nom du représentant(e)</b>	<b>Country/Pays</b>	<b>Contact details / Coordonnées</b>
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