



# APNODE

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

## Annual Report 2015 - 2016

July 2016

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## Message of the Chairperson of APNODE

I am honored and proud to present on behalf of the Executive Committee the Annual Report for the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE) at the second Annual General Meeting. 2015 was a remarkable year both globally and for APNODE. It was a year of operationalisation of the network by the holding of the first Annual General Meeting in Abidjan, which allowed us to put in place through elections, the formal Executive Committee (EC) of our organization, and led to a universal agreement that evaluation has to be at the center of any development process.

In response to the growing demand for evaluation, APNODE is positioned to seek out opportunities for creating an enabling environment for evaluation, promoting the evaluation function and influencing decisions based on evidence to strengthen the impact of development policies.

Parliaments and parliamentarians are key to creating an enabling environment for evaluation and fostering the creation of policy, and ensuring that evaluation findings are used for public good. Our role becomes even more important than ever with the customization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Accordingly, APNODE supports the "10 reasons for Parliamentarians to engage in the national evaluation policy process" as reiterated in Nepal in November 2015 during the global conference to celebrate the International Year of Evaluation.

We believe that a network like APNODE constitutes a strong platform to help the evaluation function take root in countries, due to its continent-wide footprint. Its vision is to promote development effectiveness and inclusive growth on the African continent through the effective use of evaluation by policy-makers and decision-makers.

One year after our first AGM, we have gone a long way toward the drafting of a Strategic Plan for the 3-5 years to come. This draft will be discussed in Harare and with national chapters. It includes three key directions: strengthening African parliamentarians' voice for evaluation; growing, diversifying, and engaging membership; and advancing the professionalism of evaluation in Africa for more inclusive growth.

I am happy that we are on this journey together.

Senator Roger Mbassa Ndine, Cameroon

Chairperson of APNODE



## I. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report covers the period August 2015-July 2016, from the first Annual General Meeting to the second. It is structured as follows. Following a background section, the report sets out the achievements under the four main activity areas of APNODE as contained in the Action Plan adopted at the Annual General Meeting held in Abidjan on 23-24 July 2015, whereby “Outreach” has been combined with “Advocacy and Networking”. The report then provides information on the development of a Strategic Plan for APNODE, and concludes with some perspectives on future activities.

### 1.1. Background on APNODE

The Network was initiated by African parliamentarians in March 2014 at the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, based on their recognition of the important function of evaluation in national decision-making and the crucial role of parliamentarians in ensuring that evaluation evidence is used for strengthening decision-making, with a view to greater development effectiveness and inclusive growth. APNODE was formalized and operationalized at its first Annual General Meeting held in July 2015 at the headquarters of the African Development Bank in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

The Network membership includes more than 50 parliamentarians from 15 African countries, namely, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. It is supported by partners including the African Development Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR), UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women.

APNODE is led by an Executive Committee which was elected at the first Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee is composed of 11 members of APNODE and 3 development partners. The Committee will serve a term of 2 years. The Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank hosts the Secretariat.

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Sen. Roger Mbassa Ndine (Cameroon)
<b>Vice-Chairperson:</b>	Hon. Susan Musyoka (Kenya)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Hon. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo (Tanzania)
<b>Member from the previous Executive Committee:</b>	Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule (Uganda)
<b>Other elected members:</b>	Hon. GirmaSeifuMaru (Ethiopia) Hon. Kojo Appiah-Kubi (Ghana) Hon. Assou Jean-Marie Apezouke (Togo) Hon. Loula Mint Zerrouh (Mauritania) Sen. André Richard Moussounda Mikala (Gabon) Hon. Imbassou Ouattara Abbas (Côte d’Ivoire) Hon. David Chapfika (Zimbabwe)
<b><u>Representatives from partner organizations:</u></b>	
African Development Bank:	Mrs. Karen Rot-Münstermann
United Nations Development Programme:	Mrs. Sophie Conteh
UN Women :	Mr. Caspar Merkle

### **1.1.1. Vision**

APNODE's vision is to promote development effectiveness and inclusive growth in the African continent through effective use of development evaluation by policy- and decision- makers.

### **1.1.2. Mission**

The mission of APNODE is to provide a forum to parliamentarians in Africa to make use of, and advocate for development evaluation.

### **1.1.3. Objectives**

APNODE has the following specific objectives:

- Raise awareness and promote knowledge amongst parliamentarians and within national parliaments about the importance of using evidence generated by evaluation for oversight, policy-making and national decision-making;
- Enhance the capacity of individual parliamentarians to demand solid evaluation evidence and make use of it in parliamentary duties;
- Encourage parliamentarians to work towards the institutionalization of evaluation to inform evidence based decision-making and policy-making;
- Share experiences across countries in Africa and beyond; examine the potential for international cooperation in this area;
- Support parliaments in ensuring that evaluations at country level are responsive to concerns of gender equality, vulnerable groups, and equitable development results;
- Assist parliamentarians in contributing to the development of a culture of evaluation and evidence based decision-making at all levels of government and by other stakeholders in development;
- Work to bridge the gap between evaluators (as providers of impartial evidence) and parliamentarians (as users of evaluation evidence).

## 1.2. Overview of APNODE Action Plan

ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY			BUDGET (USD)
	APNODE members	Executive Committee	APNODE Secretariat	
<b>I. ADVOCACY &amp; NETWORKING</b>				
a. Raise awareness of the initiative in own parliaments				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APNODE members to enlist further support, both from their parliaments and amongst their individual parliamentarian colleagues.</li> </ul>	X	X		
b. Engage parliamentarians from a wider range of countries than the original forum. The goal is to broaden from 7 to 20+ African countries.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send letters to Speakers, committee chairs, individual parliamentarians, etc.</li> </ul>	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approach potential members through regional bodies or professional networks</li> </ul>	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote APNODE when attending meetings, conferences etc. on subjects related to monitoring and evaluation, accountability, good governance and development effectiveness</li> </ul>	X	X		
c. Organize <b>network advocacy events</b> .	X	X	X	10,000
d. Organize the first <b>General Meeting</b> of the Network (members to attend with the support of their parliaments)		X	X	50,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt Constitution</li> </ul>	X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elect first Executive Committee</li> </ul>	X			
e. Ensure participation of APNODE members in <b>events promoting the use of evaluation</b> .	X	X	X	20,000
f. Engage in activities organized by other bodies and institutions related to <b>2015 Evaluation Year</b> .	X	X	X	20,000
g. Support EvalYear 2015, for example by launching EvalYear at country level and <b>promoting the National Evaluation Policy process</b> in selected countries.	X	X		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>publication of newspaper/magazine articles, op-eds, blogposts, giving interviews, etc.</li> </ul>	X	X		
<b>II. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT</b>				20,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and organize opportunities for evaluation seminars or trainings for APNODE members</li> </ul>		X	X	
<b>III. OUTREACH</b>				20,000
a. Brand APNODE				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design a logo and letterhead</li> </ul>			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop brochure, flyer</li> </ul>			X	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of newspaper/magazine articles, op-eds, blogposts, giving interviews, etc.</li> </ul>	X	X		
b. Create APNODE website			X	
<b>IV. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION</b>				
a. Seek funding from members' parliaments and development partners for the implementation of APNODE action plan.	X	X		
b. Propose additional funding sources including membership fees for APNODE		X		
c. Develop a strategy for sustaining APNODE		X		

## II. MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Since the Executive Committee was elected, members committed to meet regularly virtually via videoconferences or face-to-face, on the basis of an agenda, to conduct and to coordinate the activities of the Network. In between meetings, the members of the Executive Committee and the Secretariat communicate regularly.

The EC held four virtual meetings, one F2F meeting, and met before the AGM in 2015. In 2016, three virtual meetings and one F2F meeting were held so far.

## III. MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2015-2016 IN RELATION TO THE ACTION PLAN

### 3.1. Outreach, Advocacy and Networking Activities

In line with APNODE's advocacy objective, efforts are focused on reaching out to parliamentarians throughout Africa to increase the reach and membership of the network. They also target like-minded networks and advocacy organizations, as well as donor groups, with a view to mobilizing additional and sustained resources for APNODE's work.

Advocacy priorities for 2015-2016 were:

- Raise awareness of and secure support for the Network;
- Engage parliamentarians from a wider range of countries than the original forum. The goal is to broaden from 7 to 20+ African countries;
- Organize network advocacy events;
- Ensure participation of APNODE members in events promoting the use of evaluation;
- Engage in activities organized by other bodies and institutions related to 2015 Evaluation Year; and
- Support EvalYear 2015, for example by launching EvalYear at country level and promoting the National Evaluation Policy process in selected countries.

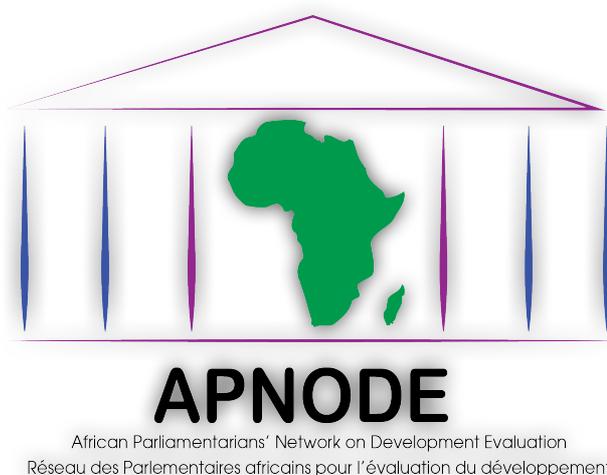
### 3.1.1. Raise awareness of and secure support for the Network

APNODE was initiated in March 2014 at the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) Conference held in Yaoundé, with the participation of parliamentarians from 7 countries. By the time of the first AGM held in Abidjan at the Headquarters of the African Development Bank on 23-24 July 2015, efforts to raise awareness of and secure support for the Network had been successful: 50+ parliamentarians from 15 African countries<sup>1</sup> participated in the AGM, and many of them expressed the intention to join the Network as members.

To enhance the visibility of APNODE, the following initiatives have been taken:

- ***APNODE Logo***

The network has an identity. The logo was created under the guidance of the Secretariat and the Executive Committee. The logo is a representation of the members of the network, composed of the Members of Parliament committed to promote development effectiveness and inclusive growth in Africa through the use of evidence-based information.



<sup>1</sup>Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe

## ***APNODE Website***

Given that the APNODE Secretariat is currently hosted by IDEV, a dedicated webpage was created for the network on the IDEV website. It presents the network and its key documents, news on key activities, and new members can fill in a registration form.

The link to APNODE website is: <http://idev.afdb.org/apnode>.

The webpage is available in English and French, and its content is under the control of the Secretariat, even though it is hosted by the AfDB. The EC recently agreed to continue using the platform offered by the AfDB as part of its hosting the Secretariat for the time being. Pursuing an independent website for APNODE can be considered at a later stage.

- National chapters are encouraged to use the webpage as a channel to share information on their activities. All material to share can be sent to the Secretariat, who will upload it.

## ***Promotional materials***

A flyer and roll-up about APNODE have been produced in English and French. A roll-up template for APNODE national chapters has been designed and is available for use. National chapters can also reproduce the flyer locally according to their needs.

Other items including a letterhead, business cards, pens, notepads, and a PowerPoint presentation template are in the making under the guidance of the Secretariat.

### **3.1.2. Engage parliamentarians from a wider range of countries than the original forum and organize network advocacy events**

One of APNODE's goals is to broaden the network to as many African countries as possible. The Constitution and membership policy of APNODE determine that membership is open to current and former Parliamentarians from Africa and other regions, civil society organizations, private sector organizations, research institutions, national and regional evaluation associations, African national Parliaments, development partners and other individuals and organizations demonstrating a keen interest in the network.

In order to engage with parliamentarians from a wide range of countries, letters have been sent to the Speakers of National Assemblies and/or Senates of all African countries<sup>2</sup> to inform them of the establishment of APNODE, to request their support and recognition of the Network, to encourage members of their Parliament to join APNODE, and to support the establishment of a national chapter of APNODE in their respective country. The letter also encouraged the respective institutions to join APNODE as Associate members.

In addition, the Speaker of the Zimbabwean Parliament has sensitized his colleagues from countries of the Southern Africa Development Community about APNODE at a meeting in

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<sup>2</sup>except Libya, Eritrea and Equatorial Guinea

December 2015. Members of the EC have also reached out to parliamentarians from non-APNODE countries at international events such as the Global EvalYear 2015 Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, and the UN-organized event on the Sustainable Development Goals held in New York (see below).

- ***Creation of national chapters of APNODE***

Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe have established a national chapter of APNODE. Other countries are still in the process of doing so. All prospective chapters are requested to keep the Secretariat informed about progress.

**In Gabon:** Senator Moussounda said the process is at the beginning. The national chapter has not yet been established because of the political situation in Gabon (next elections). However, some awareness activities were undertaken. Senator himself made a presentation to members of the Senate of Gabon to raise awareness of the existence of APNODE and his mission. He called to go beyond the oversight of government action and to use evaluation for a better follow up of the development policies and actions. A meeting with the National Assembly has not yet been held. He said that the national chapter can not be established before the APNODE AGM.

**In the Republic of Togo,** a national evaluation policy and a ministry in charge of Evaluation have been established. A national chapter of APNODE has been established in the National Assembly but apart from a training on M&E sponsored by UNDP in November 2015, it has few activities. The chapter has a Board and Hon. Apezouke, member of the EC of APNODE, is the rapporteur. The chapter has some challenges with sensitization activities due to lack of resources. The letter from the Chair of APNODE to the President of the National Assembly has helped, but more work needs to be done to prioritize evaluation. The APNODE Togo chapter will continue to engage with the Speaker and other MPs on the importance of evaluation, and keep them informed of APNODE meetings.

**In Uganda,** the national chapter was established in 2015, but most executive members were voted out at the last election. A new executive of the chapter is due to be elected. The chapter had a sensitization training sponsored by the M&E facility in the Prime Minister's office; unfortunately, that facility does not have a budget for the coming year. Having no funding from parliamentary budget, the chapter depends on other sources.

**In Zimbabwe,** a motion was tabled and debated to establish a national chapter of APNODE and for the Zimbabwean parliament to become a member and to host the AGM. It was approved by Parliament. The Speaker has informed Government. The next step is to hold a workshop for all MPs to sensitize them and give them more details on APNODE. At national level, public policy evaluation rests in the office of the Presidency; this office is supportive of capacitating MPs to fulfill their oversight function.

**In Côte d'Ivoire,** Parliamentarians have started the process to create a national chapter. About 10 Ivorian MPs have discussed with the Director of Legislative Services of Côte d'Ivoire's National Assembly on concrete steps towards the formal creation of the Ivorian national chapter of APNODE.

**Concerning Cameroon**, there has at this stage about thirty deputies and senators of Cameroon who have a great interest in the implementation of the National chapter of APNODE. They are regularly informed of APNODE activities by the parliamentary assistant to Senator Roger Mbassa Ndine, who is responsible for monitoring relations with these parliamentarians.

The formal process of creating the national chapter has been approved, a draft Constitution has been developed and distributed, but the constitutive meeting had not taken place, due fundamentally to the schedule issues of the two houses (National Assembly and Senate). To break this deadlock which is repeated each parliamentary session, they are thinking for creation of two specific working groups for the Senators and Deputies respectively.

### **3.1.3. Ensure participation of APNODE members in events promoting the use of evaluation, in particular events in the context of 2015 Evaluation Year**

Senator André Moussounda Mikala (Gabon) and Honorable Dr. Susan Musyoka (Kenya) represented APNODE at the Global EvalYear 2015 Conference held in Kathmandu, Nepal, November 2015. A debrief of the event was made by Sen. Moussounda. The Conference took place in several sessions and the day of 25 November 2015 was marked by the Celebration of the International Year of Evaluation at the Parliament of Nepal, as well as the establishment of the Global Parliamentarians' Forum on Evaluation. "Ten Reasons for Parliamentarians to Engage in National Evaluation Policy Process" had been discussed at the conference and which could help the Secretariat and the Executive Committee to prepare letters to National Parliaments to advocate for the establishment of national chapters of APNODE. At this occasion a number of new thematic evaluation networks (EvalSDGs, EvalGender+, etc.) had been established at the conference and requested the Secretariat to share the relevant documentation.

Karen Rot-Munstermann, member of the EC for the AfDB, also attended. She added that they took the opportunity to reach out to parliamentarians and other participants from non-APNODE countries, including Morocco, Tunisia and Zambia, distributing information about APNODE and inviting them to join the network.

On the margins of the conference, approximately 40 parliamentarians from around the world decided to establish the Global Parliamentarians' Forum on Evaluation (GPFE). Hon. Dr. Musyoka serves as APNODE's representative on the GPFE coordination committee. In the interim, a coordination committee with voluntary membership will take forward the following priorities: (i) strengthen regional parliamentary associations; (ii) develop a platform to exchange knowledge and information; (iii) translate existing key documents on advocacy for evaluation; (iv) develop partnerships with organizations like CLEAR, AfDB and other MDBs, Unicef and UNWomen; and (v) organize events and other capacity-building activities for parliamentarians.

As a result of this engagement, members of APNODE are participating in the awareness video campaign conducted by GPFE and a series of webinars called "Meet a Parliamentarian".

In March 2016, Hon. Dr. Musyoka represented APNODE at the event “No one left behind: Evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals with an equity-focused and gender-responsive lens”, organized by the United Nations Evaluation Group, and took the opportunity to engage with other parliamentarians, UN Women and other partners there.

In March and June 2016, Hon. Appiah-Kubi, Hon. Chapfika, Hon. Musyoka and Hon. Mpagi-Kaabule represented APNODE at 2 workshops organized by CLEAR Anglophone Africa in Accra and Kampala, respectively, on supporting the use of evidence for oversight in African legislatures. In Accra, Hon. Appiah-Kubi and Hon. Chapfika made presentations on what APNODE is and what it does.

## **3.2. Capacity Development**

### **3.2.1 Identify and organize opportunities for evaluation seminars or trainings for APNODE members**

Through the partnerships that the EC has developed, members of APNODE have been able to attend seminars or workshops. For example, the AfDB organized a seminar on Governance on the margins of the 2015 APNODE Annual General Meeting. APNODE members also participated in workshops organized by CLEAR. UNICEF, UN Women and CLEAR-CESAG conducted a training for the EC members and Senegalese MPs in Dakar on various evaluation topics, including: (i) introduction to the concept and methods of evaluation; (ii) the role of parliamentarians in creating an enabling environment for evaluation and promoting the evaluation function; (iii) emerging trends in evaluation, with particular reference to the Sustainable Development Goals; and (iv) gender and equity-responsive evaluations. A similar training will be provided for all APNODE members on the margins of the 2016 AGM.

### **3.2.2 Knowledge sharing on evaluation**

The Secretariat regularly shares with the members information on evaluation and development evaluation. Over the past year this has included:

- Information on events celebrating the 2015 International Evaluation Year;
- Information on activities by partners underlining the importance of evaluation and sharing knowledge, such as the “Meet a parliamentarian” webinars by the Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation (GPFE) and the weekly installments of its video campaign;
- Links to online tools on evaluation that APNODE members can use to develop their capacities in evaluation, such as:
  - the UN Women handbook on gender-responsive evaluation:<http://genderevaluation.unwomen.org/en/evaluation-handbook>
  - <http://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/evaluation/resources-and-tools>
  - <http://www.mymande.org/evalpartners/advocacytoolkit>
  - <http://www.mymande.org/howto-recomm-page>
  - <http://www.mymande.org/selected-books>
  - <http://africaevaluation.org/Africa/>

- <http://www.odi.org/publications/10348-develop-impact-oriented-monitoring-evaluation-system>
- [http://betterevaluation.org/resources/overview/UNICEF\\_Impact\\_Webinar\\_Series](http://betterevaluation.org/resources/overview/UNICEF_Impact_Webinar_Series)
- [http://betterevaluation.org/events/J-Pal\\_EvaluatingSocialPrograms](http://betterevaluation.org/events/J-Pal_EvaluatingSocialPrograms)

More information and knowledge resources on development evaluation will be made available on APNODE webpage.

### 3.3. Resource mobilization

Three actions were planned for this point:

- Seek funding from members' parliaments and development partners for the implementation of APNODE action plan;
- Propose additional funding sources including membership fees for APNODE; and
- Develop a strategy for sustaining APNODE.

#### 3.3.1. Seek funding from members' parliaments and development partners

The Constitution provides that funding for the network will come from the following sources:

- Membership fees;
- National parliaments; and
- Financial supports from Development partners, etc.

The 2015 AGM approved the APNODE membership policy and corresponding roster of annual membership fees. The Secretariat subsequently wrote to all prospective APNODE members, detailing the membership fee to be paid for 2016 and providing the bank details. To date, only very few members have paid their membership fee. At the request of the EC, members will have the opportunity to pay their 2016 membership fee in cash at the AGM in Harare.

AFDB, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CLEAR, UNICEF, and UN Women are the main supporters of APNODE.

Cash and in-kind funding sources are as follows:

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation remains the main financial sponsor of USD 150,000 for the 2015-2016 budget.

- IDEV/AfDB is hosting the APNODE secretariat and the staff time involved (of the Division Manager, Principal Knowledge Management Officer, and Senior Evaluation Assistant<sup>3</sup>) is counted as an in-kind contribution.
- IDEV/AfDB hosted the 2015 Annual General Meeting at its Headquarters in Abidjan and will host the second face-to-face meeting of the EC in 2016. In addition, the AfDB field offices throughout the continent regularly host the members of the EC for the virtual EC meetings.
- UN Women sponsored the participation of 15 female parliamentarians in the 2015 AGM and is sponsoring 2-3 female parliamentarians for the 2016 AGM.
- UNICEF hosted the Face-to-Face meeting of the APNODE EC at its regional office in Dakar in May 2016 and, together with CLEAR and UN Women, provided a training for the members.
- CLEAR sponsored the participation of APNODE representatives in its workshops in Accra and Kampala, and will, in collaboration with UN Women, provide a training for all APNODE members at the 2016 AGM. It will also host an in-depth discussion of the APNODE Strategic Plan by the EC.
- UNDP offices in African countries are expected to host a number of the advocacy and outreach events that will be organized in the context of the APNODE action plan; this will be an in-kind contribution.
- The national parliaments of APNODE members are expected to cover part of the costs of their participation in APNODE events.

National parliaments may also host some of the meetings and events and thereby contribute to or reduce the logistical costs of organizing these events. For example, the Parliament of Zimbabwe is hosting the 2016 AGM.

### **3.3.2. Develop a strategy for sustaining APNODE**

At the first AGM, two members of the EC committed to propose a strategic plan for resource mobilization, but this has not made much progress. And as the process of drafting the APNODE Strategic Plan has started, it was decided that resource mobilization will be a part of the Strategic Plan.

In the short-term, APNODE continues to rely on support from development partners. At the Face-to-Face meeting in Dakar, EC members recognized that they too have a role to play as ambassadors of APNODE in their contacts with development partners, when they attend conferences and other events, etc. Such contacts can pave the way for the Secretariat to follow up with a letter and a proposal, seeking funding and further partnership.

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<sup>3</sup> In addition to IDEV staff, colleagues from the following AfDB departments also spend time on APNODE: Treasury; Financial Control; Procurement and Financial Management; Corporate Procurement; and Information Management

However, sole dependence on grants and contributions from development partners is risky and not sustainable, as renewals are not guaranteed. There is also the question of legitimacy and credibility. In time, the Network should reduce its reliance on partners and develop its own, sustainable funding sources such as membership fees. The commitment of national parliaments, who can become institutional members, is also important and strategic in fulfilling the main objectives of the network.

To ensure its existence, APNODE needs to become financially self-sufficient.

#### **IV. DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR APNODE**

Last year, the first Annual General Meeting of APNODE adopted a short-term action plan and some operational policies. The main priority is to reach out, sensitize and to expand the network beyond the current membership to cover the continent. In addition, the Executive Committee would like to go beyond the short-term action plan and to think strategically over the medium term (3-5 years) by developing a Strategic Plan. At its recent meeting in Dakar in July 2016, the Committee decided to hire an external consultant to draft this Plan.

The Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) in Johannesburg was hired for the assignment. CLEAR-AA will draft the Strategic Plan that will provide guidance, visibility and predictability of activities and the means for implementation for the coming 3-5 years.

The development of the Strategic Plan is a participatory and interactive process. Given its importance, the EC is keen to ensure that it accurately reflects the views and aspirations of members. For this reason, all members were encouraged to participate.

CLEAR-AA will gather the views of the members on the priority objectives and activities of the network. More specifically, the inputs will be collected through:

- Completing an online questionnaire;
- Engaging in a follow-up telephone interview with a member of the CLEAR-AA team;
- Face-to-face meeting with the APNODE Executive Committee at the AGM in Harare in order to discuss the draft plan in-depth.

The Strategic Plan will be finalized after the AGM, incorporating the inputs and guidance received at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **V. PERSPECTIVES**

The following activities are planned to be executed for the rest of this year.

Development and production of promotional materials	On-going
Elaboration of the Strategic Plan of APNODE	On-going
Annual General Meeting of APNODE	August 2016
Training on Evaluation at AGM (Unicef / UNWomen / CLEAR)	August 2016
Second Face-to-Face Meeting of EC in 2016	November 2016
Local activities to sensitize MPs led by members and/or National Chapters of APNODE	
Setting up and developing of national chapters of APNODE	
Local capacity development activities with the support of national parliaments and development partners	
Development of a virtual library of evaluation and capacity development resources on the APNODE webpage	On-going

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1: Ten Reasons for Parliamentarians to Engage in National Evaluation Policy Process

1. Parliamentarians have vested interest in the country in giving vision, leadership and to gear the country in right direction. The vision and right direction should be informed by evidence.
2. Parliamentarians are the first pillar to approve/ allocate resources for development initiatives in the country through parliamentary procedures. Therefore, parliamentarians should be well informed with up to date information about effective initiatives and development programmes through evaluation so that resources are wisely invested in the country.
3. Parliamentarians have the opportunity and authority to supervise and question progress of any development initiative/ use of public funds in the country. Therefore relevant data and information are useful to properly monitor the progress through the Parliament.
4. Parliamentarians are the key in making legislation and policy in the country. It is important that policy and legislation is evidence based so that they are useful for and contribute to make a difference in the country.
5. Parliamentarians represent Citizens' interest and therefore should respond to Citizens' demands. Parliamentarians need correct and updated information so that public is informed about the correct picture.
6. Parliamentarians are members of different parliamentary committees which review effective use of funds by public institutions. To effectively engage in such committees and direct right questions, parliamentarians need information about efficiency and effectiveness of public funds.
7. Parliamentarians do safeguard equity and human rights. Equity and human rights measures can be well maintained with right information and evidence which comes through evaluation.
8. Parliamentarians support the executive who in turn rely on the Parliament to pass laws and allocate resources. Therefore parliamentarians are the key to influence the executive regarding the National Evaluation Policy.
9. Each country has Millennium Development Goals' targets, which needs to be evaluated and set new targets for Sustainable Development Goals' targets which needs new set of indicators. Therefore it is important to have a comprehensive M&E framework for the country which should be in line with the National Evaluation Policy.
10. Parliamentarians have limited term and they need to seek re-election to continue their service to the people. It comes handy for the parliamentarians to go back to people for re-election with some concrete results/ achievements from their current term. Therefore parliamentarians need evidence to show results of their achievements.