



APNODE

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

Report of the Second Annual General Meeting of the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation

Monomotapa Hotel, Harare, Zimbabwe,
15-16 August 2016

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Introduction

This document is an account of the proceedings and outcomes of the second Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the African Parliamentarians' Network on Development Evaluation (APNODE), which took place on 15 and 16 August 2016 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

This second AGM brought together current members of the network, other African parliamentarians, and development partners recognizing the value of evaluation in policy and decision-making. Sixty-two participants from 16 countries participated in the meeting, with APNODE welcoming participants from Benin, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia and Sudan for the first time.

Hosted by the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, the meeting was organized in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA), UNICEF and UN Women. The Secretariat of the Network remains hosted by the Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the AfDB in Abidjan.

Representatives of the following organizations also attended the meeting: African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) and Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation (GPFE).

Participants from the University of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Evaluation Association (ZEA) attended the training which took place on the second day of the AGM.

I. Opening session

Honorable Advocate Jacob F. Mudenda, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, delivered the welcoming remarks. He recognized the presence of current and prospective APNODE members, other parliamentarians, development partners and guests. He emphasized that the major goal for development evaluation should be hinged on two issues, namely: (i) to address the African conundrum of experiencing poverty while being rich in natural resources and (ii) the development of strong legislation that will hinder capital flight. In this regard, APNODE should not slide back but move forward with greater conviction in the process of development evaluation. This calls for a collective move together and for sharing experiences in development evaluation across African countries.

The Chairperson of the meeting and Vice-Chairperson of APNODE, Honorable Dr. Susan Musyoka (Kenya), presented an overview of the agenda for the two-day meeting. The agenda was adopted without objections.

She gave the floor to the participants to introduce themselves (See Annex 1).

II. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

Honorable Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule (Uganda), member of the Executive Committee of APNODE, presented the minutes of the first AGM that was held in Abidjan on 23-24 July 2015. This session aimed at providing participants, especially prospective members, with a historical overview of the network and a summary of the main activities it undertook during

the last AGM. Following are review and minor editorial adjustments, the minutes were adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes

Participants raised some questions and comments in relation to the minutes:

- How many parliaments have established a national chapter? Some advised to set a deadline for the establishment of national chapters.
- Request an update on resource mobilization and payment of membership fees.
- Request the Secretariat to prepare the Chair better on the due process and have a list of participants attached to future AGM meeting reports.

Action points

Secretariat:

- Finalize the minutes of the AGM2015 (ENG & FR) and add the list of participants.
- Follow up with participants on the establishment of national chapters.
- Prepare a guidance note for the Chair and presenters for due process at the next AGM.
- Have the list of participants to the AGM ready to share at the meeting.

APNODE members

- Pay membership fees, preferably by bank transfer.
- Raise awareness of APNODE.
- Set up national chapters by the end of this year (2016).
- Develop partnerships at the local level.

III. Presentation of the Annual Report 2015-2016

The Chairperson of the meeting, Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka (Kenya), presented the APNODE 2015-2016 Annual Report, the mission and objectives of the Network, the activities of the Action plan adopted at the last AGM and their respective levels of achievement, and the planned activities to be executed for the rest of the year. The Chair highlighted that (i) of the fifteen countries that attended the last AGM, only three have formally established national chapters in their respective countries and (ii) few members have paid their membership fees. In this regard, she urged members to pay their membership fee as well as mobilize resources at their local level.

The floor was then opened to discussions with the following issues highlighted:

Membership:

The issue of "parliament vs. parliamentarian" was brought up as new participants requested to understand why parliaments as institutions can join the Network as "Associate Member" whilst individual parliamentarians are in the category of "Full Members". They highlighted that from the point of view of continuity, parliaments as institutions are more robust and not subject to re-election, and therefore more sustainable. Some participants felt that parliaments as institutions are more relevant than individual parliamentarians. In light of this discussion, members from Zimbabwe briefed the meeting that before their national chapter was formed, a

motion was raised in parliament, debated and adopted. It was the parliament that authorized the formation of the chapter. Due to the parliament's role in development evaluation policies, they felt that if left as an Associate Member, the structural relationship between parliament as an institution and the individual as a parliamentarian who is also part of the institution as a collective entity becomes blurred.

Other members indicated that their national chapters had been formed without the formal adoption of a parliamentary motion.

In response, the APNODE Secretariat acknowledged the relevance of the issue raised but reminded the meeting that APNODE's mission is to provide a forum to parliamentarians of Africa to make use and advocate for development evaluation. And as such, the main emphasis is on individual parliamentarians as users of evaluation in their oversight, legislative, policy and decision-making, and budget allocation roles.

Members of the Executive Committee responded further by stressing that after due consideration and deliberation of all possible options, APNODE had been established as a network of individual parliamentarians and therefore it is a network of individuals. It is intended to harness the passion of individuals for evaluation and their willingness to spend their time and efforts to further this cause. At the first AGM, it was agreed that membership of APNODE would not be confined to parliamentarians alone but would also be open to other stakeholders. As such the constitution of APNODE defines various categories of membership including non-African parliamentarians, non-parliamentarian individuals, parliaments and other institutions who can join APNODE as Associate Members, so as to exclude no one with a keen interest in evaluation. Since parliaments play a significant role, they can join the network as an institutional member allowing them to send members to APNODE meetings whilst contributing to APNODE's institutional memory.

The meeting recommended the Executive Committee to take into consideration all that had been said on the issue of membership, to consider revisiting the different membership categories, and to make proposals to the next AGM as it felt appropriate.

Membership fees

Some participants indicated that they were unaware of the membership categories and fees. In this light, the APNODE Secretariat shared the membership policy document setting out the definitions of the different categories and the associated levels of annual fees. According to the APNODE constitution and membership policy, 5 categories of membership are defined: Founding members (USD 250); Full members (USD 250); Associate Members (Individual USD 150 and organization USD 400); Affiliate Members for free; and Partners (USD 500). This implies that parliaments as institutions can join the network in addition to individual parliamentarians and non-parliamentarian individuals and entities. Therefore, although a parliament is recognized as a member and has paid its membership fees, individual parliamentarians still need to pay their membership fees.

Some participants felt that the membership fees for Associate Member organizations, specifically parliaments, are too low, and advised to raise the amount substantially.

The APNODE Secretariat clarified that membership fees are not the only source of funding: on page 11 of the constitution, it is stipulated that the finances of APNODE shall accrue from

the following sources: (i) annual membership fees, (ii) voluntary contributions from members, APNODE chapters, governments, development partners, evaluation partners and any other individuals or interested parties, (iii) grants from similar networks and Parliamentary Associations, (iv) fundraising activities approved by the Executive Committee, and (v) any other source approved by the Executive Committee or at the AGM.

The meeting advised the Executive Committee to review the fees for the different membership categories and to make proposals to the next AGM as appropriate.

Induction for New Participants

Taking into account the number of questions raised by the new participants and the time taken to provide clarifications, it was proposed that in the future the Secretariat should organize an induction session for new participants to explain all the relevant documents that would enable them to understand the history, the previous discussions and the intricacies of the Network prior to the AGM.

Language

Members from Mauritania and Sudan requested that future AGMs should have relevant documents translated into Arabic as well as Arabic interpreters.

Action points

Secretariat:

- Summarize recommendations for the Executive Committee's consideration related to the APNODE constitution and Membership Policy.
- Discuss with new members on the membership policy for more clarity.
- Organize an induction session for new participants to the next AGM.

EC members

- Re-examine the constitution and membership policy in light of the comments made on the categories of membership.
- Consider making proposals to the next AGM.
- Review the membership fees, in particular for parliaments as institutions, and consider making proposals to the next AGM.

IV. Update on national chapters

Gabon: Sen. André Moussounda Mikala, member of the Executive Committee of APNODE, gave an update on the establishment of an APNODE national chapter in Gabon. He mentioned that although the chapter has not yet been established, sensitization at the parliamentary level has begun: a meeting took place in the Senate where he made a presentation on APNODE and distributed membership forms (video available on APNODE website). He indicated that due to the political situation in the country, it is not easy to mobilize members of parliament on evaluation in a region where accountability and good governance remain a challenge, resulting in constituent meetings on evaluation being postponed or canceled. In addition, the parliament of Gabon is not yet committed to development evaluation, and there is little support from the parliament on evaluation and

sponsorship to attend evaluation capacity development meetings including APNODE meetings.

Zimbabwe: Hon. David Chapfika, member of the Executive Committee of APNODE and chair of the APNODE Zimbabwe national chapter, enunciated that Zimbabwe followed a due process that legitimized APNODE. Since APNODE is aimed at members of parliament, a motion was tabled and debated in the parliament to establish a national chapter and for the Zimbabwean parliament to become a member of APNODE. Members of parliament deliberated and adopted it. The ownership is now with parliament and as such APNODE chapter members can be financed by the parliament. This move has ensured the sustainability of the Zimbabwean chapter. The parliament of Zimbabwe is committed to development evaluation, encouraging parliamentarians to participate in a workshop that was jointly sponsored by the Zimbabwean Evaluation Association (ZEA) and UN-Women (focus on SDGs and MDGs). In addition, the parliament is planning additional workshops to sensitize all MPs. They have already approached various development partners such as UNICEF to fund the workshop. It is clear that the situation in Zimbabwe is marked by a high commitment by the Speaker of Parliament himself.

Uganda: Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule presented the case of Uganda, where a national chapter was established in 2015 the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) facility of the Prime Minister's Office has been able to train MPs and undertake a CLEAR-AA workshop during the Ugandan Evaluation Week. More recently, however, the chapter has been facing challenges as most of its members were not re-elected back to office in the recent election. As such many members have lost interest in APNODE. Also, the M&E facility in the PM's office has no budget this year to support the chapter. In order to revive the network, the Ugandan chapter is working with the Corporate Policy & Strategy Department in parliament on a concept note to revive the chapter with current members of parliament. Parliamentarians are also going through induction sessions prior to organizing an upcoming workshop on development evaluation. The chapter is pushing for the commitment of the Speaker to ensure that evaluation becomes an important theme in parliament.

Togo: Hon. Awèdéou Tchasse informed participants that he is the chair of the Togo APNODE chapter, and that a seminar on M&E was undertaken by members of parliament with the support of UNDP. Working concurrently with the ministry of M&E, the chapter has put in place sub-committees per sector (education, health, agriculture, etc.) to monitor each sector. When discussing the budget, they use evaluations to check the government's projections.

Côte d'Ivoire: Hon. Abbas Imbassou Ouattara noted that the national chapter is still being set up. To date, a technical group on M&E exists in parliament, and sensitization has been undertaken, including approaching the Speaker to obtain his political commitment following the letter from the Chairperson of APNODE to the Speaker of Parliament. With assistance from USAID, parliament has hired an M&E Specialist to accompany the process, and a constituent meeting/workshop will soon be-held to present the members of the chapter. However this is likely to be done only after the establishment of the new Ivorian constitution and elections in October 2016.

Mauritania: Hon. Loula Ahmed Zerough indicated that in Mauritania, the national chapter has not yet been set up. However, sensitization and distribution of knowledge materials and

documents to members of parliament has been undertaken. At the moment, potential collaboration is being explored with the Mauritanian evaluation association.

Kenya: Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka informed the participants that in lieu of a formal chapter or a Parliamentary Committee, for which the agreement of the Speaker of Parliament could not be obtained, a Parliamentary Caucus on Evidence Informed Policy Oversight Decision has been launched in August 2015. The chapter is therefore an informal network comprised of members from the National Assembly and the Senate who are committed to promoting responsible governance through evidence-based oversight. The caucus has been active and has made significant progress through the launch of its strategy, the holding of a policy cafe where parliamentary committees on health deliberated on universal health care, and a sensitization workshop for women parliamentarians on evidence and strengthening M&E. The caucus has benefited from the support of the African Institute on Development Evaluation (AFIDEP) and the Evaluation Society of Kenya. Because the M&E department in government is not focused on evaluation, evaluation has not yet been adopted by the cabinet. As such access to evidence, attracting and retaining members in the caucus as well as raising funds for activities has been a challenge as the caucus is not funded by parliament. Despite these challenges, the chapter continues to introduce APNODE to new parliamentarians.

Benin: Hon. Domitien N'ouemou expressed the gratitude of the Beninois participants for being invited to the AGM, following the invitation from the APNODE Chairperson to the Speaker of Parliament inviting them to join the network. The 3 representatives sent to the AGM intend to organize a sensitization workshop and set up a national chapter before the end of the year.

Sudan: Rt. Hon. Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Omar, the Speaker of National Assembly of Sudan, said that the fact that he decided to head the delegation himself, is proof of their interest in APNODE and its objectives. Sudan submitted its application to join APNODE not only at the individual parliamentarian level but also the parliament of Sudan as an Associate Member.

Open Discussion:

Ms. Adeline Sibanda, interim President of the African Evaluation Association (AfrEA) encouraged APNODE members to work and interact with national evaluation associations, civil societies, non-governmental organizations and other Voluntary Organizations for Professional Evaluation.

Mr. Caspar Merkle of UN-Women informed participants that with the current emphasis on SDGs, there are significant resources available for activities and that institutions such as EvalPartners help countries strengthen national evaluation systems. To benefit from these resources, interested parties need to be pro-active and apply for calls for proposals. Zimbabwe was a recipient of one of these programs and Kenya has also recently submitted a proposal.

Other 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.

V. Strategic Plan of APNODE

Mr. Kieron Crawley and Ms. Ezethu Mandelize from the Centre for Learning on Evaluation and Results Anglophone Africa (CLEAR-AA) presented the current status on the development of the APNODE Strategic Plan (SP). CLEAR-AA was recruited to assist the EC in drafting the SP that will guide the activities of the network for the next 3-5 years. The process has included collecting inputs from APNODE members through online surveys in both English and French and following-up with telephone interviews, according to a defined structure of the SP.

Mr. Crawley reminded the participants that the questionnaire is still available in both languages, and urged all participants to have their say.

The presentation on the draft strategic plan focused on the online survey and follow up interviews of APNODE members in regards to the SP. The summary of the findings provided alternatives and solutions of how the vision, mission, environment and stakeholders can be better represented to fit the overarching goal of APNODE. In addition, external opportunities and threats as well as internal strengths and weakness were discussed, whereby ideas of how to strengthen the existing strengths and ways to improve the perceived weakness were discussed with the aim of obtaining collective solutions. The presentation provided the participants the opportunity to contribute not only to the refinement of the draft strategic plan but also provide guidance on implementation strategies and methodological frameworks. Participants shared their views and provided guidance, which will be taken into account in the further development of the SP

The SP is expected to be finalized by end of the year.

VI. Resource mobilization

This session was moderated by Hon. David Chapfika (Zimbabwe). He recalled that the constitution provides that funding for the network will come from various sources, including:

- Membership fees;
- National parliaments; and
- Financial support from governments, development partners, etc.

The question of whether individual parliamentarians pay their own memberships fees or whether these are paid by their parliament is to be addressed at national level, as this will differ from country to country.

The issue of the different categories of membership and the associated membership fees was again discussed at length. Questions were raised about the role of founding members, on whether individual MPs would be required to conform to the position of their parliament, and on the number of votes/voting rights of full members vs. associate members (limits per country?).

The Secretariat provided an update on the status on payment of membership fees: only 4 members have paid, of which Sen. Moussounda and Hon. Imbassou each paid for 2 years(2015 and 2016). It also briefed the participants on the APNODE travel policy, which

determines the travel allowance for attending the AGM that paid-up APNODE members are eligible for. At the request of the EC, it was agreed that members could settle their membership dues at the same time as receiving their travel allowance, i.e. pay their membership fee through a deduction from their travel allowance.

Local participants expressed unhappiness that the travel policy did not foresee in travel allowances for local participants. Other participants responded that this is the common practice also in their countries and other organizations.

Hon. Chapfika recalled that the membership policy (roster of fees) are embodied in the APNODE constitution, which also sets out the due process for amending the constitution (art. 11). Any suggestions to amend the constitution must be notified to the Executive Committee and to the AGM or extraordinary AGM by voting members (who have paid their membership fees) at least 42 days before the AGM, and the proposed amendment must be communicated to all members at least 20 days before AGM. Adoption of an amendment requires the agreement of at least 2/3 of fully paid members present at AGM.

Participants felt that the current membership fees are too low for the sustainability of the network and proposed raising the membership fees for all parliaments from USD 400 to USD 5,000-10,000.

Participants made a number of recommendations for the consideration of the EC:

- To review the comments made on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in regard to APNODE's sustainability;
- To consider proposing to the next AGM an amendment to the constitution enabling parliaments to join as full members, in addition to individual parliamentarians;
- To examine the disparity in membership fees between parliaments and parliamentarians and to consider proposing to the next AGM changes in the roster of fees.

VII. Proposals for activities for draft program of activities and budget

Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka opened this session by inviting for proposals from the floor. She indicated that proposals can also be sent in writing during or after the AGM.

Mr. Crawley (CLEAR-AA) mentioned that it will be helpful if members can link their proposals to the strategic objectives in the draft Strategic Plan.

The following table shows some proposals made by participants.

Proposals	Link with strategic objective of SP	Reference
Workshop in Zimbabwe for MPs before the budget is presented to help them understand the Ten Reasons why they should engage in national evaluation policy process	Strategic objective #4	Hon. Khupe
Establishment of national chapters, continue sensitization efforts	Strategic objective #1	Sen. Moussounda
APNODE women's forum	Strategic objective #5	Hon. Khupe
Have strategic arrangements with regional groupings or parliaments (like West African Parliament under ECOWAS, East African Parliament, also Pan African Parliament (PAP), Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) - know when they're sitting and advocate for APNODE	Strategic objective #6	Hon. Adv. Jacob F. Mudenda:
Coordination of M&E policy involving the executive and implementers, also the judiciary (three arms of government)	Strategic objective #2	Hon. Irene Zindi
Promote APNODE to get involved in other evaluation bodies, like European Evaluation Society (EES) and Global Parliamentarians Forum on Evaluation, to learn from them	Strategic objective #6	Hon. Evelyn Mpagi-Kaabule

Hon. Dr. Musyoka noted that APNODE has financial constraints and is therefore limited in the financial support it can provide for local activities to be organized in each country by national chapters. National chapters are encouraged to seek resources at local level, for example from their parliaments, national evaluation associations, development partners' local offices, NGOs, etc.

Hon. Al-Zubeir Mohamed Al-Hassan (Sudan) said that we must bear in mind that partners are not only for finance. We can invite them as resource persons to share their experiences with APNODE.

VIII. Consideration of any other business

None

IX. Closing remarks and way forward

Before the closing remarks, Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka gave the floor to participants to express their interest for hosting the next AGM.

Hon. David Chapfika noted that Central Africa, West and now Southern Africa have hosted the AGM, as such it will be good if the next AGM should be hosted by a country from East or North Africa.

Rt. Hon. Prof. Ibrahim Ahmed Omar (Sudan) offered to host the next meeting in Khartoum.

The proposal from Sudan to host the 3rd APNODE AGM was accepted by the Chairperson of the AGM, Hon. Dr. Susan Musyoka. She then delivered closing remarks. She thanked and congratulated the participants for their work during the meeting, thanking Sudan for the offer to host next AGM, and declared AGM closed.

X. Training of APNODE members

The second day of the event was dedicated to a training on evaluation, focusing on "the role of parliamentarians in creating an enabling environment for evaluation and promoting the evaluation function".

The training was provided by CLEAR-AA and UN Women.

CLEAR-AA covered the following topics:

- (i) Approaches to oversight: using evidence for oversight decisions
- (ii) Oversight and results based monitoring and evaluation
- (iii) The role of evaluation

UN Women focused on:

- (i) Championing national evaluation policies and systems; and,
- (ii) How to effectively integrate gender, equity and human rights in evaluation.

The training was strongly appreciated by all members of APNODE, including the participants of Zimbabwe Evaluation Association and of University of Zimbabwe.

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

XI. Annex 1: List of Participants

No	Country	Title	First Name	Surname	Email
1	Benin	Hon.	Justin	Adjovi	justacaff@yahoo.fr
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4	Côte d'Ivoire	Hon.	Imbassou Abbas	Ouattara	imbassouattara@yahoo.fr
5	Ethiopia	Hon.	Minale	Shitaye	Gensechpr@gmail.com
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7	Gabon	Sen.	Laurent	Paga Moudouma	lpagamoudouma@gmail.com
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16	Namibia	Hon	Salmon	Fleermuys	
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19	Sudan	Hon.	Abdeen	Mohamed Shareef Mohamed	
20	Sudan	Hon.	Al-Zubeir	Mohamed Al-Hassan	
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22	Sudan		Abdel	Moniem Abdel Hafeez	
23	Sudan		Adil	Al-Nour	
24	Sudan		Abbas	Mutasim	
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54	Zimbabwe (UNICEF)	Mr	Vikas	Singh	
55	Zimbabwe (FO)	Ms.	Mary	Manneko Monya	
56	Zimbabwe (FO)	Mr.	Eyerusalem	Fasika	
57	Zimbabwe (FO)	Mr.	Brighton	Madanhire	
58	Zimbabwe (FO)	Ms	Petronella	Utete	
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APNODE SECRETARIA					
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