

Speech by Janet Rogan
UN Resident Co-ordinator for Zambia
At the Opening Ceremony of the

National APRM Workshop of Harmonizing the Zambian National Plan
of Action with the National Development Planning (NDP) and the
Medium Term Expenditure Framework

Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka

28 – 29 October 2014

Honourable Edgar Lungu, MP, Minister of Justice

Prof. Al-Amin Abu Manga M. Ibrahim, Lead Panel Member for
Zambia,

Mr. Said Adejumobi, ECA – Sub Regional Office for Southern Africa,

Mr. Sylvain Boko, ECA-CDD

Mr. Reuben L. Lifuka, Chair – National Governing Council,

Representatives of APRM

UNDP/UNECA colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me to welcome you all to this workshop on harmonizing the APRM National Plan of Action with national instruments of development in Zambia such as the Sixth National Development Plan and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework. I hope that after the end of this workshop tomorrow, you will all come out of it more informed and better equipped in seeing the whole implementation process forward.

As many of you know, the African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed programme, voluntarily adopted by the member states of the African Union, to promote self-monitoring and adopt policies and programmes that reinforce high standards of governance. The Mechanism is an innovative governance initiative that is African owned and African led. With the accession of 34 countries and the completions of the review by 17 of them, the APRM has come a long way since its inception in March 2003.

The APRM has made progress in contributing to good governance in member countries, increasing the participation of civil society and domestic accountability. It serves as an early warning system, as exemplified in Kenya and South Africa, where issues post-election ethnic violence and xenophobia were respectively highlighted during the review process. The Mechanism also provides an opportunity to highlight various best practices that can be emulated in other countries. For instance, the concept of “One Zambia – One Nation” has stood the test of time and can be replicated in other less fortunate environments across the continent.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to note that UNDP, the UNECA and the African Development Bank have all accompanied this process from the onset. In UNDP, through our regional

programme, we have provided technical advice in the conceptual development of the Mechanism as well as the drafting of the base document, survey instruments, and the guideline for countries and so on.

We were also the first agency to have organized the first technical workshop in Cape Town in July 2003 to help articulate the operationalization of the Mechanism after it was adopted by Heads of State. Since then, there has been continual support to the Panel and the Secretariat.

In Zambia, UNDP has accompanied the country in the process from its inception and will continue to do so to promote the strengthening of democratic institutions. Zambia enjoys a robust democratic system and its experiences can help others to improve their own.

AS you know, the National Plan of Action is the key output of the country peer review process. This document seeks to identify governance areas that need to be improved and to mobilize the country's efforts in implementing the necessary changes to enhance its state of governance and socio-economic development.

It is my understanding that some of the key recommendations of the Peer Review Report may have already been integrated into Zambia's development plans. This workshop will provide us with an opportunity to have a look at this process and share experiences from other countries as well.

I wish to reiterate UNDP's commitment to the APRM and continue its support in the foreseeable future.

I thank you all for your Attention and look forward to further interactions.