

# **The AU, NEPAD and APRM**

## **Progress and Prospects**

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# Road Map

- **Africa's Development Regime**
- **AU Scorecard**
- **NEPAD Verdict**
- **APRM: So far so good...**

# Africa's Development Regime

- Development in Africa has long constituted a legitimating ideology
- Colonialism was justified as a 'civilising mission' aimed at improving welfare
- Post-colonial leaders promised a new era of peace, prosperity and development
- 1970s – oil boom, excess liquidity, prestige development projects
- By 1980 – contraction in money supply, higher interest rates, debt becomes unserviceable, onset of the so-called 'African Crisis'
- LPA: "A classic dependency interpretation which... exonerated African leaders and blamed the historic injustices suffered by the continent and the continued dependence on external forces" (Owusu 2003)
- Berg Report – blamed bad African policies for the 'crisis'.
- 1980s – 1990s; Rule of SAPs, face-off between Africa and the BWIs
- 1989 AAF-SAP, WB becomes more conciliatory
- Gradual shifts from oppositional LPA vs Berg Report to more conciliatory discourses
- 1999 CDF & 2001 NEPAD embody an apparent development consensus
- 2001 – Two competing African development narratives

# AU Scorecard

- The AU's promise :
  - Renewed commitment to developmental 'Pan-Africanism'
  - 'I am my brother's keeper' replaces non-interference
  - End to unconstitutional rule
  - People-led (as opposed to state-led) Union
- Track record
  - Strong rhetorical African common positions
  - Union Government Debate – how not to do things
- Key Challenges
  - Developing a modest, achievable programme of work
  - Building a capacitated meritocracy
  - Winning for Africa (trade, EPAs, etc)
  - Getting taken seriously (by member states, Diaspora, private Africans)

# NEPAD Verdict

- Partly came about because of (O)AU credibility problem
- NEPAD has achieved:
  - Renewed focus on infrastructure
  - Change in aid relationship
  - Effort to harmonise disparate initiatives (EASSy)
- But it has been unable to :
  - Raise the additional \$64 billion
  - Fully assert its value-added as a public good broker
- Key Challenges :
  - Target priority programmatic goals, achieve some quick wins
  - Forge productive synergies with the AU, diffuse personality tensions
  - Rebrand NEPAD

# APRM: So far so good...

- Perhaps NEPAD's biggest contribution...
- 26 countries have signed up for review
- Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa have completed all 5 stages
- Lessons learned...
- African ownership vs Externally-driven Governance