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## SECURITY GOVERNANCE AND THE APRM

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Overview

The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and the Africa Human Security Initiative- Institute for Security Studies (ISS) are organizing a consultative workshop on the question of security governance in Kenya. The major aim is to utilize the opportunities presented by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to assess the quality of security governance that Kenyan citizens experience.

The one day workshop is scheduled to take place on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2008, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm. Participants are expected to be drawn from civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, Government, State security agents as well as other groups interested in the rubric of security. The workshop shall be held in Nairobi and about 40 participants are expected to attend.

#### Rational for the Workshop

The African Peer Review Panel of Eminent Persons published the Country Review Report of the Republic of Kenya in May 2006. The report is a thorough assessment of the Kenya State in the four thematic areas of concern to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) framework – democracy and political governance; economic governance and management; corporate governance; and socio-economic management. Appended to this Report is a detailed Programme of Action (POA), suggesting precise action points.

One and half years after the launch of the Report as well as the POA, Kenya plunged into violence of an unprecedented nature. It is estimated that over one thousand people lost their lives while close to four hundred thousand others were displaced in a span of two months. Militia groups actively instilled fear as well as killed members of targeted ethnic communities. Other reports claim that Kenya's security apparatus (especially the Kenya Police Force and National Youth

Service members) also contributed the post 2007 election violence. It is widely believed that State security agents were involved both in election rigging and during actual violence.

What is, however, most disturbing is the fact that Kenya descended into anarchy within eighteen months after the APRM framework had reviewed the governance of the State and made specific recommendations for reform of the security sector. A number of questions therefore seek answers: Why didn't the Kenyan State use the APRM NPOA, to address these issues? Why did Kenya plunge into the state of insecurity just a few months after the Panel of Eminent Persons had described Kenya as the *haven of peace*? Does the APRM sufficiently address the issue of security reform in Kenya? Related to these are questions relating to the relevance of the APRM framework to the security problem currently bedeviling the State. Put another way – does the POA sufficiently address the security problem? If not, what should be done to address the lacunae?

The Workshop shall also attempt to grapple with the issue of the proper role for the security agents in democratic elections, and in this regard, the context of the post 2007 general election conflict is imperative.

## **Objectives**

The workshop has at least three objectives. First, to foster discussions on Kenya's APRM process, generally, amongst the various stakeholders. Second, to reconsider the security question, particularly in the context of APRM, with the view to prescribing policy reforms. Third, to review the post 2007 general election violence particularly the role played by militia groups and State security agents. It is hoped that the workshop shall suggest ways of averting such a situation.

## **Experts**

The workshop shall be facilitated by experts in the area of security. It is anticipated that the experts will be:

- ❖ Dr. Adams Oloo, University of Nairobi
- ❖ Dr. Mutuma Ruteere, Adili Consults Ltd

## **Outputs**

1. A major output expected out of the workshop is a report, which shall include a summary of the presentations, deliberations and recommendations made at the workshop, and
2. Policy suggestions for the APRM to consider on Security Governance