




**APRM/NEPAD AND ITS  
RELEVANCE TO THE SECURITY  
PROBLEM IN KENYA**

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## Introduction

- The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a voluntary self-monitoring process designed to improve the quality of governance in African countries and promote the adoption of policies, standards and practices that will lead to
  - political stability,
  - high economic growth,
  - sustainable development and accelerated economic integration
- through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful best practices.

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- The five-stage process includes periodic reviews of the policies and practices of participating states to ascertain progress being made towards achieving the mutually agreed goals and compliance with adopted
    - Political governance and democracy,
    - economic governance,
    - corporate governance, and
    - Socio-economic development

# Kenya's External Security Challenges

- Kenya's external security problems have been twofold:
  1. First, those related to tensions with its neighbors:
    - a) Somali threat to expand (1963-79), refugees influx, and the porous Somalia frontier to illegal weapons traffic, contraband and livestock raiders and bandits
    - b) Sudanese suspicion of Kenya aiding SPLM, and the 'Elemi Triangle' affair
    - c) Strained bilateral relations with Uganda esp. over cross-border incursions
  2. Second, those associated with terror attacks. Kenya has so far experienced three terrorist attacks. The porous nature of Kenyan border played a critical role to these attacks

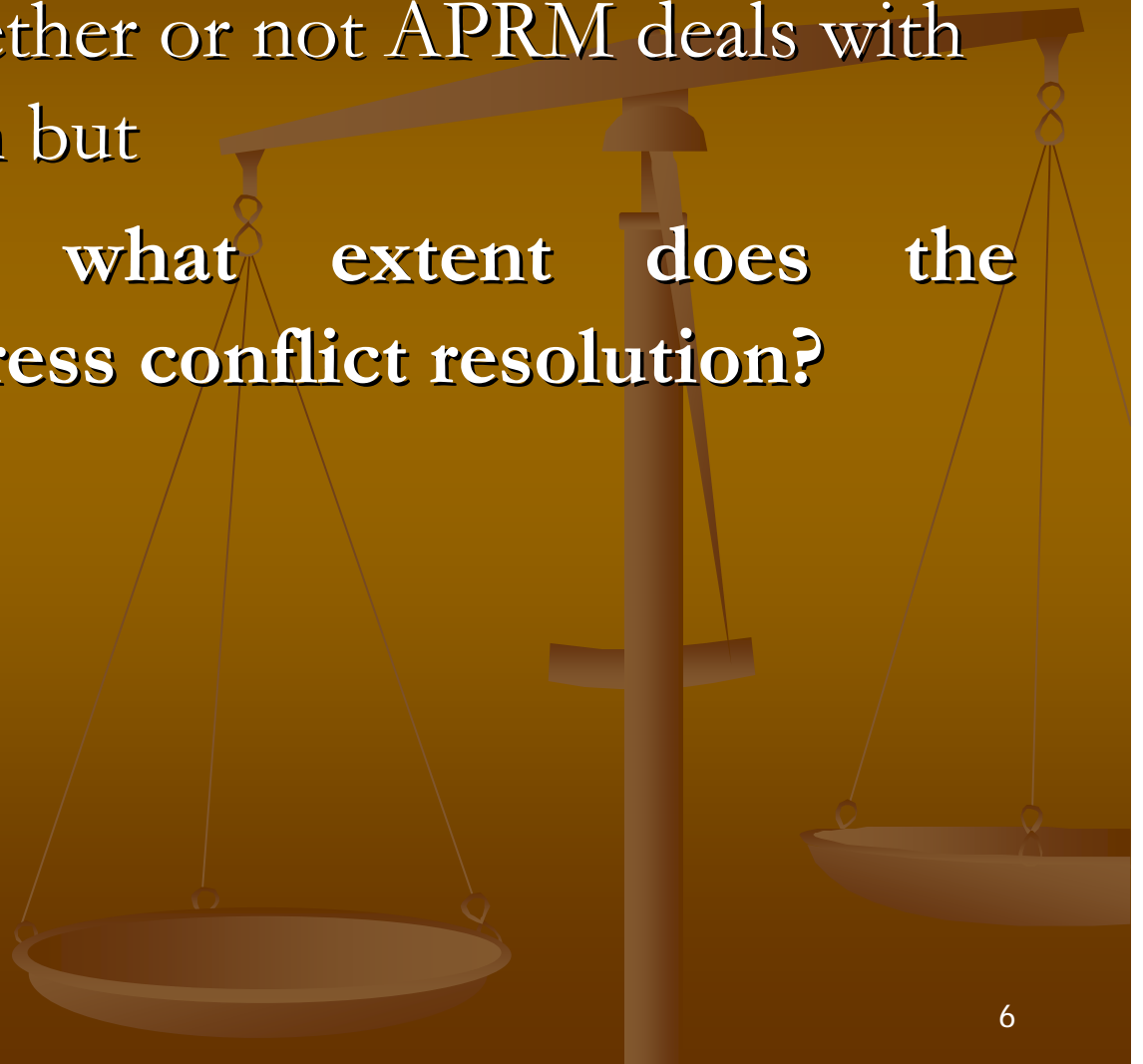
# Kenya's Internal Security Challenges

- Bad governance
- Violent response to bad governance
- Failure of political leadership to respond to the grievances of minorities
- Lack of moral integrity in the political leadership and administration marked by corruption, nepotism, abuse of authority, failure to enforce law, etc
- Unprincipled and opportunistic politics
- Absence of an effective national security management
- Proliferation of SALW
- Poverty and unemployment
- Ethnic politics
- Cattle rustling and banditry
- Environmental degradation
- Insecurity and regional instability
- Natural and man-made disasters e.g., droughts, famine, etc

# The Key Question

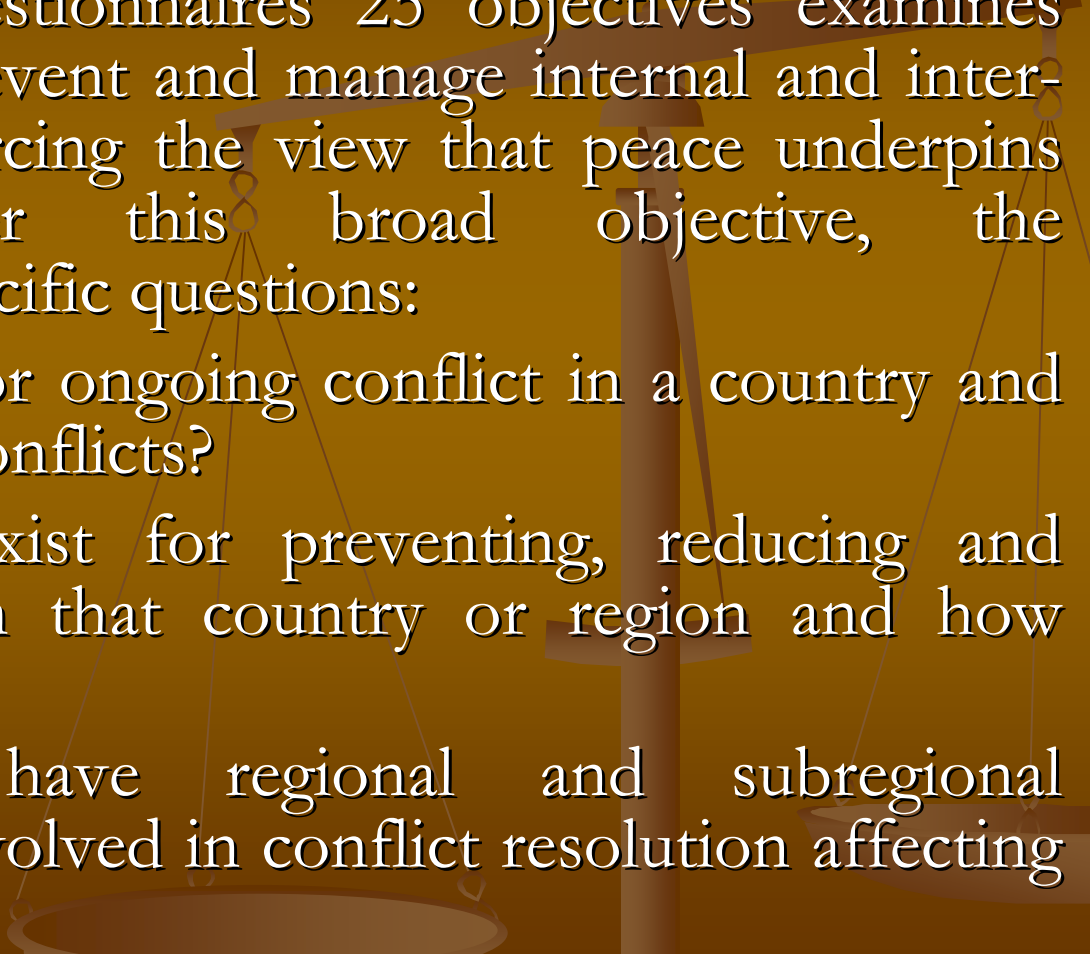
The issue is not whether or not APRM deals with conflict resolution but

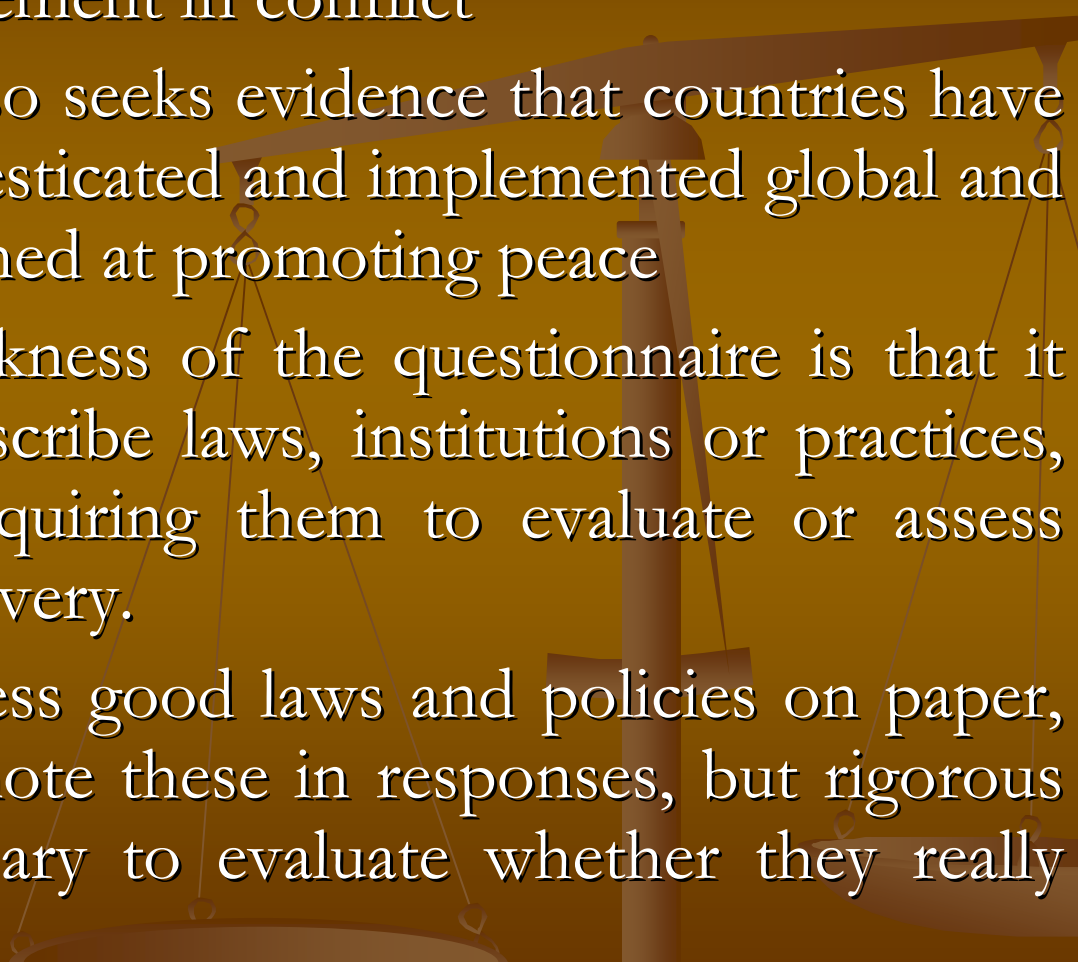
**How and to what extent does the mechanism address conflict resolution?**



## APRM Framework for Assessing Security in Kenya

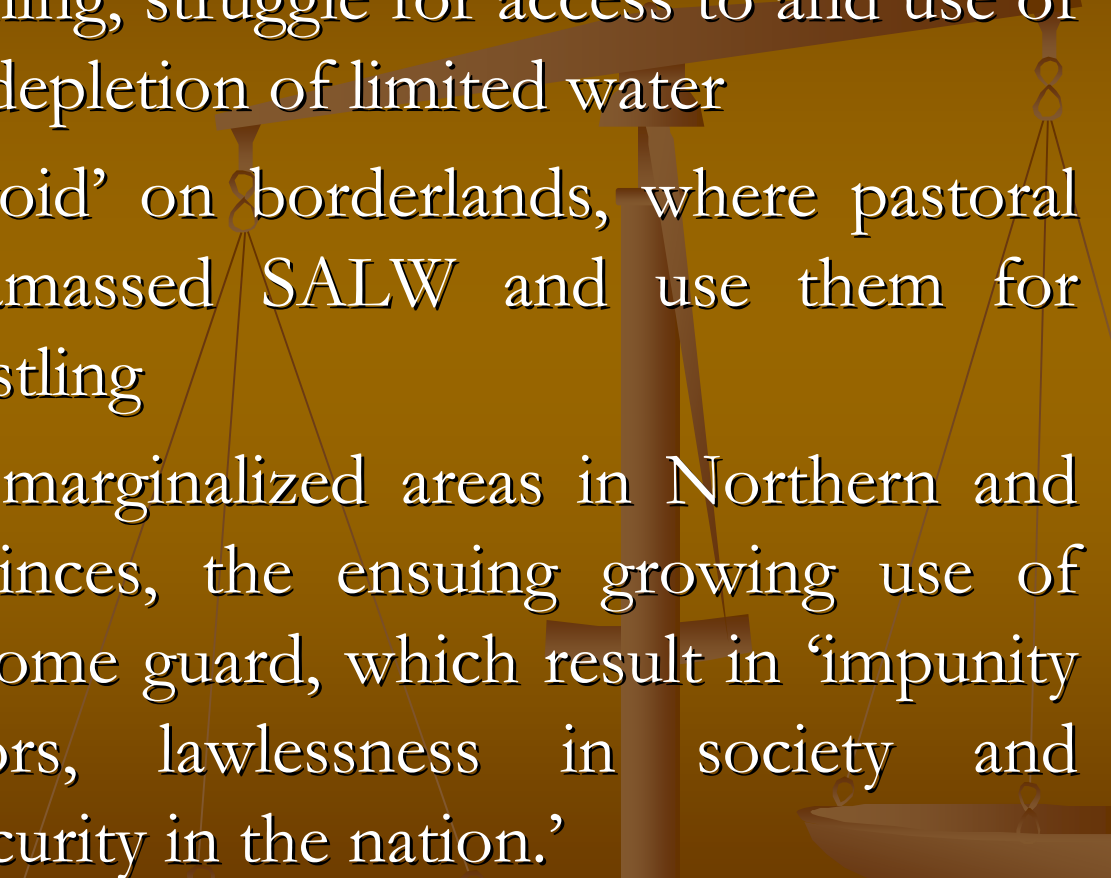
- An outgrowth of Nepad, APRM is a voluntary African self-monitoring initiative aimed at improving governance and enhancing development
- In acceding states, a NGC that involves civil society, business and government oversees an extensive research and consultation process to develop a self-assessment report evaluating the country's governance strengths and weaknesses on a wide range of issues, including conflict prevention, election management and human rights
- The country must design a programme of action to address all identified gaps in governance
- Then an independent team of African experts visits the country to do its own assessment, and helps to write a country review report along with a Panel of Eminent Persons and the continental secretariat
- This report is eventually debated by participating heads of state and then publicly released

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- To assess how the APRM can contribute to conflict prevention and management, the starting point is the 88-page self-assessment questionnaire that guides the national process, and the relevance of questions asked.
  - The first of the questionnaires 25 objectives examines measures taken to prevent and manage internal and interstate conflicts, reinforcing the view that peace underpins development. Under this broad objective, the questionnaire asks specific questions:
    1. What are the recent or ongoing conflict in a country and the sources of these conflicts?
    2. What mechanisms exist for preventing, reducing and managing conflicts in that country or region and how effective are they?
    3. To what extent have regional and subregional organizations been involved in conflict resolution affecting that country?

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- Several other APRM objectives relate to human and state security, such as constitutional democracy and the rule of law, women's role in presenting and resolving conflict, and children's involvement in conflict
  - The questionnaire also seeks evidence that countries have signed, ratified, domesticated and implemented global and African standards aimed at promoting peace
  - However, a key weakness of the questionnaire is that it asks countries to describe laws, institutions or practices, without explicitly requiring them to evaluate or assess performance and delivery.
  - Most countries possess good laws and policies on paper, and they can easily note these in responses, but rigorous assessment is necessary to evaluate whether they really work

## APRM Conflict Report on Kenya

- The report calls Kenya ‘an island of peace within a troubled region,’ praising Nairobi’s critical peacemaking role in neighboring Somalia and Sudan as ‘best practice’ and noting the thousands of refugees Kenya has accepted
- The report notes that Kenya’s own self-assessment acknowledges that internal conflict is rife in Kenya. A number of causes attributed to:
  1. Politically induced conflict, which is basically an outfall of competition and struggle for power often provides the basis for politicization of ethnic difference, abuse of political power and authority, existence of militias in political parties, and limited opportunities for effective political participation
  2. Economic inequalities that overlap with regional inequalities stemming from the colonial era have been perpetuated by a succession of post-independence governments, and competition for resources and advancement has a strong ethnic overlay.

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3. Resource based conflicts which occur in most cases over the politicization of land ownership and land rights, arbitrary allocation of community land, scarcity of land for pasture and crop farming, struggle for access to and use of water resources, and depletion of limited water
  4. The 'huge security void' on borderlands, where pastoral communities have amassed SALW and use them for banditry and cattle rustling
  5. State neglect of the marginalized areas in Northern and North Eastern provinces, the ensuing growing use of private militias and home guard, which result in 'impunity for the perpetrators, lawlessness in society and vulnerability and insecurity in the nation.'

## ■ The panel recommended that:

1. Government and political parties design and use forums to defuse political and ethnic tensions, foster national consensus and promote tolerance;
2. Government is urged to make laws and policies to revoke all discriminatory practices, proactively 'managing diversity'
3. Greater political will to create a coherent land redistribution and reallocation system;
4. Affirmative action to benefit marginalized communities be implemented;