



Nigeria's State Peer Review Mechanism

The State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM) is a unique innovation by the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF). It is designed to assist States to foster good governance and accelerate the pace of their development through periodic reviews of progress in the implementation of their development policies, plans and programmes. This would be achieved by sharing experiences among States and reinforcing the commendable and innovative practices unveiled in the process. Through participation in the peer review process, State Governors are able to learn from their peers about innovative and good practices that they could adapt and adopt in their respective States.

Why a SPRM?

The mandate for the SPRM flows from a resolution of the National Economic Council (NEC) in 2007 where all 36 States of the federation agreed to peer review themselves in a manner modelled on the African Union (AU) Peer Review Exercise. This NEC Resolution was subsequently endorsed by all 36 State Governors in the country under the NGF platform.

Official launch

The SPRM was officially launched on 18 May 2011 by the Forum as part of the 2011 Induction Programme. It is the first of its kind at the sub-national level in the world. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been actively supporting the process.

Review and follow-up

Four distinct reviews are envisaged in the process. These are:

- **Base review** or the first comprehensive review, which will be undertaken for all the States in the next two years. Following the base review, every State would subsequently submit a periodic progress report on the implementation of the

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Speaker at a State Peer Review Mechanism workshop

State Programme of Action (SPoA) to the NGF. The first progress report will be due after 12 months of the review and every 6 months thereafter.

- **Periodic or follow-up review** which should be conducted every 4 years. The 4-year interval between reviews gives ample time for States to implement their SPoA, to review the results and to learn from the process.
- **Ad-hoc review** which might be requested specifically by a State.
- **Special review** which might be initiated at any moment when early warning signs suggest an impending political, economic or social crisis in a State. This type of review would be conducted in the spirit of assistance between States, and would be called for by the Governors' Forum, in solidarity with the Governor concerned.

Assessment areas

A Framework of Indicators covers the five thematic areas incorporated in the review process. These areas include Policy and Strategy, Public Finance Management, Service Delivery, Citizen Engagement and Participation, and Monitoring and Evaluation. The indicators for Monitoring and Evaluation are subsumed under Policy and Strategy. The five thematic areas have also been integrated into the core sectors of health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, and environment, including the theme of Economic Development.

Putting it into action

The SPRM is designed to be implemented in six interrelated stages. The first stage is the key initiation and stakeholder workshop in the State to sensitise state stakeholders on the methodology, objectives and indicators of the assessment instrument.

The second stage is the preparation of the State Self-Assessment Report (SSAR) and the SPoA, which are submitted to the NGF Secretariat. The report is prepared through a participatory process involving key stakeholders in the State using the assessment instrument. The timeframe for the self-assessment process is not expected to exceed 6 months.

Members of the Steering Committee

The members of the Steering Committee that oversee the SPRM process are:

- Justice Mohammed Lawal Uwais GCON (Chairman)
- Senator (Dr) Abubakar Bukola Saraki CON (Vice Chairman)
- Dr Donald Duke
- Professor Oladipupo Adamolekun
- Professor Akachi Ezeigbo
- Mrs Ayo Obe
- Ms Ijeoma Nwogwugwu
- Dr Shamsudeen Usman, Honourable Minister, National Planning Commission
- Ambassador Tunji Olagunju, Senior Adviser to the President of NEPAD
- Dr Yemi Kale, Statistician-General of the Federation, National Bureau of Statistics
- Dr Precious Kalamba Gbeneol, Senior Special Assistant to the President of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The third stage in the process is the technical review visit and validation. To carry out the visit, the NGF Secretariat will assemble a Technical Review Panel (TRP) made up of State representatives and experienced academics selected according to their knowledge, expertise and experience, as well as experts nominated by the development partners.

The tabling of the State Peer Review Report (SPRR) and SPoA before the NGF constitutes the fourth and fifth stages of the review process. The dissemination of the Report is the sixth and final stage.

How will the findings be shared?

The NGF recognises itself as a 'knowledge organisation', and understands that knowledge management and communication are keys to the success of the SPRM. With this in mind, the SPRM contains a knowledge management component, a major part of which is an online system that has been put in place for sharing information about the States. This online content management system went live in the first half of 2012, and can be accessed at www.ngf.org.ng

Contact for further information

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Design and layout by

Scriptoria Sustainable Development Communications

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