

Djibouti draws from the experience of 'APRM pioneers' to draw its own innovative course

Djibouti is resolutely moving ahead with its preparations for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) self-assessment process. On 27-28 January, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the national focal point on the APRM in Djibouti), the recently nominated National APRM Coordinator and about forty representatives of various ministries, research institutions, civil society outfits, and the national statistical office attended a [workshop](#) (see workshop material here) to discuss the lessons drawn from the experience of APRM pioneers, as captured in "[The APRM: Lessons from the Pioneers](#)" by Steven Gruzd and Ross Herbert (SAIIA). Thanks to this insightful review of country experiences, Djiboutians were able to find answers to their questions about how to constitute their national governing council, how to develop a robust research plan, how to involve citizens in the collection and interpretation of data, and so forth. The involvement of the national statistical office in collecting governance evidence through household surveys was also included in Djibouti's APRM research plan, building on [similar experiences supported by DIAL across Africa and Latin America](#). Meanwhile, APRM pioneers from Benin and Burkina Faso have agreed to 'mentor' APRM leaders in Djibouti throughout the self-assessment process, notably by sharing concrete planning documents and tools which could be tailored to the Djiboutian context. The long-term objective in Djibouti remains the establishment of national governance monitoring system. Based on the key lesson learned from APRM experiences that the weakest point so far has been the lack of post-APRM follow-up, Djibouti is proposing to innovate and pilot a 'best practice' by investing early on in the institutionalization of a governance monitoring system based on the APRM framework.