



## **Media Statement**

24 January 2025

### **The APRM NGC and National Focal Point chart a way forward on APRM implementation**

On 22 January 2024 the African Peer Review Mechanism National Governing Council (APRM NGC) of South Africa met with the Minister for Public Service and Administration (MPSA), Inkosi Mzamo Buthelezi, to discuss APRM work in the country and reach consensus on NGC plans for 2025.

The NGC, led by Mr Thulani Tshefuta, is a key APRM National Structure composed of civil society and select government representatives. The NGC provides leadership, strategic policy guidance and direction to domesticate the APRM nationally, including awareness and sensitization of the public.

As the APRM National Focal Point, the MPSA oversees the implementation of APRM programmes and activities in South Africa and plays a key facilitation and diplomatic liaison role in the APRM system.

Amongst the key discussions, there was agreement on the critical need for enhanced synergy and coordination between the APRM National Structures including the Focal Point, NGC, and National Secretariat. In his remarks, the Minister emphasised that the silos must end and commended the Chairperson's presentation on the NGC's work and National Programme of Action linked to the Second-Generation Country Review which took place in 2021. The Minister recommended that immediate steps be taken to facilitate the implementation of the planned activities and to strengthen current collaborations with the Continental Secretariat and Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

In addition, the meeting reflected on South Africa's participation in the recent statutory meetings convened by the APRM Continental Secretariat such as the 9th Meeting of the APRM Focal Points Steering Committee the Minister, Inkosi Buthelezi, participated in on 21 January 2024; the 9th Ordinary National Secretariats Coordinating Committee in which SA was represented by the Director: APRM National Secretariat, Ms Gcino Mlaba; and the upcoming 16th Ordinary Consultative Committee of the NGC in which the Chair, Mr Tshefuta, would represent the NGC of South Africa on 23 January.

The meeting also covered the bilateral cooperation between the NGCs of South Africa and Namibia as well as the upcoming 34th Ordinary Summit of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government which will be held on 14 February 2025 in Addis Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, on the margins of the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (the Assembly) on 15 and 16 February.

The NGC meeting was also attended by the Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, Ms Pinky Kekana; the Director-General, Ms Yoliswa Makhasi; and Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) officials.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**About the APRM:**

The APRM is an African-owned and African-led platform for self-assessment, peer-learning, and experience-sharing in democracy and good governance, with full respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law, and accelerating African political, social, and economic integration. The primary purpose of the APRM is to foster the adoption of policies, standards, and practices leading to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development, and accelerated regional and continental economic integration, with codes and standards contained in the Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG).