

**Statement by .Mrs Fatima Karadja on
Behalf of CSOs in her capacity as the Vice
President of ECOSSOC and member of the
NEPAD Think Tank on the occasion of the
9th African Partnership Forum (APF) in
Algiers ,
November 12-13 2007**

Preamble

We the members of the NEPAD CSO Think Tank and CSO representatives, drawn from Algeria, Benin, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and the Diaspora, met in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya between 1st and 3rd of November 2007 to discuss guideline s for CSO involvement in APRM process and the implementation of national Plans of Action and the Open Day on the Africa Partnership Forum and G8 make this statement on behalf of our networks ,organizations, and the Pan Africanist CSO movement.

Congratulate our African Heads of states for their sustained commitment to the African Peer Review Mechanism APRM as a tool for the Continents democratization and good governance.

Recognise that the APRM is a key and succeeding component of NEPAD, a framework for Africa's development promoted by your Excellencies.

Are aware of the principle of popular participation of Africa's peoples in all democratization and governance processes affecting their lives.

Note that Africa's people's popular participation is necessary for the achievement of Africa's renaissance.

Affirm the commitment and passion of Africa's Civil Society Organizations CSO's in championing the cause of Africa's democratization and good governance as inspired by the ethos of the APRM.

The NEPAD civil Society Think Tank in consultation with partner CSOs note the following;

1. The role of CSO's in delivering the objectives of the APRM is crucial and critical in enhancing democratization and good governance

2. That notable progress has been made in the implementation of the APRM with 5 countries having already been reviewed and more than half of African States having acceded to the APRM
3. That capacity should be enhanced for all key stakeholders to effectively engage with the APRM
4. That countries that have signed to be reviewed under the APRM should be encouraged to embark on the review process as soon as possible
5. That we CSOs are ready to be subjected to the principles of the APRM in our operations
6. That special interest groups e.g. women, youth and persons with disabilities should be given special consideration to ensure their holistic participation in the APRM process in the continent.
7. That the APRM needs to be popularized through wide dissemination to all African of diverse background and experiences
8. That collaboration between CSO's and governments should be enhanced to ensure successful implementation of the APRM

9. That we have analyzed the Heiligengamm outcomes and note with concern the following:
- a. The G8 announcement is only a modest step forward on funding for infectious diseases
 - b. The G8 promise represents potentially a small step back on universal treatment for HIV/AIDS.
 - c. A HUGE part of the promise remains unfulfilled.
 - d. The G8 promise to Africa will fall \$30billion short in 2010 on current trends.
 - e. The promise made by the G8 has been missed by \$27 billion.
 - f. Sustained annual commitments by each country to achieve \$50 billion new aid promised is required
 - g. The October APF whose mandate is to monitor progress should get concrete output from G8-OECD on the 9th APF

Based on these observations, we call on the APF and the G8 meeting to

1. Give full support to Civil Society Organizations to fully participate in the implementation of the APRM as key stakeholders
2. Properly empower the APRM and NEPAD secretariat to effectively fulfil their mandate of facilitating good governance and democratization in Africa through the APRM
3. A step by step CSO guideline be put in place to guide and streamline the participation of CSO in the APRM at the national level.