



**AFRICAN
PROFESSIONALISATION
INITIATIVE**

API NEWSLETTER

APRIL - JUNE 2022

AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC SECTOR

Why the African Professionalisation Initiative (API)?

To realise an African Public Sector capacitated by competent, ethical and influential professionals who support accountability, transparency and good finance governance - Thereby driving realisation of Africa Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) - e.g. Mobility for quality accountancy professionals across Africa) and the AU Agenda 2063 aspirations , with particular focus on aspirations 1,3 and 6.

How will the API be realised?

By growing the capacity of accountancy professionals (Accountants and Auditors) in the African Public Sector to enhance service delivery and realise national development visions that will translate into a more prosperous African continent.

What objectives will the API achieve?

- Provide and make available quality, innovative and affordable online learning resources anywhere at anytime
- Support local adoption and implementation of stronger public financial management
- Deliver qualified public sector accounting and auditing professionals supported by effective professional accountancy organisations (PAOs)
- Coordinate efforts to build a sustainable API through the power of partnerships

Who is driving implementation of the API?

The API is being implemented by the API Secretariat, the respective in-country partners (PAOs; Auditor Generals; Accountant Generals; among others) and the API partner organisations (AFROSAI-E, PAFA, CREFIAF and ESAAG (Now transitioning to AAAG)).

The API is a partnership between the accountancy profession (represented by the Pan African Federation of Accountants (“PAFA”)), accountants general or their equivalent (currently being represented by the East and Southern African Association of Accountants (“ESAAG”) and in the near future the Association of African Accountants General (“AAAG”)), and supreme audit institutions or courts of auditors (represented by the English (“AFROSAI-E”) and French (“CREFIAF”) language sub-groups of the African Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (“AFROSAI”)) and AAFA, a voluntary non-profit Association bringing together academics, graduate students and practitioners from Africa and the Diaspora interested in accounting and finance education and research.

How is the API governed?

The API's Governance is centred on collaboration with stakeholders (Such as the African Union, IFAC, INTOSAI, among others) and is driven by the Interim Oversight Board (IOB) that is soon transitioning to the API Governing Council. The Governing Council delegates various responsibilities to the API Project Steering Group - PSG- with its membership being the CEOs from the API partner organisations. The API CEO oversees the API secretariat and reports to the PSG

Which Donor Agencies support the API?

The API is grateful for the funding support from key donors and development partners such the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Department of International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID-UK), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the GIZ-German for the funding that has enabled realisation of key milestones.

UPDATES - COUNTRIES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THE API

Below are news and updates from countries that have expressed interest in the API.



Botswana

Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) with quality leadership of the BICA CEO - Verily Molatedi, the Office of the Auditor General in Botswana - Pulane Letebele, and the Accountant General - Kealeboga Molelowatladi, among other key stakeholders are in the process of finalizing necessary preparations for implementing the API. Various meetings have been held with the Botswana Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) and the country stakeholders to consider important matters that will facilitate the successful implementation of the API in Botswana. We thank the Botswana stakeholders for their support and desire to strengthen the capacity of public sector accountants and auditors to successfully implement the API program.



Eswatini

Eswatini is getting ready to be part of the API. The API staff accompanied by the AFROSAI-E CEO - Meisie Nkau - conducted a stakeholder engagement mission in Eswatini as a follow up to the Expression of Interest - EOI - received from Eswatini. Meetings were held with various stakeholders including the Auditor General, Accountant General and the Professional Accountancy Organisation - PAO - leadership. Further engagements are underway to get ready for onboarding the government accountants and auditors into the API learning programme.





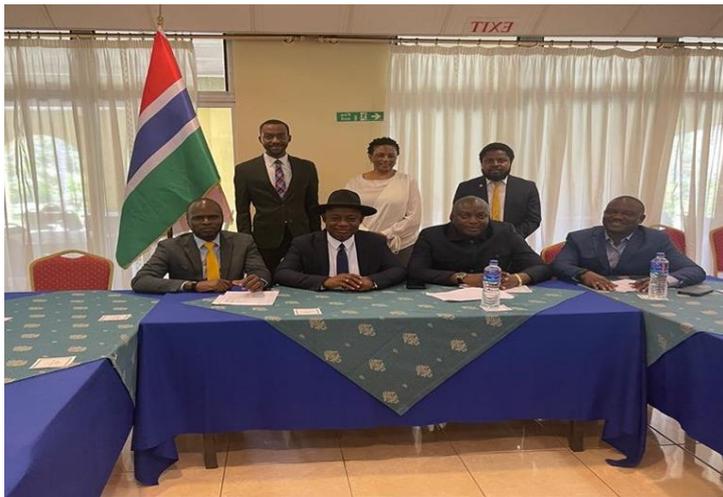
Ethiopia

The Accounting and Auditing Board of Ethiopia (AABE) leadership ably guided by the AABE Director General - Hikmet Abdella - has made a commitment to Professionalisation of Public Sector Accountants in Ethiopia. The API team has held discussions with the Director General of Accountants and Auditors Board of Ethiopia to consider the API opportunity for Ethiopia. AABE successfully coordinated stakeholder meetings in Ethiopia in early April 2022 to provide more information on the API while driving support for its successful implementation in the country. Follow up engagements are ongoing to realise successful professionalisation of public-sector Accountants and auditors in Ethiopia.

Kenya

The API team made a presentation to the ICPAK Council under visionary guidance of the ICPAK Chairman - George Mokuia - in May 2022 to provide detailed information and clarity about the API opportunity as a follow up to the submission of an expression of interest by the Auditor General of Kenya, Madam Nancy Gathungu (also the Chairperson of the COMESA Board of External Auditors - COBEA). During the Kenya mission, engagements were help by stakeholders such as the ICPAK CEO - Edwin Makori, the CEO of the Kenya National Examinations Board - Dr FCPA Nicholas Letting, the CEO of the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (PSASB) - Fredrick Riaga, among other stakeholders. Further engagements are planned to engage all remaining stakeholders in Kenya and realise the best approach for the implementation of the API in Kenya.





Liberia

Liberia Auditor General (Garswa P. Jackson), Accountant General (Janga A. Kowo) and Liberia PAO - LICPA- President (Victor S Tanwone) support the API. Discussions were in May 2022 with these leaders from Liberia to share more information on the API and discuss next steps in having the API implemented in Liberia. The Auditor General strongly supports the goal of professionalising public sector accountants to enhance accountability and transparency in the use of public resources. Actions have commenced to advance the objective of soon onboarding learners from the Liberia Public sector into the API programme. During the in-person meeting, an API implementation letter of intent was signed between API and the Liberia leadership to signal and outline next steps towards successful implementing the API in Liberia in coming weeks.



Namibia

The Auditor General of Namibia (Junias Kandjeke) together with the Accountant General (Director General for Accounting and Budget) and the Chief Executive of the Namibia Institute of Public Accountants - NIPA (Essie Herbst), are working together to successfully realise the professionalisation of the public sector Accountants through the API. The Public Accountants and Auditors Board in Namibia supports the API programme. Discussions have been held as part of the follow up to the formal submission of the Expression of interest and activities are ongoing (including a key meeting held with the National Qualification Authority of Namibia) to drive preparedness for onboarding the first batch of learners into the API program.

Somalia

We are grateful to the Auditor General of Somalia (Mohammed Ali who also chairs the AFROSAI-E Board) and the Somalia Institute of Certified Public Accountants - SICPA - CEO (Burhan Salah) for their leadership and support for the API. The Somalia API initial discussions have been held with senior leaders from the Somalia Auditor General's Office to provide more details about the API and the process to be followed to commence professionalisation of public sector accountants and auditors in Somalia. The API staff have provided the needed guidance and finalization of the expression of interest is underway and is expected to be submitted to the API secretariat in due course. This submission will be followed by further engagements in readiness to on-board the first batch learners in the API programme working closely with the Auditor General, the Accountant General and SICPA.

Tanzania

Tanzania is one among the very few countries that have successfully adopted accrual based International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) for government financial reporting. The Tanzanian leaders - with the NBAA CEO, Pius Maneno as a key champion - believe that this key milestone will be sustainable if the API is adopted to assure efficient long term competency development and supply of high-quality public sector accountants and auditors. Tanzania is consulting with in-country stakeholders on the API. An Expression of Interest was received from the National Accountants and Auditors Board of Tanzania (NBAA). The NBAA Council will soon consider the proposed API actions and thereafter further engagements are expected to move Tanzania closer to adopting the API.





The Gambia

Following the recent meeting and presentation to the Board of the AFROSAI-E during their Strategy review meeting in Banjul, API staff held discussions with Gambia country leaders: The Auditor General of Gambia - Karamba Touray, the Gambia Institute of Chartered Accountants CEO - Baba Khan, among others) with a view to arranging modalities for launching the API in the Gambia. The initial information sharing session is planned in the coming weeks and will bring together the key stakeholder from the SAI, the Accountant General and the PAO (GICA).

Uganda

The Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Uganda (ICPAU) - under the visionary leadership of the ICPAU CEO, Derick Nkajja - has submitted a formal expression of Interest in the API programme. Meetings have been held to provide ICPAU senior team with more information about the API. ICPAU is consulting internally on the best way to implement the API in Uganda working closely with the in-country stakeholders.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe - through the quality and inspiring leadership of the Public Accountants and Auditors Board of Zimbabwe (PAAB) Secretary, Admire Ndurunduru - has demonstrated a high commitment to professionalisation of public sector accountants and in doing so provided critical lessons on the value and impact such initiatives can create for the citizens. The API held discussions with PAAB on the implementation of the API in Zimbabwe following submission of a formal expression of interest to the API. Admire articulated the importance of professionalising public sector accountants as a sustainable path to accelerating socio economic development of Africa through accountable and transparent use of government resources. Zimbabwe is currently considering the API MOU and learners selection criteria documents ahead of the signing off and launch of the API in Zimbabwe in due course).

For more information on the API and its programmes, please visit: www.professionalisation.africa



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