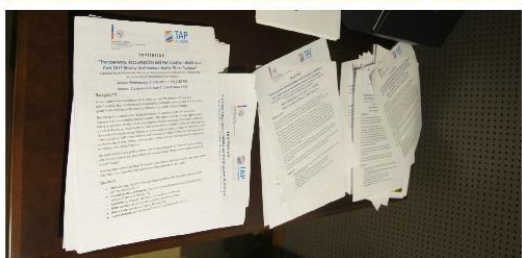


# Transparency, Accountability and Participation: Building a Post-2015 Review Architecture that is Fit for Purpose

ORGANIZED BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & PARTICIPATION (TAP) NETWORK



  
PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

  
Transparency, Accountability  
& Participation in Post-2015

## INTRODUCTION

The Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations and the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network co-organized a side-event on “*Transparency, Accountability and Participation: Building a Post-2015 Review Architecture that is Fit for Purpose*” that brought together key experts that provided an opportunity for a wide range of experts to take a deeper examination of the role of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in the follow-up and review architecture for the Post-2015 agenda, and to ensure that all levels of the review process – from local, national, regional and global levels – are transparent and participatory. The side-event featured a panel of speakers followed by an interactive dialogue.

### Panel of Speakers:

- **Mr. Stefan Barriga**, Deputy Permanent Representative, [Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations](#)
- **Mr. Ravi Karkara**, Strategic Advisor for Partnerships, [UN Women](#)
- **Ms. Nicole Cardinal**, Senior Advocacy Advisor, [Save the Children](#)
- **Ms. Hanna Hansson**, Visiting Fellow & Post-2015 Coordinator, [CIVICUS](#)
- **Ms. Naiara Costa**, Advocacy Director, [Beyond 2015](#)

Moderator: John Romano, Coordinator, [Transparency, Accountability and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#)

## SUMMARY

**Mr. Stefan Barriga, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the United Nations** opened discussions by highlighting the strong emphasis the Government of Liechtenstein has placed on the need for a strong and effective follow-up and review mechanisms based on transparency and participation. He underlined Goal 16 is a yardstick in measuring how well governments have done in implementing the post-2015 development agenda. Mr. Barriga stressed the SDGs needs to integrate civil society in order to bring the agenda to the people.

Mr. Barriga reiterated the Government of Liechtenstein advocates for a strong global review based on transparency and participation. He underlined the weakness of the HLPF in national reviews and called for a strong regional component with greater data collection. Mr. Barriga emphasized concrete proposals and lessons learned are needed from civil society to build a strong follow-up and review mechanisms at all levels. He noted the shape of follow-up and review mechanisms will not be completed by September 2015, but that time is needed to ensure we get things right.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Barriga called for civil society to provide their expertise in assisting Member States in shaping the post-2015 follow-up and review mechanisms.

**Mr. Ravi Karkara, Strategic Advisor for Partnerships, UN Women** highlighted the WorldWeWant, is a platform that facilitates meaningful participation and is one of the few hubs that have discussions on a wide variety of issues. The platform has three important principles of “participation, inclusivity and accountability”. Mr. Karkara stressed when we are talking about “participation” it is important we know who is “participating”. He highlighted the [WorldWeWant2015](#) platform has reached 75 million people across the world. It is a unique people-monitoring platform that uses data generation both online and offline.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Karkara underlined the MDGs lacked people’s participation. The WorldWeWant2015 platform can assist in ensuring the voices of the people can be heard and assist in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs by acting as a “peoples barometer”.

**Ms. Nicole Cardinal, Senior Advocacy Advisor, Save the Children** speaking on behalf of the TAP Network underlined the post-2015 review architecture, should be based on four core principles or ‘building blocks’ of Participation, Inclusivity, Transparency and Accountability at all levels. She recommended that reviews under the HLPF should be based on three key inputs: 1) National reports by Member States, 2) Information from UN entities, and 3) Independent reports from civil society and other non-state actors.

She stressed meaningful participation requires that people have access to timely, accurate, comprehensive and disaggregated public data and information, that can be used and understood by everyone. In addition, the HLPF should facilitate the dissemination of relevant information, to enable civil society and others to assess global progress and identify areas where lack of information and data might be hindering implementation. At a global level, Ms. Cardinal underlined citizens, communities and organizations can play a key role in generating, collecting and/or analyzing information and data, upon which global reviews under the HLPF could then draw from.

Ms. Cardinal recommended the HLPF should act as an umbrella to bring together the different strands of post-2015 accountability. Secondly, the HLPF should facilitate the sharing of experiences between countries of different income levels and from different regions, and make recommendations on how to overcome challenges and gaps in implementation. Thirdly, the HLPF can promote mutual accountability between Member States and other actors for global commitments, especially when it comes to the means of implementation.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Cardinal stated the global follow-up and review can provide an extra layer of state-level accountability, especially for marginalized groups who suffer discrimination at a national level and thus may be unable to participate in national level accountability processes.

**Ms. Hanna Hansson, Visiting Fellow & Post-2015 Coordinator, CIVICUS** presented preliminary findings of their consultations on civil society engagement and participation with the HLPF. She stated the purpose is to make use of this crucial opportunity for members of major groups and other civil society stakeholders to shape engagement in the HLPF. Preliminary findings from the consultations concluded that there was a wide disparity in the general knowledge of what the HLPF was.

Ms. Hansson underlined these preliminary findings illustrated the need for capacity building to enable and empower civil society participation at the HLPF, especially in developing training workshops and knowledge sharing. There was calls for comparable national reviews, mechanisms for civil society participation and inclusion of citizen generated data.

Ms. Hansson stressed the need to build on existing review mechanisms such as the Universal Periodical Review (UPR). Other findings included the need to access of information that are translated into UN official languages, the need for accreditation processes for civil society participation and financial support for travel.

In her closing, Ms. Hansson stated there was a call for civil society to develop effective coordination mechanisms around the HLPF.

**Ms. Naiara Costa, Advocacy Director, Beyond 2015** underlined general agreement amongst member states that the HLPF will be the apex of a three-tier follow-up and review system. She stated it is important that governments remain the main leaders of participatory and inclusive follow up and review.

At the national level, Ms. Costa stressed there is a need for flexibility to adapt to realities and specific circumstances and some minimum guidelines should be set to facilitate review, comparability and knowledge exchange. Additionally, she reiterated concern to in the zero draft for national reviews only every 4 years, and recommended that they should occur every 2 years to keep the momentum around the implementation of the agenda at national level. Ms. Costa stressed we need an enabling environment for civil society engagement with the HLPF underscoring we need to consider how people “perceive” development and therefore data produced by third parties, including perception and participatory research are important to check if the SDGs are really impacting on the most marginalized.

At the regional level, Ms. Costa expects that a clear mandate will be given to the Regions, and especially the UN Regional Commissions to support the review and monitoring process. Here, the setting of clear mechanisms for stakeholder participation is critical to also cover the diversity within the regions.

At global level, she stressed the HLPF needs to set mechanisms to receive and review contributions from the national and regional levels and from all stakeholders, including civil society. The global level will demand structure to process the information received from the different layers and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and really become the “Apex” of the follow up and review.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Costa stressed the HLPF must be an accessible space for civil society and stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized – this means predictability, adapted/translated/accessible communications and allocation of resources. For this reason, setting a coordination mechanism for participation is critical. This coordination mechanism should be autonomous, transparent, inclusive and diverse and should have the objective of facilitating and promoting stakeholders participation in the HLPF and all other layers of follow up and review.

## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

The TAP Network Review and Accountability position paper argues that participation and transparency are key principles for robust, effective, and inclusive accountability mechanisms for the Post-2015 framework at all levels – from the local through to the global. If we have meaningful participation and transparency in place, then the Post-2015 ‘follow-up and review’ mechanisms should be able to deliver real accountability for the SDGs.

**You can find the TAP Network Review & Accountability position paper here: <http://bit.ly/1K8EtOI>**

The TAP Network “Zero Draft” Response is based on the inputs of dozens of organizations within the TAP Network and endorsed by more than 40 organizations and counting, reflects the need for the Post-2015 agenda to foster open, inclusive, transparent, accountable and participatory sustainable development and institutions, at all levels – and provides specific recommendations for text amendments to the Post-2015 “Zero Draft” to this end.

**You can find the TAP Network “Zero Draft” Response here: <http://bit.ly/1KsXxWt>**

## CONTACT US

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