

Interactive Dialogue on multi-level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 Agenda

ORGANIZED BY:

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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BEYOND 2015

TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY & PARTICIPATION (TAP) NETWORK



Beyond2015



Transparency, Accountability
& Participation in Post-2015

INTRODUCTION

On Friday, 15 May, the **Permanent Missions of France, Peru and the Republic of Korea to the UN, along with the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network and Beyond 2015** hosted an “*Interactive Dialogue on multi-level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 Agenda*” over 80 experts from governments, civil society and the UN system. The event was hosted the week preceding the Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations on “follow-up and review,” in an effort to prime the conversation on a wide range of topics leading into the negotiations.

The “*Interactive Dialogue on multi-level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 Agenda*” focused on three critical levels for review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda: at the national, regional and global levels. Each discussion explored these various levels, including the role of Member States and the UN System, as well as areas where civil society can contribute in filling gaps in data, monitoring and accountability, and fostering partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs. Experiences were drawn from other multilateral review processes, and how these concepts can be applied to the SDG review mechanism.

The first discussion focused on review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda at the national level. Topics included: national ownership of the SDGs and the role of governments and parliaments in the review and monitoring of progress at the national level; the role of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions in providing support for review and monitoring at the national level; exploring the role of civil society in filling in the gaps around implementation, data generation and review and monitoring of national level commitments; and best practices in review and governance of sustainable development at the national level.

The second discussion focused on review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda at the regional level. Topics included: lessons learned and best practices for regional review mechanisms; the role of the UN regional commissions in reviews; how regional-level reviews link to national and global level reviews; and how to engage stakeholders meaningfully in regional-level review processes.

The third discussion focused on review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda at the global level. Topics included: the implications of universality on review and accountability for the SDGs, ways to incentivize engagement of Member States in the HLPF review mechanism; lessons learned and best practices from other global review mechanisms; lessons learned and best practices for engagement of civil society stakeholders in global review processes; and potential modalities for broad, inclusive and constructive participation of all stakeholders.

The event opened with introductory remarks from H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN and H.E. Ambassador. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN. Both Ambassadors stressed the need for ambitious but pragmatic discussions during the post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations and that this multi-level review system must be inclusive, transparent, state-led and ensure coherence.

KEY POINTS

Session I: National-level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda

- Accountability at the national level is crucial to demonstrate and measure progress of the post-2015 agenda.
- It is critical to involve all stakeholders, especially civil society and the most vulnerable in national review and monitoring, especially when developing national reports.
- Advocate for integration, coordination and cooperation at the national level among all stakeholders.

- There is a need to develop autonomous technical committees to follow-up on the SDGs, to complement the work of national governments.
- National review and monitoring are more effective in a robust multi-level review and monitoring mechanism that is coherent and mutually reinforcing.
- Review and monitoring of the SDGs is not a singular track, but a process and part of a broader system and architecture.
- National level review and monitoring produces national commitments and national reporting and mechanisms should be set to transmit those reports to the regional and global level.
- Review mechanism architecture must address areas of development cooperation, synergies with other policies and also monitor a country's own national efforts towards SDG implementation.
- Without people's participation, there cannot be a state-level accountability towards its people.
- Without public awareness of the SDGs, it will be difficult for people's participation in national level review and monitoring, so communications of the SDGs and Post-2015 agenda will be key.
- It is critical that people living in poverty and marginalized social groups are at the core of national level review and monitoring, in an effort to "leave no one behind."
- National level review and monitoring will be about changes in power relationships, empowerment and finding local solutions.
- It is not the lack of capacity that makes participation of civil society happen at the national level, but lack of political will.
- When setting up mechanism of participation, all activities should be fully transparent and respect the rights to information.

Session II: Regional level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda

- Regional level review and monitoring can bring efficiency to the wider review architecture, and help reduce the burden of HLPF reviews.
- UN regional commissions could act as platforms for encouraging participation of national governments and stakeholders in reviews, and ensuring comparability for national reporting.
- UN regional commissions can support with the identification of gaps and challenges, including on data collection and analysis, as well as help providing solutions and defining coherent regional policies.
- UN regional commissions could also assist in developing partnerships between states and with other stakeholders and develop mechanisms of reporting from civil society and the private sector.
- Regional level reviews could ensure that issues of geographic importance are addressed by countries in similar situations, and could address issues that are relevant to countries at this level.
- Regional level review and monitoring should be guided by principles based on:
 - Bottom-up approach ensuring the national level has policy space and address gaps that don't make it to the global level.
 - Subsidiarity to ensure public goods and services are implemented and achieved.
 - Ensure integration and coherence.
- Questions were raised regarding how the sub-regional groups can engage in this regional level review system and which regional coordination mechanisms would be the best fit for housing these regional level reviews.

Session III: Global level review and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda

- A global level review and monitoring structure should encourage peer review and exchanges of good practices.
- Robust processes for inclusive civil society engagement must be established at the global level, to create a "gold standard" of civil society participation.

- Need a set of tools and indicators at the global level that does not overload the HLPF.
- Global level review and monitoring can provide an extra layer of oversight where there are gaps at the national level.
- Global level review and monitoring can analyze systemic issues and global partnerships.
- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) can be considered a good practice to inspire a global level review and monitoring mechanism for the post-2015 agenda.
- Global level review and monitoring should include:
 - A participatory monitoring process that is open to all non-governmental stakeholders.
 - Strengthen national dialogue and participation.
 - Provide incentives to develop a culture of participation.
 - Develop comprehensive reporting.
 - Develop a global model that takes into account each other's capacity and responsibilities.

Session IV: Synergies and interlinkages for a multi-level review process

- An integrated accountability framework that joins up and improves existing global, regional and national and local accountability mechanisms involving all stakeholders must accompany the post-2015 agenda.
- Integration of different local, national and regional mechanisms into a global accountability framework should be driven by the four principles of transparency, inclusiveness, deliberation and responsiveness.
- Multi-level review mechanisms need to ensure participation of all stakeholders, including the most vulnerable and marginalized.
- Align the four-year reporting cycle with the programmatic and political cycles of other UN mechanisms, such as the QCPR.
- There is a need to have national and thematic reviews that feed into one coherent system, with the HLPF as the over-arching structure at the global level with a four year reporting cycle.
- Multi-level review mechanisms need to include the voice of children and young people.
- Multi-level review mechanisms could include national oversight/coordinating body or special rapporteurs who engages in monitoring the implementation of the post-2015 agenda.
- “Communication” and “Data” will be important in the post-2015 agenda.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

[TAP Network Review & Accountability Position Paper](#): This 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.

[Recommendations from Beyond 2015 on the Accountability, Monitoring & Review framework for the Post-2015 Agenda](#): These recommendations focus on a multi-level participatory accountability mechanism. The paper highlights that the greater the levels of critical scrutiny, capacity, cooperation and coordination in this framework, the more effective the post-2015 agenda will prove to be.

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