

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION
*Participatory Monitoring for Accountability for the Post-2015 agenda –
Insights from the Regional Experience*
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Panel 1: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE UNIVERSAL AGENDA

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Madame Chairperson, fellow Panelists, distinguished Delegates,

UNICEF and UN Women, supported by UNDP and the governments of Canada, Peru and the Republic of Korea, are co-leading on behalf of the UN Development Group a consultation process devoted to Participatory Monitoring for Accountability for post-2015 agenda. Our objective is to document how more accountable, transparent, and responsible governance is being pursued at national and local levels, and to explore how participation and empowerment can improve accountability in the Post-2015 agenda.

The consultation, which started in April, has included evidence gathering through four distinct activities: (a) **e-discussion** on participatory practices in the post-2015 agenda; (b) **global public call** for papers related to participatory methodologies and good practices; (c) **literature review**; and (d) **national-level consultations** focusing on in-country participatory practices and initiatives.

I would like to share with you some lessons which have emerged so far from this still on-going process:

One message is standing above all: marginalized and excluded members of the society and those living in poverty should be at the centre of the post-2015 agenda. The post-2015 process and results should be owned by the beneficiaries, with involved parties being held accountable for reaching the set goals and targets.

Human Rights Framework must guide all phases and stages of the Post-2015 process and outcomes, and countries should be held accountable for the commitments they make. A human rights approach calls for more representative data to be collected to monitor progress. It is particularly critical to strengthen the voice and influence of women, children and youth at national and local level monitoring and accountability mechanisms, as well as those who are often excluded from these processes, including minorities, people with disabilities, people living in poverty and other marginalized groups.

Local solutions and ownership of the development process are key success factors

One of the contributors to the e-consultation noted, “a major shortcoming of the MDGs was the failure to localize...a front-end investment in communication and local analysis and planning will be key.”

Inclusive participation is critical as it strengthens clarity on aspirations and empowers people to shape their own futures. Local development solutions and good participatory practices should

be scaled up and featured more prominently in the post-2015 development agenda. This will require transparent and inclusive accountability systems that ensure full participation of all people, especially women and girls.

Another theme that emerged was related to ***changing role and impact of Civil Society Organizations***. CSOs play a critical role as connectors and facilitators, in mobilizing participation and bringing voices from the communities, especially the voices of the poorest and most marginalized. They can also play a critical role in monitoring and holding public institutions to account.

Citizens' engagement in participatory monitoring mechanisms will work if people are ***aware of the existence of such mechanisms***. This is often not the case. While some countries in the region have numerous participatory mechanisms, (*such as citizen's bureaus, consultative hearings, electronic petitions, internet and mobile applications, sector-specific modalities such as the portal for monitoring municipal budgets, directorates for an anti-corruption initiative, help-lines for women and children, an internet portal for persons with disabilities, to name a few*), low level of awareness of the existence of these mechanisms, especially at the local level, limits their utilization.

Participation **cannot be a one-off exercise**. People need to be engaged from the start as a way to build trust and empower communities' participation in planning and in identification of needs and solutions (for example in the drafting of the local action plans for the communities). Participation in decision making and monitoring of implementation needs to be institutionalized. Periodic and timely monitoring must effectively contribute to improved policy design and implementation.

Access to information is key to supporting citizens' involvement. In addition to face-to-face meetings or public hearings targeting those otherwise excluded, internet has broadened access to information (at least in urban areas), and innovative opportunities for public engagement, including social media and mobile devices, are also increasingly utilized (mainly by young people). At the same time, the availability, accuracy, and reliability of official data has been identified as an issue.

For better monitoring and accountability, data should be disaggregated, not only by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, but also by areas which are more difficult to quantify at present, for example violence against women and girls. The MDGs have been criticized for their lack of accountability for progress, as well as their focus on national averages as measures of progress, which has often masked growing disparities at sub-national levels and slow or non-existent progress in realizing the rights of the excluded members of the society.

In short, the consultation process has shown how more accountable, transparent and responsive governance is being pursued at country and local levels, using participatory monitoring and citizen-led real time monitoring activities. These serve as valuable inspiration and guidance for scaling up participation in monitoring for accountability, and as input to clarify accountabilities under the post-2015 agenda in ways that empower every citizen to participate as a proactive actor in shaping our common future.

Investment in the real participation of children and adolescents is essential. Our goal must be an inclusive, universal and transformative post-2015 agenda, a global society that truly leaves no one behind. Thank you.