

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION

Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Regional Dimension

15-16 (a.m.) September 2014, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room XVII

Panel 4: SCOPE AND PROCESS OF REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM

Tuesday, 16 September, 10:00 – 11:30

Topic of the panel

The panel will discuss what a regional accountability mechanism for the post-2015 agenda could look like. This entails the questions of what should be reviewed at the regional level, and who the actors in the accountability process should be. There are different possibilities in terms of substantive scope and frequency of the regional process. Also, accountability can take different forms, ranging from more basic monitoring to more comprehensive reviews. In addition, an important question is the role of the UN system and other stakeholders (civil society, private sector, academia) in the process.

Questions for discussion

The following questions may be used by the moderator in guiding the discussions and by panellists to prepare their interventions:

- What could regional accountability for the post-2015 agenda look like?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of carrying out monitoring and accountability reviews at the regional level?
- What types of accountability work are best placed at the regional level (e.g., data collection and analysis, progress reports, review meetings, peer reviews)?
- What could be the role of different stakeholders at the regional level (governments, UN system (Regional Commissions, Regional UNDG), civil society, private sector)?

Speaking points to be addressed by Michel Amand

- Ministerial declaration adopted at the second meeting HLPF in July has reiterated the importance of the regional dimension for SD, as it was acknowledged in Rio in 2012, and invited the regional commissions to contribute to the work of ECOSOC and the HLPF including through annual regional meetings
- Regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation of SD commitments and objectives within the future post 2015 agenda will be conducted by HLPF starting in 2016 and will have to rely a.o. on a well-performing monitoring and accountability mechanism
- Such a multi-layered mechanism needs the involvement of UN member states including their parliaments but also a broad participation of civil society and stakeholders including the private sector (importance of Rio P10 and the principles of UNECE Aarhus Convention in that context)
- To do so a regular reporting by UN MS is essential but it needs to be integrated with existing mechanisms (like the ones established as regards implementation of national/subnational SD strategies) in order to avoid additional costly and time-consuming administrative burden
- Pending the outcome of the discussions on the role of regional commissions in the post 2015 agenda and the articulation with HLPF, cooperation with the EU and other international organizations, UN bodies, agencies or programmes will be important for UNECE
- Regional commissions like UNECE offers a useful platform to exchange experiences, good practices, to facilitate capacity building but also to address joint challenges at pan-European or transboundary level like:
 - transboundary cooperation on water cooperation
 - green economy that UNECE has undertaken to promote through a.o. the EfE process and the GE toolbox
 - measuring SD as a follow-up of the joint UNECE/Eurostat/OECD recommendations adopted in 2013, proposing a.o. a measurement framework and a set of indicators that could be used for international comparison
 - sustainable housing in line with the current discussions about the possibility of developing a legal framework
- UNECE structure, its committees, bodies and MEAs could also offer opportunities to facilitate data collection through harmonization, validation and capacity building activities and sharing in a cost effective way and in cooperation with other interested partners (cf UNEP, UNITAR, OECD, etc)
- Such data gathering process could benefit from the ongoing development of electronic shared environment information systems across the pan European region
- The regional level could play an important role to lay the groundwork for peer reviews (or mutual assessment) in order to evaluate the policies and practices put in place to achieve the SDGs. Indeed, synergies and similarities among countries exist at a regional level (comparable development situations, similar transboundary issues and challenges) and the countries might benefit further from peer reviews at this level. UNECE and OECD large experience in that area will be essential.