



Towards an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

Perspectives from the UNECE region

Questionnaire

Please complete

COUNTRY: CROATIA

AUTHORITY: MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

NAME OF FOCAL POINT: ZLATKO PAVICIC

FUNCTION:

TELEPHONE: + 385 1 6109468

E-MAIL: zlatko.pavicic@mingo.hr

Please return the completed questionnaire by FRIDAY, 8 AUGUST 2014 to:

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Development Policies and Cross-Sectoral Coordination Unit**

E-Mail: dpccu@unece.org

The electronic version of the questionnaire is available at:

www.unece.org/post-2015/regionalministerialconsultation2014.html

For questions or assistance, please contact Mr. Michael KUNZ at the UNECE secretariat

(michael.kunz@unece.org; phone +41-22 917 24 45)

I. Objective

This questionnaire is meant to collect regional perspectives from a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the UNECE region, including member States, civil society, private sector, and other regional organizations on elements for an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda and the potential for a regional framework for accountability anchored at the national level and feeding into the global level.

The UNECE Secretariat will compile and synthesize the responses received. The synthesis report will be submitted as an input from the region to inform the Stocktaking Event of the President of the General Assembly (New York, 8-9 September 2014) on the elements for a monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda. The synthesis report will also

serve as a background document for the Regional Ministerial Consultation on “*Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda – The Regional Dimension*”, to be held on 15 and 16 (a.m.) September 2014 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva that will be convened upon the request of the Secretary-General.

*“**Accountability** for a universal agenda can be understood as the joint commitment of the global community to monitor, evaluate, share and discuss progress towards the implementation of the agreed goals. An accountability framework could allow each Government and development actor to contribute to and benefit from a better global understanding of challenges and effective strategies. The concept of accountability extends beyond Government, and applies to all stakeholders being held accountable for their role in implementing a universal development agenda, within their respective governance frameworks and scope of responsibility.”*

Source: Background note for the interactive dialogue on elements for a monitoring and accountability framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, convened by the President of the General Assembly on 1 May 2014

II. Background

In July 2013, the General Assembly decided on the format and organizational aspects of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in its resolution 67/290. Paragraph 8 of 67/290 “*Decides* that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.” The reviews shall be voluntary, state-led and provide a platform for partnerships.

Recognizing that a transformative, people-centred and universal post-2015 agenda requires an accountability framework at all levels, the President of the General Assembly convened an interactive dialogue on 1 May 2014, to address the “Elements for a monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda.” The dialogue reaffirmed the importance of an accountability framework at the regional level as countries in the same region shared similar challenges and were likely to make greater progress by collectively addressing them. The [background note](#) prepared to that event elaborated on a number of experiences with accountability mechanisms, including through peer reviews at the regional level.

The [main messages](#) that emerged from the dialogue were:

(a) a universal and transformative agenda would require a strengthened accountability framework that is inclusive, participatory and engages people at all levels; (b) a decentralized system of accountability would ensure that all stakeholders take ownership and are incentivized to share, evaluate and adjust their policies; (c) national and regional accountability frameworks need to be anchored in a global accountability framework that is simple, focused and provide clarity on the roles of different actors; and (d) a multi-layered approach could work with parliaments at the national level, peer review mechanisms at the regional level, and with HLPF and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the global level.

III. Questionnaire on Elements for an Accountability Framework at the Regional Level

A) Overall accountability mechanism

As noted above, there is an emerging view that the accountability mechanism for the post-2015 development agenda should be multi-layered.

Question 1: In general terms, what should an overall accountability mechanism involving the national, regional and global level look like and what could be the role of the regional level in this mechanism?

In the area of the EU energy and energy efficiency, certain general systems, i.e. accountability mechanisms have been established and they enable monitoring and control of energy production, distribution and utilisation in different sectors, but also with in respect of energy sources, as well as the detailed consumption review.

At the national level, every Member State indicates with statistical data achievements of the national economy in the sector of production and consumption of energy and energy sources on annual basis. In comparison to general economic indicators, and in accordance with established methodological approach, the standard and uniform mechanisms of monitoring the situation in the energy sector have been enabled. In order to improve the system of accountability for realisation of established goals on the national level for the purpose of monitoring the impact of energy and energy materials to the established programmes and SDGs of the national economies, the development of national monitoring systems should be taken into consideration.

At the regional level, i.e. in the EU area, a comprehensive programme of monitoring and control has been developed, ensuring implementation of established goals for saving energy, energy sources and CO₂ emission under the established regulation and National Action Plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. The realisation of targets established under EU 2020 and setting the joint measures and programmes on the Climate – Energy Programme 2020-2030 identify instruments for a responsible control of the programme implementation on the regional level, but it also has a category for the control of MDGs within the period 2020-2030-2050.

At the global level, the statistical and mathematical methodologies should be standardised, including procedures and mechanisms that are used by national and regional bodies when indicating their achievements, with an aim of a possible comparison and analyses enabling correction of the control mechanism, if this is required for realisation of MDGs. Alignment of views on the global level should be carried out via UN expert teams, and making decisions at the global level should be carried out through the High Level Political Forum and aligned through the UN Economic and Social Council.

In the past, review of progress on sustainable development was carried out under the auspices of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). In the area of development, monitoring and

accountability under the MDG framework has been carried out through various mechanism and procedures.

Question 2: What are the major lessons from progress reviews and MDG accountability that can inform and help improve the post-2015 accountability framework? Have CSD progress reviews and MDG accountability been adequate and if not how should this be different for the SDGs?

Realisation of the progress of particular national measures and realisation of established goals is shown through National Action Programmes, and indicators are methodologically set by national bodies which monitor the statistical data, i.e. through arranged methodologies implemented for calculation of the particular indicators with an aim of a better insight in realisation of measures of the National Programmes of energy efficiency and their correlation with the general economic indicators. Standardisation of statistical indicators of the same methodology would significantly contribute to a better understanding and a better comparison of indicators individually, and thus to a better understanding of the achieved SDGs. Furthermore, the global MDGs and their regional level of achievement should be methodologically comparable.

It is necessary on the global but also on lower levels to take a position that unambiguously indicates and determines that achievement of results in accordance with the goals of national and regional programmes depends on development of a particular country, its economic structure and education level. It is therefore necessary to observe sustainability of development goals on the national level, i.e. the regional level if the development level of a particular region is similar by structure and economic possibilities, and by the national economy power of each country respectively.

Achievement of MDGs is fundamental on the global level, and in realisation of MDGs in accordance with their possibilities, particular regions should contribute to the potential balancing by achievement of results on the regional level, and thus make contribution to the general progress.

B) Nature of possible review at the regional level

Scope of the review

In terms of the substantive scope of the review, there are a number of options. For instance, the progress towards all SDGs could be reviewed in one review cycle. Alternatively, the review could be limited to certain selected SDGs or themes. It might also involve other existing commitments that are not directly part of, but nevertheless relevant to the SDGs. There are also different possibilities in terms of the country coverage. For instance, all member States could be reviewed over a multi-year cycle. Alternatively, only governments volunteering to be reviewed could be included. In addition, the reviews could also cover other stakeholders that have responsibilities for achieving the SDGs (e.g., private sector).

Question 3: What should be reviewed and who should be reviewed?

At the UN level, as well as at the regional level, control mechanisms should be established that will contribute to the achievement of the set MDGs through teams for carrying out specific tasks in the area of energy and energy sources, opportunities and rights to access and use, and through special advisers on specific issues concerning energy, energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources. It will also contribute to the understanding and benefit of controlled use of energy resources, uniformity of access to technological solutions and their use in the achievement of the set goals.

The same qualified persons or the UN expert groups should be able to encourage, monitor, control and regulate the implementation of the set regional objectives in the area of energy, energy efficiency, energy security and sustainability of energy systems at the regional level.

We emphasize that energy security, sustainable energy generation, security of all forms of energy supply, the sustainability of the distribution system, the right of access of all potential users and the general acceptability of energy resources as supranational are extremely important.

In order to achieve the MDGs it is particularly important to have thematic regional and global consultations with the UN at professional and expert levels to contribute, by auditing the programme, to easier and better realization of SDGs, and thus MDGs.

Sustainability of the energy sector at all levels is necessary and therefore it is important to monitor the elements that indicate the impact of energy on the individual elements of the economy, life and the development of national standards.

In order to achieve SDG it is necessary to monitor the characteristics and information on national sustainable development, analyse by SWOT method the results within the SDG range and compare it with the best results achieved.

The results of the analysis of national and regional SDG should be discussed at the UN forums on sustainable development and at the same time consider the recommendations and opportunities to improve results and make certain adjustments in order to achieve the MDGs.

Review process

Accountability can take different forms and modalities, ranging from more basic monitoring to more comprehensive reviews and, accordingly, with a different capacity to assist, support and advise governments and other stakeholders in achieving the SDGs:

- Monitoring of data on SDG performance which highlights where progress is and is not on track.
- Analytical reports on SDG implementation in the region which would provide an analysis of best practices and make policy recommendations where progress has been poor.
- Discussions and exchange of experiences and best practices at regional meetings, for instance Regional Forums on Sustainable Development convened by UNECE.

- Review of progress of members States by other member States (peer reviews).

Monitoring of data and tracking progress against the agreed goals will be the basis of any further analysis or review process. Different information and inputs will be needed for the various types of reviews, e.g. quantitative data or qualitative assessments and policy analysis. Different parts of the UN system (Regional Commission, the inter-agency Regional Coordination Mechanism and the regional UNDG, specialized agencies on specific SDGs) could play a role in the various reviews. While the review process will be state-led, it will also benefit from the contributions of other stakeholders (civil society, the private sector, academia).

Question 4: What type(s) of review should be conducted and what kind of information should it be based on? What should be the role of the UN system and other stakeholders in the process?

Supervision of the set SDGs should include information relating to the characteristics of potential targets that reflect insight into the progress made on all relevant levels, from generation, transformation, transmission, as well as consumption of energy, energy sources and water. This monitoring should be carried out even in the security segment of the energy market, sustainability and acceptability of costs and prices of energy and energy sources.

Analysis of the results achieved should rely on basic economic indicators in order to comprehend the results of SDG at the national level. The results achieved and the goals attained should be considered in relation to the MDGs at the national and regional levels.

The basic control role of the UN system and other stakeholders in the process of achieving SDGs and MDGs should be based on the exchange of experiences and the use of results of the best examples. UN regular consultations through the UNECE development teams and with the help of the UNECE expert groups should be a source of guidance and encouragement of improvement of development processes implementation in favor of achieving the UN MDGs.

The UN system should take a position that allows the implementation of measures and programmes that contribute to the achievement of the MDG targets in the energy sector, including the targets of emissions reduction. Also, it is important to set such standards and rules that minimize the use of energy and energy sources in the achievement of national policies that are contrary to the achievement of the MDGs. Energy and energy sources should not be space of national and personal poverty. The UN system should prevent the use of energy and energy sources for individual goals that do not contribute to the strengthening of the MDGs.

Peer review mechanisms are considered to be an effective instrument to strengthen accountability in a multilateral context with strong ownership by participating governments. Some examples are the [Universal Periodic Review](#) conducted under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, the [OECD Peer Reviews](#), ECOSOC's [Annual Ministerial Review](#), the WTO [Trade Policy Review Mechanism](#) and the [UNECE Environmental Performance Reviews](#).

Question 5: If you favour peer reviews, what could such reviews at the regional level look like and what existing models do you consider relevant?

Linkage with global and national reviews and other mechanisms

A regional accountability mechanism needs to be part of a multi-layered structure with a strong national and global dimension. This requires regional reviews to be anchored at the national level and to feed into the global level. Reviews at the global level will be carried out by the High-level Political Forum. For example, the regional level could therefore provide a regional synthesis to the global deliberations and align its theme with the global review. It could also go beyond merely complementing the HLPF and be more systematic and ongoing, taking into account the regional priorities and particularly transboundary issues. A key pillar of the overall system will be national accountability. National SDG reports, prepared by governments and supported by the UN Country Teams and the UNDG agencies as appropriate, could play a key role in the review process and provide important inputs into the regional review. National parliaments could also be involved. In addition, it will be critical to build on and integrate existing accountability mechanisms in the post-2015 follow-up process, for example those under relevant existing legal instruments or programme activities or carried out in other fora.

Question 6: How should the reviews at national, regional and global level be linked? And how can existing accountability mechanisms be integrated?

Reports on national and regional levels should be connected through a system of national statistics offices. At the regional EU level, a system for monitoring results in achieving the goals set for energy efficiency is established through the system of reports on the results on National Action Plans achievement.
