

**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 2: LESSONS FROM EXISTING MECHANISMS**

*Monday, 15 September, 15:00 – 16:30*

**Panelist: Mr. Laszlo Borbely, President of Committee for Foreign Policy,  
Parliament of Romania**

**Questions:**

- *What are the major lessons from CSD progress reviews and MDG accountability that can help improve the post-2015 accountability framework?*
- *What lessons can be drawn regarding data and statistics, and how can they be improved in order to strengthen monitoring?*
- *What elements of existing reviews could work for the post-2015 agenda, and what requires adaptation or improvement?*
- *What are the advantages and disadvantages of peer reviews and what existing models are considered relevant?*
- *How can the wealth of existing mechanisms with their different methods and periodicity be used, adjusted and integrated in the post-2015 accountability framework?*

**Intervention:**

Mr. Executive Secretary,

Honourable Ministers,

Members of the Diplomatic Community,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at this Regional Consultation on Accountability for Post - 2015 Agenda. I personally consider that this discussions on lessons learned to date on international global partnership on **accountability and monitoring** would beneficial contribute on feeding the process of defining the appropriate mechanisms to sit alongside the implementation of future Sustainable Development Goals.

I have the privilege to share my previous experience as Chairman of the last operational Session of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development – CSD19, as well as my previous governmental portfolios – as minister for environment and minister for development of Romania.

What should be clear from nowadays approach of universality on the ongoing process of creating new sustainable development architecture is that **no single organization will emerge to define the rules and carry out the mandate of sustainable development.**

**The leadership challenge for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be to work with that complexity**, while building the necessary vision and legitimacy **that will link Sustainable Development Goals more clearly and directly to the organizational, financial and other levels** that can deliver or facilitate it at different levels and in different settings.

**Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was a good platform on a broader engagement:** governments and stakeholders together on implementing the ambitious objectives of Agenda 21.

There is still a need for a stronger role of civil society and private sector to be parts of the reviews. Also, sub-national level is important on achieving national and regional accountability.

Comparing with CSD, we should **enhance monitoring and accountability of future SDGs with full involvement of financial, economic and trade institutions.**

The reviews of implementation which the **HLPF** will conduct as of 2016 are a tool not only to assure accountability, but also to accelerate sustainable development progress. They can allow governments to assess how they are organized and function as well as to learn from peers. As the post-2015 development agenda is universal, all countries, richer and poorer, must engage in the reviews.

**At regional level, we must ensure national ownership to the reviews**, and thus, **should build on their experience and the knowledge of domestic institutions, such as parliaments and the national Courts of Audit.** All actors should be held accountable. Monitoring must be forward looking.

The overall accountability mechanism could be inspired from the existing mechanisms dealing with human rights – Universal Periodic Review (*Human Rights Council*), environment – **UNECE Environmental Performance Review** as well as from the **ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review.**

The regional level could on one hand **synthesize the inputs from the national level and on the other hand seek identify the common challenges facing the region.**

**CSD progress reviews and MDG accountability demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of approaching a comprehensive area of sustainable development in a multilateral framework with the UN system support. At the same time, the two processes supported the national ownership and accountability.**

**Taking into account the universality of the future SDGs as well as their very comprehensive thematic areas, the progress review of implementation should be focused on the substance without going into details.**

All the countries, both developed and developing should be reviewed on a voluntary basis over a multi-year cycle - to be determined depending on the future SDGs.

In order to avoid a high pressure on governments in terms of staff and financial resources is most suitable to review all SDGs in one review cycle but not going into details. Reviews should be comprehensive, not just measuring the amount of finance, but also the effectiveness of finance and the measure taken to mobilize finance from all sources.

Peer reviews could be an option but the most relevant is to have a review from governments presenting the stage of implementation of the SDGs and what SDGs are on track and what are not on track.

The **High Level Political Forum** will carry out reviews at global level avoiding to go into details in order to present a comprehensive picture of the implementing status of SDGs.

**Recommendations:**

- The HLPF has the potential to provide a long-term strategic policy framework, and policy direction in order to promote stable, balanced, and sustainable development; to ensure consistency between the activities and policy goals of the various international organizations dealing with economic, social and development issues, including the IFIs and the WTO.
- **HLPF would be very well placed to provide a focused and unified message to all UN organizations on sustainable development.**

- **At the regional level, the most appropriate could be to focus on the specificity of the UNECE region** (there are very important differences among the other regions e.g. Africa, Asia, Latin America, in terms of level of development and priorities), approaching common challenges of our region.
- It would be better if Member States of a Region will send a unified message to UN system organizations on the need to take an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental policies and actions.
- **We should be aware that the ultimate purpose of integration and mainstreaming is to integrate the three dimensions into decision making and policy at multiple levels, including at the national and sub-national level.** Thus, integration also links to capacity building, sharing of best practices, and a knowledge platform for national sustainable development strategies
- **The most pressing challenges of today such as climate change, water, energy, food security, jobs and persistent poverty can only be tackled if we integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development** and make economic growth inclusive, our societies equitable and our resource use sustainable.
- **One of the main functions of the Forum (HLPF) should be the transparent accountability mechanism to monitor commitments and review implementation of the SDGs and post-2015 development agenda.**