

REGIONAL MINISTERIAL CONSULTATION

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

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Panel 3: LINKAGES WITH NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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The international trade union movement believes that global accountability is crucial to ensure a fairer and more equitable governance of development and greater policy coherence between development promotion and human rights' commitments. A global accountability system has to be based on binding commitments and monitoring mechanisms. The commitments around monitoring have to be rooted in the Human Rights Based Approach, the Right to Development—and based on universal standards which allow accountability across the board. This is why international labour standards and other human rights standards have to feature in all aspects of the post-2015 agenda. Accountability mechanisms need to be standards' based.

The ILO supervisory system is a 'living' example of how global accountability mechanisms can work to create a situation where the global level is used to reinforce national action towards compliance. Countries ratify international labour standards that become binding legislation at national level. Through a system of periodic reporting member states and social partners provide information to the ILO supervisory system on how conventions are implemented at national level. Reports issued by ILO experts are then discussed by the ILO tripartite constituents and can provide valuable guidance to a country to ensure compliance with ratified labour standards. Comments from

the ILO supervisory mechanism should therefore become an important source for any future review of progress towards the SDGs.

At national level the review processes must be fully and genuinely participatory of the key actors in development and society at large. While they must reflect the global commitments and be tailored to national contexts, they must also apply universally agreed standards as I just indicated. It is also key that trade unions are fully consulted as part of civil society when it comes to the assessment of the implementation of the future SDGs and strategies to achieve them.

In this regard, social dialogue, which brings together workers' and employers' organisations, is an excellent example of how to ensure ownership at national level and should set an example of how the review processes are carried out. There are fundamental prerequisites that need to be in place for social dialogue to function effectively, including respect for freedom of association and collective bargaining, independent unions and employer's organizations and the institutional capacity of governments to support such a process.

Given the shift in the global development settings, accountability should not be limited to state entities but should also include 'non-state actors', such as private business and multilateral organisations, whose actions directly impact on development processes and human rights. Donors should also be accountable for development results.

An important element of accountability will be the need to strengthen the capacity of countries to collect data to assess progress towards the SDGs. This is particularly important for developing countries where such capacity is often lacking. Quantitative data are certainly important but they will have to be

complemented by qualitative data measuring to what extent people are also enjoying human and labour rights.

Finally, the success of an accountability mechanism will depend on the capacity of such a system, at all levels, to convene different actors, on equal ground to contribute in a genuine and fully participatory manner to the review of the SDG and their implementation. Governments must not shy away from honest assessments and should accurately report progress—this is the only way to generate the necessary action to see that commitments will be fulfilled.