



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Interactive Dialogue of the President of the General Assembly

“Elements for an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development
Agenda”

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Excellencies,
Deputy-Secretary-General
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to the end of this interactive dialogue in which we heard many insightful and inspiring contributions, and I would like to thank the moderators and panellists for their presentations. Please allow me also to extend my appreciation to the Secretariat and in particular to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for their support throughout this event.

Your interventions today brought forth many interesting ideas and experiences, which will certainly contribute to our reflections on the possible elements for a monitoring and accountability framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. There was general agreement that such a framework is necessary to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and some have called for this issue to be discussed in other fora such as the High Level Political Forum and at the regional level.

Many have underscored that it should go beyond the MDGs framework and close the gaps that were not covered. We heard that it should not only be a tool for tracking progress, but should also be tightly linked with policy and implementation. In this regard, it was highlighted that the framework should be elaborated in tandem with the sustainable development goals.

We also heard that a monitoring and accountability framework should promote continuous learning, adaptation and replication across regions and over time. Some pointed to the need for more robust and transparent information to support evidence-based analysis, drawing on user-friendly, accessible and disaggregated data sets. The role of the UN in supporting a data revolution was underscored.

The emergence of new actors, such as civil society, the private sector and parliaments was highlighted. In this respect, some underlined the challenge of holding all

stakeholders accountable for their commitments, while allowing them to play their respective roles. We heard about the need for increased business accountability and transparency in areas such as environment, labour relations, gender equality or corruption. The importance of effective youth and citizen engagement was also underscored as well as the potential of multi-stakeholder governance systems.

Some noted the lessons learned from the past years of experience and pointed that monitoring works best among peer countries, mostly at the regional level. Regional peer review mechanisms have emerged in various fields of sustainable development, trade and development cooperation.

To address the challenges of ensuring coherence and coordination in an increasingly complex development arena, some pointed to the benefits of a decentralized system of accountability to ensure that all stakeholders take ownership, and are incentivized to share, evaluate and adjust their policies. A multi-layered approach could work at the national level with parliaments, at the regional level with peer-reviews mechanisms and at the global level with the High-level Political Forum and the strengthened ECOSOC and its related bodies. Their respective roles in reviewing overall progress, emerging challenges and global development cooperation were emphasized.

Many of you recognized that while a central accountability framework could not substitute each and every issue-specific accountability framework, it should not add to the burden of reviews and reporting. Rather, it should build on existing mechanisms by borrowing elements from the more robust systems. In this regard, we heard insightful presentations on existing accountability and monitoring frameworks in areas such as human rights or corporate sustainability reporting and accountability. The importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and transparency was underscored.

Finally, we heard that a new accountability framework should be intrinsically linked to the renewed global partnership for development, and ensure that related commitments – past, present and future – are honoured and promises are kept.

As we close this interactive dialogue, I am confident that the many ideas and experiences we heard today will form a useful contribution to the ongoing discussions

to shape the post-2015 development agenda. In the coming days, a summary of the key messages emerging from this meeting will be prepared and shared with Member States. The stocktaking event I will host in September will also provide an opportunity to further elaborate on your reflections.

Excellencies,

Our commitment to eradicate poverty and to set the world on a sustainable path is an ambitious goal, the promise of a life change for millions of people around the world. The expectations are undeniably high and history will not be the only judge of our achievements. If we are to keep our promise of a better future, we will need a strong monitoring and accountability framework to ensure that we learn from each other, from our successes and from our failures and that every day, we strive to do a better job.

Thank you.
