



Building Block on Results and Accountability

Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

Busan, Republic of Korea

30 November 2011

I. Objective

In recent years, there has been an increasing demand for greater results information in order to more clearly assess the impact of development cooperation and its impact on inclusive growth and poverty reduction. Anecdotal evidence highlights how this can create excessive demands for data which cannot be satisfied by national statistical systems. Because of this, there are numerous examples around the world of ad-hoc data collection that bypasses national systems and undermines national capacities, which in turn raises questions about data quality and integrity. This session considered unfinished business and remaining challenges in the results and accountability agenda and proposed a building block to implement Busan commitments.

II. Participants

- **Andrew MITCHELL**, Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom (Moderator)
- **Haruhiko KURODA**, President, Asian Development Bank
- **John RWANGOMBWA**, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda
- **Henrique BANZE**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Mozambique
- **Mustafa Haidi MKULO**, Minister of Finance, Tanzania
- **Janice O'SULLIVAN**, Minister of State for Trade and Development, Ireland
- **Beverley ODA**, Minister of International Co-operation, Canada
- **Maina KIAI**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association

III. Key issues discussed

The Asian Development Bank reported on the conclusions of the sessions on results from the previous day and called for an effective public sector to deliver results at the political and technical levels. Communities of Practice have a strong role to play in nurturing change agents. Results at the country level are defined by results frameworks. Involving the private sector and civil society organisations is essential. Transparent, quality data are crucial to manage for results. Both financing and reporting should be results-based. Partners must respect Paris Declaration principles. Agreements should be defined and led by countries. The Asian Development Bank itself has developed a corporate-wide development results framework.

Rwanda emphasised the importance of channelling domestic and external resources through country systems to ensure results: aid cannot be channelled through parallel systems. Resources must be aligned with results. This would require the following from recipients and donors:

- *recipients*: build public financial management systems, ensure implementation of plans and value for money, fight corruption, ensure accountability.



- *donors*: channel resources through country systems, respect common performance assessment frameworks.

Mozambique commented on its framework for accountability which is based on the country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and Paris Declaration principles. Consultations are held with stakeholders in parliament, civil society organisations, and development partners — the mechanisms for this consultation are through annual reporting, a poverty observatory, annual joint reviews with partners, and a joint assessment of the performance of both partners and the country. However, it would be important to find the incentives for partners to be accountable — currently, if partners do not comply with principles, there is no disincentive.

According to Tanzania, countries and partners must continue to reform aid management. Transparency is a powerful ingredient of mutual accountability. Statistical capacity should be developed to enhance mutual accountability for results, which should be ensured by independent monitoring groups.

Ireland: Political leadership and country systems must be in place. We are accountable to citizens, so we must communicate clearly. We must engage parliamentarians in their oversight role and strengthen civil society organisations and the media. Men and women must have an equal voice in determining the path of development. We should commit to a framework in each country to ensure better use of our resources.

Canada: To achieve long-term sustainability, all parties must put results at the forefront, targeting results/outcomes; all parties must be willing to be held accountable on achieving results. Donors are under pressure to do more and to produce concrete results. To do so, they must help countries build capacities to develop plans. Accountability should be seen as a means of making interventions more effective and to provide better value per dollar. A limited number of indicators should be established while ensuring that the necessary statistical capacity and data are in place.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right of Peaceful Assembly drew on the conclusions of the rights-based approach session from the day before and commented that there has been progress in the recognition of rights. The rights-based approach is not just morally right — it also works. It should not be solely the responsibility of civil society organisations but of all. It involves widening the consultation process to solicit the voice of all development actors and enables the move from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness. Disaggregated data on marginalised groups are crucial to facilitate this consultation.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation called for an inclusive, country-led, results-focused approach to development which includes the voice of women. The Global Fund also called for a more inclusive model for development and better measurement and management of results, with results frameworks helping reenergise country partnerships and hold together partners.

IV. Main conclusions and next steps

The moderator closed the panel by commenting that the building block enjoys an impressive list of supporters. He encouraged participants to retain a focus on results to maintain public support for development. The systems of accountability must be built up in countries and incentives for better results clearly demonstrated.