



Women's Major Group Recommendations for Accountability, Monitoring, and Review of the Post-2015 Agenda
May 18th, 2015

Principles

- Universal in scope
- Based on Human Rights
- Open, democratic, transparent, and participatory
- Grounded in Common but Differentiated Responsibilities
- Monitoring and accountability should be an integral part of the Agenda, not an optional add-on
- Promotes joint or mutual accountability

Characteristics

- Promote acceptance, credibility, ownership and effectiveness
- Data-driven, evidence-based, and verifiable
- Regular, timely, and results-oriented
- Facilitate dialogue
- Integrated approach
- Draws from existing best practices such as the Human Rights' Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Architecture of Accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda

The accountability architecture for the Post-2015 Agenda must be multifaceted and reflect the key principles and characteristics outlined above. States should recognize that by participating in accountability mechanisms for the political commitments under the new goals—including by rigorously monitoring progress, correcting setbacks, hearing from stakeholders and people affected and addressing their concerns—they are helping to ensure implementation at all levels.

Review Mechanisms for the Post-2015 Agenda

All review mechanisms should be grounded in principles of respect for and protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including sexual and reproductive rights, in accordance with the principles of equality and equity, gender equality, **free, prior and informed consent**, transparency, accountability and rule of law.

National Level Monitoring and Review

- National-level reviews should be the cornerstone of accountability for the Post-2015 Agenda

- Create a **national action plan** for implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, taking into account the state's particular circumstances but also providing ambitious benchmarks that reflect the state's human rights obligations
- National action plans will provide further mechanisms for civil society participation, transparency, and accountability
- Develop national-level targets and indicators, in line with global-level targets and indicators, tailored to their particular circumstances
- Establish a new body or appoint an existing body or bodies that is dedicated to conduct monitoring and review of implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda.
- Coordinate with regional and global accountability bodies
- Reports at least once each year on their progress in implementing their national action plans and the Post-2015 Agenda overall
- Consult with and include the views of a wide range of civil society organizations involved in implementing or monitoring the Post-2015 Agenda

Regional-level Monitoring and Review

- Transform regional preparatory meetings into periodical reviews at the regional level through Regional Commissions meetings
- Share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in implementation among countries with similar development backgrounds and histories
- Identify regional-level trends and challenges, as well as strategies to address them, including through cross-border approaches;
- Facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation to accelerate implementation, as well as other means of implementation; and
- Identify regional-level priorities for the HLPF
- Ensure mechanism for participation of civil society organizations, other constituencies and major groups

Global-Level Monitoring and Review

- High Level Political Forum (HLPF) should serve as the main venue for "follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments."
- A core mechanism for the HLPF's work on follow-up and review should be **universal peer review** that builds on existing mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the Human Rights Council
- This voluntary, state-led review can help to incentivize action to implement the post-2015 development agenda, at the national level, regional level and globally by increasing pressure on countries internally and among peers to show positive results
- Global review calls for State review three times between 2016 and 2030
- Comprehensive reporting that feeds into reviews, including member state reports that are developed through national accountability processes; reports from major groups, recognized constituencies and rights holders; as well as *United Nations reports*, summarizing the assessments of UN agencies as well as the outcomes of other relevant reviews
- Sufficient support and meeting time for the HLPF, including sufficient meeting time to conduct 40-50 reviews each year and an adequately staffed, permanent secretariat; and
- Open, participatory, and transparent modalities and a meaningful role for the major groups and recognized constituencies, and rights holders

- A web of effective monitoring and accountability where the HLPF review should be complemented and informed by efforts at the national and regional levels

The Women's Major Group places a high premium on ensuring accountability for the commitments made in the Post-2015 Agenda, to ensure full and human rights-based implementation of that Agenda. A strong system of accountability should include:

- **Transparent accountability and reporting mechanisms** for all stakeholders involved in financing sustainable development, including UN agencies, international financial and trade institutions, implementing agencies, transnational corporations, and other relevant actors in the private sector and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations
- **Strong systems to collect transparent, disaggregated, and ethically collected data.** At a minimum, data should be disaggregated by age, sex, gender, geography, income level, race and ethnicity to ensure that sustainable development programs are inclusive of people in all their diversity
- Data should be **quantitative and qualitative**, assessing both development outcomes and processes by which those outcomes are achieved, in order to ensure conformance with human rights obligations. Data must be ethically gathered, with full confidentiality guarantees, in particular where data relates to stigmatized or marginalized groups
- **A means of implementation framework** that reflects the various types of resources needed to achieve sustainable development
- **Private sector accountability**, including for transnational corporations, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks
- Any partnerships for sustainable development **must respect Extra-territorial obligations and compliance with human rights standards**, which provide States with guidance for regulations of transnational corporations, other business enterprises and hold inter-governmental organizations accountable for their impact
- Create a binding corporate accountability mechanism to monitor the human rights impacts of private sector activity overall, and particularly in the context of the Post-2015 Agenda.
- **Adequate funds for independent civil society participation** in the accountability and Monitoring framework
- **Stronger capacity building and more resources** for the monitoring and accountability of developed country policies that are key to the success of the new development agenda.
- **The need for international action to meet the SDGs**, strong global review mechanisms are necessary, which can be modelled on the UPRs for human rights. Since sustainable development is multi-sectoral, such reviews will require the United Nations to convene the highest level of political decision-making of all key global institutions.