



United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# **The 4<sup>th</sup> DCF survey on national mutual accountability: Getting ready for the post-2015 world**

**Planning workshop for policy makers and practitioners**

**8 April 2015, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Rooms 302-303, Songdo Convensia, Incheon, Republic of Korea**

## **Draft concept note and agenda**

Mutual accountability is a concept arising from the global discussions on financing for development. If fully implemented, mutual accountability between partners in development cooperation can:

- make a marked difference in how partners share knowledge;
- strengthen their mutual trust; and
- support partners' individual and joint efforts to make different development resources more predictable, targeted and cost-effective.

Such changes, in turn, can help to move the relationship between governments and their international partners in development cooperation towards an equal partnership that promotes long-lasting development outcomes.

In practice, only limited progress has been made with mutual accountability (MA) in countries dependent on Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other forms of development cooperation. Ensuring true country ownership and leadership remains a challenge. National stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, parliamentarians and local government officials, have limited input in the design and implementation of existing MA structures.

MA mechanisms initially were tasked to review primarily ODA and its effectiveness, given its importance as main source of international public finance for many developing countries. While ODA remains vital in many contexts, its role has changed. The landscape of development cooperation actors and modalities has diversified significantly.

With the post-2015 development agenda, there is new interest for all governments to reassess how they will handle the complex task of monitoring and review of commitments related to the quantity and quality of development cooperation – from ODA to other sources of public and private finance, and other means of implementation, such as technology facilitation and capacity building.

There is also new opportunity to reenergize and re-engineer efforts around mutual accountability, to ensure that development cooperation becomes a driving and integrating force for sustainable development results.

Since 2008, the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) has reviewed the effectiveness of MA mechanisms and transparency initiatives at national, regional and global levels. To support this effort, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has conducted three global surveys on national MA mechanisms, in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme.

The surveys have provided evidence on the status of these mechanisms and helped to structure their assessment around a number of “MA enablers” – such as national aid policies, locally driven results frameworks, clear institutional structures and inclusive dialogue forums, and transparent and independent information.

Growing evidence on the positive impact of MA enablers makes the case for further investing in MA enablers, especially in countries emerging from conflict and Sub-Saharan Africa, and for rooting such efforts in greater democratic ownership and participation from non-executive stakeholders.

DCF analysis has shown that, in a post-2015 world, governments with weak finance and budgeting systems will need particular support to monitor and review development cooperation commitments and results. In this context, MA enablers could become particularly useful tools to help integrate and track progress and results against development cooperation commitments.

A regular independent global assessment of progress towards greater effectiveness and accountability of development cooperation will continue to play an important role post-2015. It will, among others, promote mutual learning and knowledge sharing and shape mutual accountability practices at country level, within the context of a renewed global partnership for sustainable development.

This workshop will examine how the national mutual accountability survey conducted for the DCF can be further adapted to reflect new realities in monitoring and review processes and changing practices related to different enablers of accountability. The 4<sup>th</sup> round of the survey will take place from August to October 2015.

The workshop has four main objectives:

- Explore the role of the DCF survey on national mutual accountability and transparency in supporting country level policy making post-2015.
- Collect suggestions to improve the draft questionnaire for the 4<sup>th</sup> survey.
- Discuss the roll-out and dissemination of the survey (e.g. timing, engaging stakeholders, complementarity with other global processes, such as the GPEDC Global Monitoring Report for the 2016 High-level Meeting).
- Identify outreach activities to communicate purpose and findings of the survey more effectively.

The workshop will be hands on and highly interactive, bringing together a selection of approximately 50 representatives of governments, members of parliament, local and regional governments, civil society organizations, foundations and international organizations engaged in different ways in the design, implementation and assessment of national mutual accountability mechanisms.

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

<b>9.00 - 10.00</b>	<b>MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES: SHARING LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES</b>
	<p><b>Workshop objectives and introduction to DCF survey on national mutual accountability</b> Navid Hanif, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (moderator)</p> <p><b>How does mutual accountability contribute to the effective provision and use of international development cooperation? What role could it play post-2015?</b></p> <p><i>Short presentations (a) illuminating how different enablers of mutual accountability have helped to improve policy making and (b) sharing expectations and hopes for the role that mutual accountability can play post-2015 by</i></p> <p><b>Yanara Chhieng</b>, Secretary-General, Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board</p> <p><b>Adolf Mkenda</b>, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Tanzania</p> <p><b>Purushottam Ghimire</b>, Joint Secretary, National Planning Commission, Nepal</p> <p><b>Geofrey Ekanya</b>, Member of Parliament, Uganda</p> <p><b>Vitalice Meja</b>, Executive Director, Reality of Aid Africa</p> <p><b>Brief Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>10.00 - 11.15</b>	<b>THE DCF SURVEY PROCESS – HOW SHOULD IT BE ADAPTED TO BRING GREATER VALUE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS POST-2015?</b>
	<p><b>MA enablers and information needs- Lessons from early rounds of the DCF survey</b> Matthew Martin, Director, Development Finance International</p> <p><b>Suggestions for the adaptation of the 4<sup>th</sup> survey</b> Angela Bester, Independent Consultant</p> <p><b>Table discussions, preparation of written inputs and brief reporting back in plenary</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What is the current value added of the survey?</li> <li>2) How could the 4<sup>th</sup> survey respond to specific information needs at country level to promote progress on the development cooperation dimensions - financing and other means of implementation – to realize a post-2015 development agenda?</li> <li>3) Should other “MA enablers” be included to better capture the requirements for effective development cooperation post-2015?</li> <li>4) In the draft questionnaire, do any of the concepts or questions need to be clarified, to secure the needed information and avoid misinterpretation?</li> </ol>
<b>11:15 – 12:00</b>	<b>CONDUCTING THE SURVEY AND OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION</b>

	<p><b>Conducting the survey</b> Angela Bester, Independent Consultant</p> <p><b>Moderated interactive discussion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How can be ensured that the survey is being prioritized at country level? How can the survey be used as a vehicle to bring together all country-level actors in development cooperation, including partner representatives and national actors, to discuss the questions and generate responses?</li> </ol> <p><b>Outreach and communication for the 4<sup>th</sup> survey</b> Navid Hanif, Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (moderator)</p> <p><b>Moderated interactive discussion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What are key national, regional and global events to communicate the purpose, substantive focus and, ultimately, findings of this survey exercise, in order to strengthen mutual learning and knowledge sharing, and contribute to policy making?</li> <li>2) How can be ensured that findings of the survey reach all stakeholders?</li> </ol> <p><b>Brief wrap up by moderator</b></p>
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## Background references

Policy brief<sup>1</sup> on monitoring, review and accountability for development cooperation at national level to support implementation of a post-2015 development agenda, based on the scoping study<sup>2</sup> on the same topic prepared for the 2014-2016 cycle of the Development Cooperation Forum.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/policy\\_brief\\_mra\\_national\\_level.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/policy_brief_mra_national_level.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/ma\\_scoping\\_study\\_report.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/pdf15/ma_scoping_study_report.pdf)