



**Remarks**

**by**

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**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> 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”**

**Opening Session**

**New York**

**1 May 2014**

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

I welcome you all to today's Interactive Dialogue. To begin, I would like to extend my appreciation to you, Secretary-General and your Executive Office, for your support in making this Dialogue possible.

I am particularly pleased that, with a little over half of the 68<sup>th</sup> session behind us, you the Member States and the international community at large have become truly focused on the process of elaborating a new development agenda. It is also becoming increasingly clear that with this renewed focus we now stand at the threshold of a fundamental re-orientation of global development efforts. And even at this still early stage in the process, there seems to be widespread agreement that the intrinsic linkage between poverty reduction and sustainable development must guide the design of a post-2015 development agenda that is both unified and universal.

Excellencies,

Today, we will discuss a crucial component needed to make this happen: how to ensure that our efforts and commitments will be closely followed by action and accountability. The move to a universal development agenda will require an accountability mechanism that is comprehensive and flexible, yet robust, holding different actors to account according to their differing responsibilities.

The time to begin this work is now. We cannot and should not wait until all the global goals and targets are agreed upon; rather a global monitoring and accountability framework will need to be an integral part of our ongoing discussions on the design of a post-2015 development agenda and its implementation. And your early contributions will also help in steering the work of the Secretariat and other stakeholders.

The framework we seek must be inclusive, transparent and based on mutual respect; it must promote mutual learning; it will need to contain feedback and/or inputs from the national to the regional and global levels; and it must fully utilize the new potential of data and technology.

Distinguished Delegates,

Making true progress is always at risk without robust accountability. Governments everywhere need to be responsive to their Parliaments, their constituencies, their voters, and to their countries' civil society at large. At the national level, all stakeholders should play a role in ensuring effective oversight for aligning international commitments to national development objectives.

However, these efforts must be anchored at the global level. Any possible post-2015 accountability architecture could consist of an overarching global framework with a number of specific regional or national level mechanisms, reflecting differentiated capabilities. Such a shared global framework could be complemented by multiple frameworks to cater to the diversity of actors.

In my view, a universal and inclusive framework for accountability for the post-2015 development agenda would need to address the following three points:

- It should take into account, and build upon, existing accountability frameworks, which can be used to inform the design of the new architecture. In other words, it is not necessary to build it from scratch. Accountability efforts in the post-2015 agenda should thus be mutually reinforcing with already existing accountability platforms at the global, regional, national and local levels.
- The framework needs to be about much more than simply monitoring compliance. It also needs to promote mutual learning and exchanges vital to genuine partnership and effective implementation.

- The framework should also 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. This partnership must recognize the different capacities, strengths and roles of the actors.

We will review some of these conceptual points in depth at the first session this morning, and my team and I will be taking careful note of your views on these core concepts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new architecture the General Assembly (GA) built around the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in resolutions 67/290 and, 68/1, respectively, is designed to promote an integrated approach to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review has been a valuable global platform to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The HLPF is expected to conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016. The contributions of major groups and other relevant stakeholders are expected to bring significant added value to the work of the HLPF.

With this in mind, another important consideration involves the growing number and significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which will be tasked with implementing elements of the new agenda. As we heard clearly in the joint GA/ECOSOC Partnership Forum, held just a few weeks ago, we must be fully aware of different modalities of accountability when we engage with the private sector and civil society.

While we must clearly embrace those in the private sector and civil society who want to be engaged in our joint post-2015 efforts, engaging these stakeholders in the implementation phase will give the United Nations unprecedented challenges in any accountability framework. Today we hope to gain more understanding from all of you, on how to recognize this increasing role of non-State actors in implementing the

new agenda and how to create accountability mechanisms in these new partnerships models.

Another question we should aim to address today is: how can existing intergovernmental mechanisms, including those of the United Nations, be mobilized at various levels? One of the lessons learned from the past years of experience is 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. In this afternoon's session, we will hear some practical examples of these initiatives, and what the benefits have been. Then we must apply the lessons from this experience to our design of a post-2015 development agenda, and its means of implementation.

We should make full use of the potential of these regional peer review mechanisms. Decentralized systems of accountability will ensure that all stakeholders take ownership, and are incentivized to share, evaluate and adjust their policies. Ultimately we must make sure that our own national efforts to achieve the new sustainable development commitments are embedded in both regional and global frameworks.

Excellencies,

Today's dialogue is a unique occasion for Member States to make a concrete contribution to setting out the accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

We need to work together to construct a framework that will ultimately have a positive impact on development at the national level. In the end, this is where the results of our ambitions will need to be observed, measured, and evaluated.

I look forward to our dialogue, and to your insight and ideas.

Thank you.

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