

# The Social Forum Panel 2: Growth and Accountability (Geneva, 21 July 2005)

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Panel 2

# PRSP Approach

- PRSPs have helped put poverty reduction at the center of the public policy debate in low-income countries.
- Almost 60 countries have PRSPs.
- Country ownership has deepened.
- Broad participation of civil society and other national stakeholders including elected institutions such as Parliaments.

# WB/IMF Review of Progress in PRS Implementation

- Fifth review of this type since the launching of PRS approach in December 1999.
- Not meant to be exhaustive.
- Review cover 5 areas:
  - Strengthening the medium term orientation of the PRS.
  - Utilizing the PRS as an accountability framework.
  - Broadening and deepening meaningful participation.
  - Enhancing linkages between the PRS, planning documents, the MTEF and budgets.
  - Tailoring the PRS approach to conflict-affected and fragile states.

# Accountability Features Prominently in the PRS Approach

## In the Past

- Recipient countries to donors
  - Donors fix objectives/target
  - Use donors procedures and processes
- Little or no accountability to domestic stakeholders

## Current trends and discussions

- Countries to development partners and *vice versa*
  - PRS process successful in encouraging countries to set targets.
- Governments to national stakeholders
  - Role of PRS process

# Others Processes Help Convergence Toward Stronger Accountability

- Monterey Consensus.
- OECD/DAC (Development Assistance Committee) mutual review of aid effectiveness
  - 2005, next 2007.
- Paris High-Level Forum on Harmonization declaration
  - 12 indicators with quantifiable and monitorable targets.
- Peer reviews (African Peer Review Mechanism)
  - Rwanda, Ghana, 7 other countries under review.
- Independent evaluation (Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda)
  - WB is pushing for more of those.

# Balancing Internal and External Accountability

- Government accountability
  - Governments receiving development assistance have are accountable to those who provide assistance
    - Better policy framework
    - Improved service delivery measured by such indicators as MDGs.
  - Accountable to domestic stakeholders (citizens' scorecards).
- Donor accountability
  - PRS approach pushes donors to align their assistance around country priorities
  - In response to improvements by developing countries to their policies and governance, developed countries are expected to provide more and better aid (Monterey consensus).
- No inherent tensions between domestic and external accountabilities, various factors can tilt the balance toward external demands, which at times can be at odds with efforts to enhance the domestic accountability framework.
- Practical issues
  - Beware of behaviors that limit accountability in narrow sense
  - Focus on service delivery in the domestic arena
  - Instead of producing reports for donors.

# Significant Challenges Remain in Developing National Monitoring Systems

- PRS monitoring systems
  - Coordinating among data producers
  - Organizing information flows among different stakeholders
  - Organizing analysis and evaluation
  - Reporting on progress, providing the basis for the development of government activities and donor support
  - Disseminating information to other stakeholders.
- Quality of information
  - Substantial improvements have been made (household surveys).
  - But much more efforts are needed (statistical capacity development).
- Accessibility of data (key to accountability)
  - The PRS process has encouraged greater access to data.
- But demand for monitoring is often very weak.
- Linking monitoring to rights would help sustain the accountability process.
- Need to go beyond technocratic approach and incorporate rights and political economy considerations.

# Some Conclusions on PRS Process and Accountability

- Its not just supply ... creating demand for accountability.
- Avoid tilting the accountability toward donors.
- Help strengthen country systems and procedures (Paris Declaration).
- Support long-term effort to build country capacity.

# Issues to Keep in mind on Country Ownership

- Link to national development strategies and across the Government (central ministries/sectors).
- Role and impact of national institutions (Parliamentary committees, local agencies/organizations).
- Mechanisms for government-stakeholder dialogue.
- Representativeness of umbrella CSOs or other associations.
- Timing/cycles of electoral events and other political events.

# Action Plan for Africa: A Shared Growth Strategy with Three Central Components

- BUILDING CAPABLE STATES THROUGH BETTER GOVERNANCE AND IMPROVED CAPACITY
  - Recognizing country diversity and complexities of this process.
  - Support initiatives by partners and Africa such as Africa Peer Review Mechanism.
  - Strong focus on public expenditure and financial management.
- STRENGTHENING THE DRIVERS FOR GROWTH
  - At country level, focus on PSD, infrastructure, agricultural productivity, and creating an export push.
  - Through regional integration efforts.
- BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE POOR AND OF WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN AND CONTRIBUTE TO GROWTH
  - Focus on rural development, micro and small enterprises, and through the expansion of service delivery, particularly in education and health.
  - Support country-led process to empower women to meet the MDGs, adapted to local conditions.
  - Multi-sectoral approach to gender dimensions in CAS, analytical work, lending and support to PRS.
    - “Gender and law” support, gender bias to be covered in PRSC (Burkina Faso)
    - WB-Netherlands program on gender-responsive budgeting.
    - Training of women entrepreneurs (Nigeria).
- RESULTS AND OUTCOMES ARE A CENTRAL PART OF THIS SHARED GROWTH STRATEGY.

# Actions Proposed in the Africa Action Plan to Promote Accountability

- *Improve delivery of services in poor areas with a direct interface with the citizenry.*
- *Support development of local governments, aimed at services delivery, accountability and participation.*
- *Increase operational efficiency of the judiciary, e.g. by the introduction of service standards.*
- *Facilitate access to the legal and judicial by the poor, e.g. by bringing the judiciary closer to the citizenry and by reducing (procedural and financial) hurdles.*
- *Assist to improve transparency and accountability, particularly related to public services of immediate benefit to the population.*
- *Strengthen formal and informal accountability mechanisms to enhance oversight over government operations, e.g. scaling up support to Parliament, to local media and NGOs to monitor the public sector.*
- *Promote transparency in accounting for revenues by adopting the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).*