

Participatory Monitoring and Accountability: Critical components for the Post-2015 Development Agenda – A side event to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The governments of Canada, Peru and the Republic of Korea, with support from UNICEF, UN Women and UNDP, held a side event at the UN Secretariat Complex in New York on Tuesday 8 July to discuss the importance of participatory monitoring and accountability and their particular relevance to the Post-2015 Agenda. The entire session was live-streamed on UNTV and the archive video is available [here](#).

The panelists spoke to a full-house, with nearly 100 in-person attendees and more watching online or following via social media.

Presenters not only discussed why participatory approaches are important, but gave practical examples of how these approaches are working in different contexts and communities. A short video of [Participation in Action](#) was also shown during the panel.

Dr. Saraswathi Menon, director of UN Women’s Policy Division, was the moderator for the event, and the opening remarks were made by **Ms. Youngju Oh**; Director General, Development Cooperation Bureau; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Republic of Korea; **Mr. Vincent Rigby**; Assistant Deputy Minister, Strategic Policy and Summits Branch; Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development; Canada; and **H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra**, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations.

The events panelists were **Dr. Tricia Callender**, Co-Manager of the Participatory Monitoring and Accountability Global Consultation, UNICEF; **Ms. Julia Tripp** Constituent Coordinator and Research Assistant, Center for Social Policy; University of Massachusetts Boston; and **Ms. Gaia Gozzo**, Governance Team Leader; CARE International UK.

A closing reaction to the panelists’ presentations was provided by **H.E. Ms. Paola Bustamante**, Minister of Development and Social Inclusion; Peru.

In her opening remarks, **Ms. Youngju Oh** noted that participatory monitoring is “a significant endeavor that will contribute to the new agenda and goals,” adding that its use will “keep all stakeholders accountable while empowering the marginalized to participate in the ... process.”

Mr. Vincent Rigby highlighted the benefits of a participatory approach, saying “the most vulnerable have the right to participate in policies that affect their lives” and that, because of this, the new agenda should be rooted in “a strong accountability for results framework.” He also said that women and children should be given “a prominent role” and that “many services that are critical to their well-being are in short supply.” Women and children, he said, are among those who are most vulnerable to environmental risks, and young girls enjoy fewer rights and freedoms, and are less healthy, than their male counterparts.

H.E. Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra said that monitoring for accountability was particularly important in Latin America because of the high levels of inequality that exist there. Talking about his own country of Peru, he noted that 10 years ago, 50 percent of people lived below the poverty line; that figure has fallen to 25 percent. What is difficult to measure, he said, are areas like anemia and malnutrition; participatory monitoring would help these areas become more measurable in Peru.

Dr. Tricia Callender presented the findings of the participatory monitoring consultation so far, which has included an [e-discussion](#), [literature review](#) and a global call for papers. Highlighting aspects of the online discussion, she said that “the main message that came through very heavily in the e-discussion was that participatory approaches – particularly with respect to accountability – foster the creation of human-rights based targets and indicators that better ensure that marginalized people...and people living in extreme poverty are not left behind.” Turning to the call for papers, Callender said that it was designed to collect a strong evidence base of good practices and lessons learned from participatory methods across the globe. The accepted paper proposals, she said, feature a wide array of subjects, including climate change, maternal health, education, youth engagement, and come from around the world, including Brazil, Tanzania, Pakistan, India, South Africa, Central Asia, Peru and Tunisia. The final papers are expected to be completed and published in August.

Ms. Julia Tripp outlined her work at the Center for Social Policy at UMass, Boston, saying that the Center uses participatory monitoring in its projects, working towards reducing inequities by looking at the barriers to housing, the structural causes for low wages, the unequal distribution of resources and the impacts that they have on families, the community and society as a whole. As a “constituent advisor,” Tripp said that she works in the community, talking to the marginalized and those living in poverty to find out more about homelessness, HIV/AIDS, incarceration, and a variety of other topics. Tripp said that The Center then blends this qualitative information with research, and acts as a kind of ‘think tank’ to inform advocacy. The Center also works with the NGO ATD Fourth World to examine the stigmatization of being poor, and helps people understand that being poor is not their fault, nor is it a “moral failing.” Tripp, who has lived in poverty herself, finds that this has a “transformative effect” on both those living in poverty, and those who do not. “It breaks down stereotypes,” she said.

Ms. Gaia Gozzo spoke of CARE International UK’s scorecard on implementation, monitoring and evaluation. She spoke specifically about a citizen oversight mechanism that has been successfully implemented in Peru, where indigenous women monitor local health care facilities and have conversations with the recipients of medical services, asking the latter if they pay for medical services, how they were treated by staff, how long they had to wait to be seen, etc. CARE has also started a dialogue with the medical service providers, to ensure that they are included and in agreement with regard to actions that should be taken to address any issues and to improve service quality.

H.E. Ms. Paola Bustamente, Peru's Minister for development and social inclusion, speaking through an interpreter, highlighted Peru's social programmes for mothers, and the fact that some mothers had stopped using the programmes. To combat this, Peru created "spaces to listen and discuss" for mothers so that quality services that were needed could be provided.

More information:

To view a recording of the side event on UN TV, click [here](#).

To view the Participatory Monitoring and Accountability e-space, click [here](#).

To download the Literature Review, click [here](#).

To download an interim report on the Participatory Monitoring and Accountability consultation, click [here](#).

To find out more about CARE International's participatory monitoring and accountability work, click here to download a PowerPoint used by Ms. Gaia Gozzo during her report, click [here](#).