

## Eradicating Poverty: Transparency & Accountability in the Post-2015 Framework Briefing for the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, April 17-19

### The issue

The April 17-19 meeting of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be discussing MDG acceleration, lessons learned, the identification of gaps and moving towards a set of proposed SDGs. Transparency and accountability must be central to these discussions if progress in the development of a harmonised agenda for the post-2015 framework is to be achieved:

- **Transparent & Accountable Data:** MDG 1 Target 1.A is used to track extreme poverty around the world, yet one third of developing countries do not have enough data to know if this target has been met. In addition, data on hunger is 4 years old and the majority of the numbers on gender equality, education and HIV/AIDS are 3 years old [see publication: [‘Open for Development’](#)]. Without publicly available, good quality data it is not possible to monitor progress in meeting the goals that have been set.
- **Transparent & Accountable Institutions:** The principles of transparency and accountability help strengthen public institutions and improve the performance on issues such as education, health and climate change. They build a solid foundation for governance and efforts to fight corruption. For a country’s equitable and sustainable development, transparent and accountable institutions are needed across the board: from its education and environmental system to its financial structures and companies.

### Key points

The OWG should harness the transformative power of transparency and accountability for sustainable and equitable development by:

- 1) **Advancing the recommendations of the Monrovia and Bali communiqués of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on post-2015** to “invest in stable and accountable institutions, fight corruption, (and) ensure the rule of law” and to focus on “data availability and better accountability” through a “data revolution”.
- 2) **Using the preliminary findings of the UN consultations which highlight the centrality of governance.** The [UN My World Survey](#) polled “an honest and responsive government” as one of the top three priorities for both men and women; the UN report, [The global conversation begins](#), highlights better governance as an emerging theme; and the UN [Governance Consultation](#) discussed options for the inclusion of governance in the post-2015 framework, including as a standalone goal.
- 3) **Ensuring that the goals selected are measurable**, with good quality data being made publicly available so that policymakers and ordinary citizens can track the development process from resources to results. This requires governments to commit to regular and timely reporting, including the publication of key budget reports, and for the data to be disaggregated to enable identification of disparities in results.
- 4) **Requiring governments to report on what they spend** in pursuit of the agreed goals, including what results are achieved; and ensure that the World Bank and the UN establish user-friendly public platforms that make data – published in line with open data standards – accessible, comparable and combinable.
- 5) **Link to country efforts to make the public sector more open and accountable.** Standards and initiatives across aid, budgets, climate finance, contracting, construction, extractives, fiscal and land transparency are taking hold.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the [Open Government Partnership](#) – a collaborative effort of governments and CSOs to secure governmental commitments to promote transparency is gathering pace. In just over a year, 57 countries from all continents (including Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, and Russia) have signed onto the OGP.

<sup>1</sup> Initiatives include: [International Aid Transparency Initiative](#), [Construction Sector Transparency Initiative](#), [Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative](#), US and EU [‘publish what you pay’ disclosure rules](#) and the [Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency](#)