

Side Event  
**Benefiting from review:**

**Why it is in countries interest to support an effective and inclusive review mechanism?**

Hosted by the Permanent Missions of Mexico, Peru and Germany at the United Nations  
on 19 May 2015

Introduction:

Over the past months, UN Member States have agreed on the need for an inclusive and universal post-2015 agenda aimed at making global development sustainable and giving future generations a chance to live a decent life. All stakeholders will be facing significant challenges with regards to implementation. We are all in the same boat when it comes to securing the future of people and planet. During the side event the following questions were discussed with partners: What are advantages of the review mechanism? What are the main concerns that could keep countries from participating in the review process?

Panel of speakers:

- Dr. Friedrich Kitschelt, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)
- Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Amabassador, Permanent Representative of Peru to UN
- Mr. Dámaso Luna, Deputy Director General for Global Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Mexiko)

Moderator: Ms. Melinda Crane, Chief Political Correspondent of Deutsche Welle

Summary:

**State Secretary Dr. Kitschelt** started off the discussion by reiterating that Germany understands follow-up and review as an opportunity to learn from one another as all strive to achieve the SDGs. Reviews would allow identifying the causes of success or failure, making mid-term adjustments to implementation and improving long-term policies in accordance with the results of the process. In this way, countries can ensure that they are reaping the maximum benefits from their implementation efforts. While the HLPF will need to provide the framework for everyone to participate, it will be up to Member States to fill the HLPF with life. States should take advantage of the interconnected world to meet and discuss, to learn and to share, to jointly take action and to draw lessons-learnt.

**Mr. Dámaso Luna** presented Mexico's experiences with MDG monitoring and the positive gains Mexico has had from this process. The monitoring and review of the MDGs has helped to identify gaps and assess progress. Mr. Luna emphasized the important role of local authorities, civil society and other stakeholders in the review and monitoring process.

**Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra** presented Peru's positive experience with participatory

monitoring and inclusive structures in the context of poverty alleviation programmes. These structures could be easily adapted for implementing, monitoring and reviewing the SDGs in Peru. According to Mr. Meza-Cuadra the main challenge is how to link the different levels of the review (national, regional, global) and how to incentivize participation at global level.

**State Secretary Dr. Kitschelt:** The credibility of the post-2015 agenda rests on the review mechanism. The ambitious agenda requires ambitious follow up. Sustainability has to become the guiding principle in all countries. Germany is ready to take action, for instance with regard to Sustainable Consumption and Production. A review mechanism can help Germany to identify the right solutions to address this challenge. The review should not be about exercising control, but about countries getting the opportunity to learn from each other on how to translate the agenda into action and exchange this knowledge in a constructive manner. It is obvious that there will be need for capacity building.

**Mr. Dámaso Luna:** Strengthening capacities and institutions is required. A perfect system of review is useless if countries do not have capacities to participate in the review. Regional organizations have an important role in capacity building and in providing opportunities to share lessons learnt. ECLAC for example already develops an overview of capacity needs.

**Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra:**

While regional peer review is useful for countries that have a similar level of development, they should not replace national evaluation processes and they may not be useful for all regions. Strengthened capacity is required to analyze a more complex agenda that goes beyond the MDGs.

In a vibrant **Q&A** following issues were raised: Whether countries would accept globally harmonized formats for review processes; whether there is an environment conducive for exchange and learning, which requires trust and cooperation at all levels; whether the HLPF requires support structures to carry out the review process at global level; and how the Agenda may be better communicated overall.

#### Conclusion:

- An effective and inclusive review framework is beneficial for countries. It can help them identify gaps and make necessary adjustments on time.
- A vibrant exchange at the HLPF would provide early warning of upcoming global challenges as well as early diffusion of promising solutions that are beneficial for the global community. It could provide an atmosphere of peer learning.
- The regional level appears to be useful as a complementary for those regions that already have existing mechanisms for exchange at this level.
- For an effective review, the ability of all stakeholders to analyze progress and challenges and use data is important and requires further capacity support.
- The review mechanism has to be flexible to accommodate the complexity and universality of the agenda.