

Connection between review mechanisms and agenda-setting for the HLPF on sustainable development

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Expert Group Meeting on

the role of the HLPF on sustainable development in the
post-2015 development framework

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Architectural challenge

- HLPF should be part of the monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda
- How should the HLPF's *reviews* be positioned within the international institutional architecture of sustainable development?

“Accountability for a universal agenda can be understood as the joint commitment of the global community to monitor, evaluate, share and discuss progress towards the implementation of the agreed goals.” PGA letter April 25/14

Role of the HLPF also includes
agenda-setting

Para 2: ... ensuring the appropriate
consideration of new and emerging sustainable
development challenges

67/290. Format and organizational aspects of the
HLPF (see also Para 18)

Interrelated processes

- Voluntary national reviews (para 8)
 - sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation
- Reviews of the United Nations system (para 7 and 8)
- Global Sustainable Development Report (para 20)

Six questions about accountability in the HLPF

1. *Who* will be reviewed;
2. *by whom*;
3. about *what* will they be reviewed;
4. through *what processes* the review is to be conducted;
5. by what *standards* the relevant policies and practices are to be assessed; and,
6. what the *potential effects* are of the review.

Halle, Mark, Adil Najam and Robert Wolfe, (2014) 'Building an Effective Review Mechanism: Lessons for the HLPF,' IISD, February 2014,

<http://www.iisd.org/publications/building-effective-review-mechanism-lessons-hlpf>

Six questions about HLPF review

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Desired effects of HLPF review
go in two directions

- **Evolution of HLPF agenda**
 - not static for 15 years
 - Learning from experience of all three review processes
 - Systemic coherence
- **Improved reviews**
 - More effective
 - Stronger national implementation
 - Learning from best practices

Feedback about the national reviews

- Are they addressing the right questions and issues?
- Do countries at varying levels of development have access to sufficient resources to do the reports?
- Do international organizations play a helpful role in generating data or doing analysis?
- Do we need to modify the review process?

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What should the HLPF do with reviews?

- HLPF discuss each national review?
- Could HLPF review national reviews?
- Could preparatory process isolate issues from national and systemic reviews for ministers?
 - Issues relevant to the monitoring and accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda
 - Thematic issues

The “about what” question might help

- HLPF meetings “Shall have a thematic focus reflecting the *integration* of the three dimensions of sustainable development”
 - [Para 7 (c)]
- Pick themes that reflect both a specific dimension of sustainable development and ways in which the three come together

An approach to themes

- possible themes include water, energy, maternal health, food security, or financing for implementation
- Data sources include the national reviews, and annual reviews by EWEC, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, IEA/IRENA and so on
- For example, could the WTO Director-General's annual report on the state of the trading system be part of a thematic review in HLPF?

Link to Global Sustainable Development Report

- Could GSDR work on the same themes in a given year?
- If GSDR is in part a regular assessment of the many national and international reviews available every year, then the GSDR might a valuable input to systemic reviews by the HLPF
- Could GSDR also draw on shadow monitoring?

Systemic reviews

- Full range of bodies relevant to sustainable development?
 - e.g. World Bank, IFIs, IMF, WTO, EWEC
- International bodies in isolation, or focus on how well they complement one another?
 - Aggregating their regular reviews?

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Horizontal or vertical accountability?

- Review of governments by other governments = horizontal
- Review of state action by stakeholders and other groups = vertical
 - “Vertical” also applies to elections
 - “social accountability” another term for stakeholder engagement
- Horizontal and vertical always in tension