

## HIGHLIGHTS ON ACCOUNTABILITY

- Accountability requires that those with power are answerable to affected citizens and that there are mechanisms of enforcement to back words with action'. (OECD)
- The Paris Declaration, endorsed on 2 March 2005, is an international agreement to which over one hundred Ministers, Heads of Agencies and other Senior Officials adhered and committed their countries and organisations to continue to increase efforts in harmonisation, alignment and managing aid for results with a set of monitorable actions and indicators.
- The “mutual accountability” indicator of the Paris Declaration (number 12) is the “number of partner countries that undertake mutual assessments of progress in implementing agreed commitments on aid effectiveness...” (OECD 2005). In 2006, the OECD survey judged that only 41% of countries had such mechanisms.
- At the third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, on 2-4 September 2008, Ministers and agency heads endorsed the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) to deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration and respond to emerging aid effectiveness issues. (Practitioners Network for European Development Cooperation)
- Monitor of MDG results: The imminent threat of increased hunger would have been lessened if recent decades had not been marked by a lack of investment in agricultural and rural development in developing countries. In 2005, 1.4 billion people lived on US\$1.25 or less a day. 10 million die every year of hunger and hunger-related diseases. Rising food prices may push 100 million people deeper into poverty. But fewer children below five are undernourished - from 33% in 1990 to 26% in 2006. (MDGs Monitor Report)
- The G8 launched an accountability mechanism to track and assess progress made with respect to Leaders' commitments. The accountability tool will facilitate verification of the implementation of G8 commitments, with the elaborations of a regular overall G8 accountability report, to be presented during G8 summits, starting from the Canadian Muskoka Summit in 2010. (G8)
- Transparency is the foundation of accountability. Information on conditionality of Aid negotiations shall be publicly available particularly in regards to how aid is to be sourced, spent and monitored. Politicians 'shall' use performance measures in decision-making and attribute specific policies to actual results on the ground: changes in the strategic management of accountability translate in making reforms achieve their goal. Country ownership of development programmes can't be understood as simple government ownership: the involvement of local stakeholders deeply contributes to ensure real ownership (OECD)
- By measuring and reporting on performance, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has access to credible, timely, and useful information to continuously improve its international development assistance programming. Measuring performance also enhances the Agency's capacity to demonstrate accountability and transparency to Canadians. (CIDA)
- “Political will is one of the biggest factors in changing the way we deliver aid. Only strong and high-level commitment from donor and partner governments can make those changes happen. We work hard to promote action by the international community to improve the effectiveness of the aid system”. (DFID)
- A range of tools exist to ensure greater accounting to citizens for public actions and outcomes. Access to information by citizens builds pressure for improved governance and accountability (World Bank).