

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Twelfth Session New York 15-19 April 2013

The role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and post 2015 development agenda

Making Public Governance Work for the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Introduction

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models

- *Section II – The UK & NI & other advanced nations (Margaret Saner)*
- *Section III – Selected developing countries (Hyam Nashash)*

And

- *Section IV – Transformational Government through e-government (Rowena G Bethel)*
- *Section V - Conclusion*

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: The UK & NI & other advanced nations

❖ Governance as an enabler rather than a result

- Continuous improvement with shifting focus – change is the only constant
- Built a framework of good governance – yet still problems
- Risk that the appearance of good governance may mask underlying problems – that which is imposed is not owned
- Yet without the ‘bones’ of good governance is it possible to experience Human Rights?

❖ Improving Implementation

- Aspirations have to be realised ‘on the ground’
- Increasingly complex problems
- Rising expectations of citizens
- Implementation makes new demands on public servants including politicians

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: The UK & NI & other advanced nations

❖ Lessons Learned?

- Complex relationships between players, new skills required and complex interactions between stakeholders and events
- Need to harness all available resources and expertise: co – creation with Citizens rather than top down imposition
- Guard against complacency, adopt a new ‘realism’, impact of ‘Austerity’ not yet clear
- Intractable problems can be resolved or at least improved – with determination and skill

❖ Looking Ahead

- Innovative, flexible , many faceted approach to achieving policy goals
- Changed relationship with Citizens – how to strengthen democracy rather than replace it?
- Constructive use of technological advances

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: Selected developing countries

➤ Evolution and Challenges

- Agenda set by donors
- Unrealistic expectations of Aid
- Calling for a new approach to the post 2015 framework

➤ Governance as a building block

- Tracking of 'real' issues required
- Appearance of good governance can be misleading
- Need a global social contract rather than donor driven process
- Localization of governance required

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: Selected developing countries

➤ Road Map – A proposed model

- Localisation
- Dealing with Barriers
- Phased Approach
- Staying the course and dealing with uncertainty
- Establishing a global social contract, paying attention to inequality and human rights

➤ Looking back: lessons learned

- Importance of the role of the UN; mediator and supporter
- Problem based approaches as well as best practice; strengthening institutions remains central
- Education remains a high priority

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: Transformational Government through e-government

➤ e-government

- Too often based on automation of existing government process
- Lack of strategy and governance framework
- Absence of people centred approaches holding back development of citizen centred engagement (particularly developing countries)
- In replicating private sector models, government obligations overlooked and inefficiencies compounded

➤ t-government

- Whole of government approach of relationship with stakeholders and of managing the cost base
- Focus on Citizens not customers & Initiatives to e-enable staff
- Reduces bureaucracy, improves coordination and increases access

Road Map for localizing the MDGs: lessons and models: Transformational Government through e-government

- **Where is the developing world in the evolutionary process to t-government?**
 - Digital divide between developed and developing countries (some exceptions)
 - Developed countries have used ICT to re-engineer machinery of government to meet Citizen's needs
 - Less developed countries dealing with the challenge of re-engineering government
 - Technology is an enabler and may offer opportunities to leapfrog and to better understand Citizen's needs

- **Should t-government be a major factor in a post 2015 United Nations agenda?**
 - Challenges are more acute for less developed countries but the benefits are clear
 - A major enabler of good governance is t-government, therefore,
 - Continuing support for less developed countries essential to achieve goals

Conclusion – Themes to Emerge and Develop?

The 'new' Goals need to be:

- **Felt and owned locally.** Local priorities & planning for integration with national goals – 'bottom up' approach and reporting
- **Shared around the globe and at the same time meaningful locally;** capable of presentation as higher level strategies yet essential that they can be translated into **local action plans.**
- **Supportive of the vulnerable;** recognising potential risks for vulnerable groups, continuing implementation of Human Rights.

Conclusion – Themes to Emerge and Develop?

Making the journey successfully will require:

- **Sustained collaboration** at all levels and between levels
- Continuing improvement in ‘mainstreaming’ **Governance**
- **Enhanced competence** at all levels in eg problem solving, collaborative working, innovation and leadership
- **Meaningful reporting** that facilitates understanding and learning and the resolution of problems.
- **Sharing of successful approaches** so that they can be understood and re-interpreted for application elsewhere

Conclusion – Themes to Emerge and Develop?

Critical Success Factors – pre-requisite for making progress:

- **Political will and commitment**
- **Individual and Institutional Capacity**
- **Pro active support which respects local variation**

.....implications for role of UN.....

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Thank You and

To be continued.....