

**Contributor:** Chima Nwite

**Current Function:**

**Date:** 2013/04/07

**Subject:** The Role of Responsive and Accountable Public Governance in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Stakeholders Accountability in Public Governance for Development

It is imperative to note that all stakeholders in public governance have a lot of work to do to ensure effective and smooth execution of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and post-2015 development agenda. Looking at the efforts so far put in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one would say that tremendous results have been achieved. However, a lot still remains unsolved and unrealised looking at the time frame. Post-2015 agenda is very crucial in that it will seek to fill in the loopholes left during the MDGs period.

Government machineries as stakeholders in public governance must work with actors in the private and civil society sectors to achieve effective sustainable development as enshrined in MDGs and post-2015 agenda. To achieve all the goals: eradication of extreme hunger and poverty; achieving universal primary education; promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women; reduction of child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability; developing a global partnership for development beyond 2015, stakeholders must promote a sharp focus on the needs of the poor by creating enabling environments for public and private sector partnerships in the promotion of business with emphasis on micro-industries and small and medium enterprises. This will generate jobs and as a result eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. There is need for a renewed Global Partnership that enables transformative, people-centered and planet-sensitive development agenda which is realized through the equal partnership of all stakeholders. Such partnerships should be based on the principles of equity, sustainability, solidarity, and respect for humanity and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities. This will be done in a bid to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all in 2015 and beyond.

The post 2015 development agenda should also adopt the framework for fostering equity and inclusion. In this regard, the new sustainable development framework must enable a focus on the most marginalised groups, such as persons with disabilities, ensuring their effective participation in all stages of the development. To ensure that this comes to practical reality, there should be a new independent goal on equality and non-discrimination, as well as the obligations to pursue these principles across the new agenda. The current understanding and definition of poverty, progress and development should be revised so that it goes beyond income, consumption and wealth.

Any development agenda must be rooted in the existing international human rights architecture, which includes social, economic and cultural rights, women's rights including sexual and reproductive rights, rights to work and rights at work and rights of indigenous

peoples, socially excluded communities, children, migrants, people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and those living with disabilities, among others.

In order for the post-2015 development framework to be truly effective in transforming the lives of all those living in poverty, it must be guided by a framework for the realisation of human rights based on the range of obligations already undertaken by states. Human rights standards and principles strengthen global policy coherence, and help construct an accountability framework at global, regional, national and sub-national levels to ensure that post-2015 commitments are honoured in practice and effectively implemented on the ground.

Attention should also be drawn towards the protection of the global environment, ensuring that people-centered and planet-sensitive post-2015 agenda will be grounded in a commitment to address global environmental challenges. This will seek to address all environmental threats and in effect strengthen resilience, and improve disaster preparedness capacities. A more stable climate, clean energy and atmosphere, and healthy and productive forests and oceans are just some of the environmental resources that the agenda must strive to achieve.

All stakeholders in public governance must work together with global partnership to ensure the attainment of all the sustainable development that will enable lasting and more proactive Millennium Development Goals and effective post-2015 development agenda. The role of responsive and accountable public governance in eradicating poverty must go beyond the traditional roles, functions and institutional structures of the State such as: strong institutions of governance and the rule of law; credible judicial and legal institutions; effective legal frameworks for economic activity; adequate steering, regulatory and enforcement capacities, respect for human rights and freedoms; provision of basic services, security etc. Rather, responsive and accountable public governance must bend on fighting poverty through the promotion of sharp focus on the needs of the poor; intolerance of corruption; transparency and accountability in the management of public affairs; participation by all citizens in the decisions that affect their lives; creation of an enabling environment for the private sector and civil society; promotion of social justice, universal access to quality services and productive assets; creation of an enabling environment for people-centered development; public and private sector partnerships in promotion of business with emphasis on micro-industries and small and medium size enterprises; access to information; promotion of technological and infrastructure development.