

International mutual accountability

EU Technical Seminar

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What we said we will do on international mutual accountability

The Accra Agenda for Action commits signatories....

- **“To complement mutual assessment reviews at country level and drive better performance, developing countries and donors will jointly review and strengthen existing international accountability mechanisms, including peer review with participation of developing countries.”**

Mutual accountability is an EU priority since 2008. (Will come back to Council conclusions in a few minutes.) Council conclusions call on **EU members and the Commission** to...

- To enhance transparency of aid information and commit to **making the EU annual report on financing for development an example of best practice in transparency and accountability;**
- Recognise need to **strengthen existing international monitoring mechanisms** and call on member states to work on reaching an agreement on ways to create a more collaborative, complementary and credible system for mutual accountability of aid.

What is mutual accountability at the international level in principle?

What matters is MA for implementing the Paris-Accra and Monterrey agendas at the country level. But action at country level does not just happen on its own.

International mutual accountability sets the enabling environment and the rules of the game and helps set incentives for country level mutual accountability.

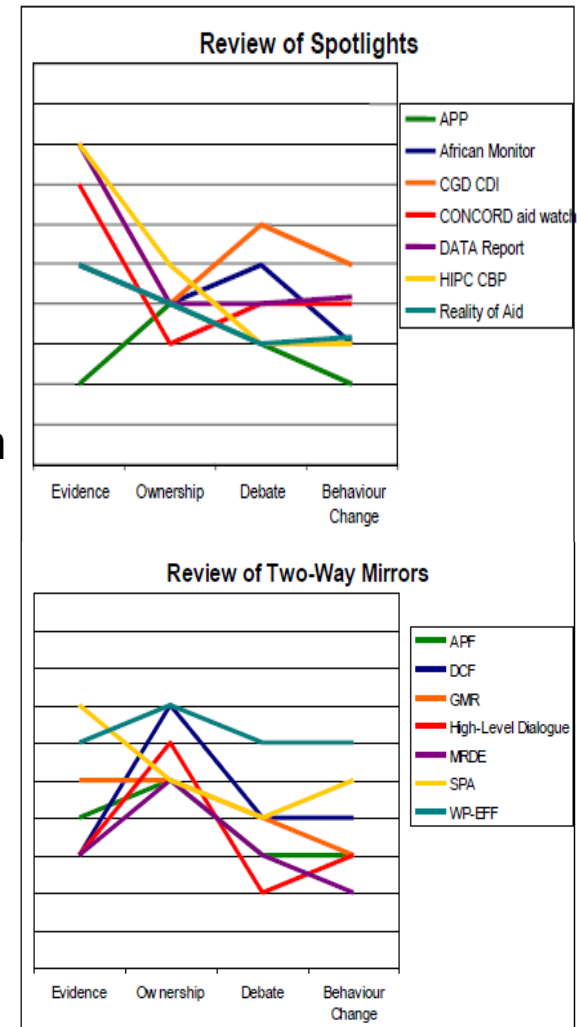
Global policy decisions from headquarters are still the dominant force in provider behaviour.

In effect, we here are part of the “missing middle”

What are the key elements of international mutual accountability?

Key elements of international mutual accountability mechanisms

- **Evidence:** the extent of technical credibility based on quality, independence and transparency of performance information (the “currency” of accountability).
- **Ownership:** the extent of legitimacy among concerned donors, partner countries, civil society and citizens, and capacity to build and sustain consent, commitment, credibility, trust and common values.
- **Debate:** the extent to which mechanisms stimulate informed debate and ensure clear reasoning for performance is provided – through formal or informal mechanisms.
- **Behaviour change:** the extent to which the accountability mechanism causes desired behaviour changes – largely determined by levels of evidence, ownership and debate.



What is mutual accountability at the international level in practice

Spotlights' are non-official mechanisms that provide independent and frank information on donor and partner performance.

- Centre for Global Development's Commitment to Development Index
- DATA Report
- EU Aidwatch
- (World Bank "Aid Quality and Donor Rankings")

'Mirrors' are peer review mechanisms.

- DAC Peer Review process
- EU Consensus on Development
- Africa Peer Review mechanism

"Two way mirrors" are mechanisms where donors and partners oversee the performance of one another in the context of "mutual" compacts like the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action.

- Working Party on Aid Effectiveness
- UN Development Cooperation Forum



Key examples of international progress so far

- Rome-Paris-Accra Process, including ongoing work of the **Working Party on Aid Effectiveness (WP-EFF)**;
 - Includes stronger role of partner countries in WP-EFF.
- Active support by donors and WP-EFF for the **UN Development Cooperation Forum** as a broad forum where civil society, parliaments, local government, donors and developing countries come together on a level playing field;
 - Includes review and recommendations in DCF report to appear next week.
- Launch of the **International Aid Transparency Initiative** which aims to make information about aid spending easier to access, understand, and use to support mutual and domestic accountability.
 - Presentation by Alex Gerbrandij tomorrow morning.

So we are actively involved in mutual
accountability

- By my faith! For more than forty years I have been speaking prose without knowing anything about it, and I am much obliged to *you for having taught me that.*
 - *50 years for the DAC – although not “mutual”*
- « *Par ma foi ! il y a plus de quarante ans que je dis de la prose sans que j'en susse rien, et je vous suis le plus obligé du monde de m'avoir appris cela. »*

Role of the EU

Mutual accountability is an EU priority since 2008. Council conclusions call on **EU members and the Commission** to...

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EU AS DRIVER OF DAC AID EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA

EU Role to Date

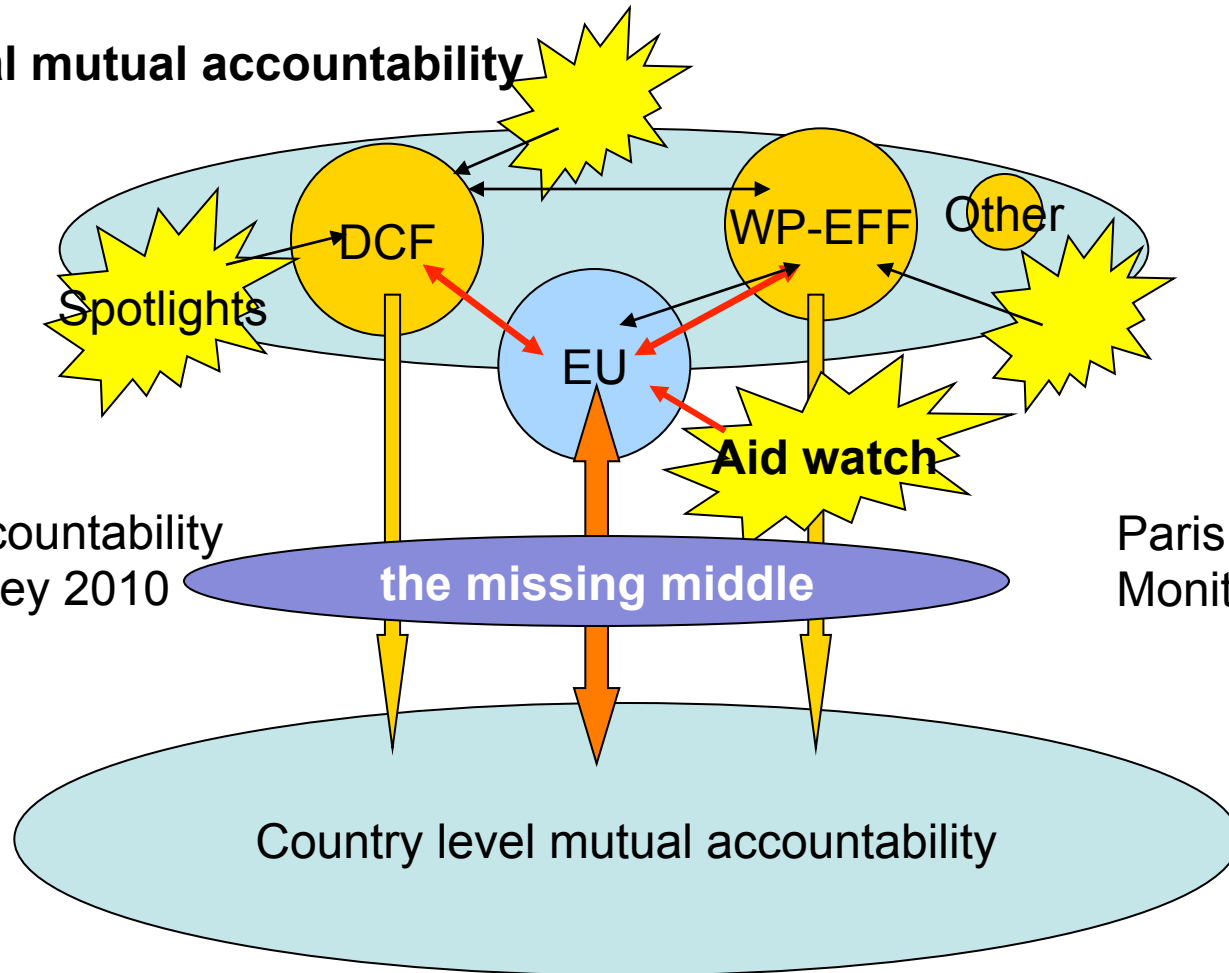
- EU has been and remains absolutely crucial in driving the aid effectiveness agenda forward.
 - Majority of both ODA and DAC donors.
 - Driving force in negotiation of Paris Declaration and in the AAA.
- EU agreements to push ahead of others, including on division of labour help lead the way for others.

What more should the EU do?

- The EC has a crucial role to play in pushing ahead now to make the international system work more coherently and to pursue international action to facilitate and unblock action at the country level.

The role of the EU

International mutual accountability



Country level mutual accountability mechanisms

Suggestions for EU action from EC non-paper (1)

- **Engage and contribute to discussions on international mutual accountability under the UN Development Cooperation Forum and the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.** This includes supporting efforts by the Development Cooperation Forum to collect and disseminate independent and authoritative analysis and assessments on mutual accountability.
- **Advocate for strengthened cooperation with partner country institutions in the DAC hosted Working Party on Aid Effectiveness, in order to strengthen the voice of partner countries, local authorities, parliamentarians, and civil society in reviewing the quality of the partnership.**

Suggestions for EU action from EC non-paper (2)

- Provide **comprehensive and comparable information** on development expenditure on a regular basis.
- **Ensure that information is published in ways which promote accessibility** (ie in an accessible common electronic format) to all stakeholders, both governmental and non-governmental.
- **Actively participate in international efforts to extend common standards for publishing aid information, including the WP-EFF Cluster C on Transparent and Responsible aid; the DAC Working Party on Statistics, the International Aid Transparency Initiative and the TR-AID initiative.**

Suggestions for EU action from EC non-paper (3)

- **EU Member States work with the Commission to make the EU Annual Report on Financing for Development a model of transparency and accountability by:**
 - **Including credible external analysis** (e.g. responding to issues raised by the EU Aid Watch) in the Report
 - Use the Monterrey questionnaire process to **track progress at HQ and country level**. Where issues emerge the Commission will use the regular Director Generals meetings to agree appropriate action to address concerns.

Suggestions for EU action: reaching further

- **FTI for mutual accountability:** an international programme where the EU, with the majority of DAC aid, facilitates and catalyses “getting to yes” on indicator 12 at the country level. To be done in close co-ordination with similar effort by UNDP now under consideration..
 - Focus on making PAFs into donor part of mutual accountability.
- **Partner country role in DAC Peer Reviews :** AAA calls for “peer review with participation of developing countries.” Report for international MA for Accra calls for “introduction of systematic partner participation in reviews, with a relevant expert (not necessarily a government official) either as reviewer or as part of the Secretariat team, so there is a partner country voice within the review process rather than just among those consulted.” Can this be implemented?
- **Make part if not all the budget of the WP-EFF Secretariat independent of that of the DAC,** and have the Secretariat serve partner countries equally with donors.
- **Will be other important recommendations in the DCF report coming next week.**

The End

Thanks for your time and attention.

Would appreciate your reactions, particularly on the recommendations, both those from the EC non-paper, with which I hope everyone will agree, and those that reach further – I hope not a reach too far.