

Effective Institutions in a New Post-2015 Development Framework Effective Institutions Platform Contributions

The **Effective Institutions Platform (EIP)** is an international partnership of more than 60 (high, middle, and low income) countries and organisations (multilateral and bilateral development agencies, civil society, think tanks) which aims to support country needs and expectations in strengthening their public sector institutions. Given the focus of the EIP's work and current priorities emerging from the UN led negotiations, its membership wishes to share its views and potential contributions to the definition and implementation of the Post-2015 framework to relevant stakeholders.

Why Effective Institutions Matter

Effective institutions contribute to sustainable growth and poverty reduction by ensuring that resources are well-managed, quality services are accessible and development goals are met. Accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions build public trust and reinforce societal foundations. They are responsive to citizen demands and encourage participatory planning, budgeting and decision-making.

In order to enable such institutions to develop and contribute to sustainable development, new approaches are needed that go beyond traditional technical assistance and support reform processes that are adapted to country contexts or needs. Instead, learning from peers, tailored reform initiatives, and drawing on innovative experiences across countries and organisations is critical to the enabling of accountable and transparent institutions.

The Inclusion of Effective Institutions in a Post-2015 Framework

The Effective Institutions Platform (EIP) recognises that the development of the post-2015 sustainable development framework is under the remit of the United Nations and all decisions pertaining to the goals and targets rest with the UN member states.

Members of the EIP welcome the priorities that have emerged from the UN consultation processes, the High Level Panel report, and the Open Working Group deliberations¹. These have highlighted the need to place governance and effective institutions centre stage.

¹ Overview and key messages, in: Final Report on the Global Thematic Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 development framework, p. 7

Issues related to governance and accountability have been raised as a priority consistently across the public consultations. They have highlighted the strong link between achieving development results and enhancing public administration and service delivery. Similarly, the High Level Panel Report² states that responsive, accountable and legitimate institutions should encourage the rule of law, property rights, freedom of speech and the media, open political choice and access to justice.

The Open Working Group³ has in response proposed a stand-alone goal (Goal 16) for the: *promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and the development of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

Goal 16 includes a number of targets that are directly related to the priorities of the Effective Institutions Platform, including:

16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.8 broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.a strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime

17.1 strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

17.9 enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation

17.16 enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries

17.17 encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

²<http://report.post2015hlp.org/digital-report-goal-10-ensure-good-governance-and-effective-institutions.html>

³ The Open Working Group Outcome Document, July 2014, p.21

EIP members welcome these targets touching on critical aspects such as access to information and transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and participation⁴. EIP members also stress the importance of Public Financial Management (PFM), regulatory governance, procurement and Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM)⁵. In terms of critical actors, EIP members acknowledge the importance of local governments, parliaments and oversight institutions alongside central government in achieving development objectives⁶. In addition, EIP members strongly support the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships enabling more effective public sector institutions.

More broadly, EIP members would support the integration of principles of governance and effective institutions across goals relating to sectors providing for basic needs such as food security, health, education as well as water and sanitation, where appropriate and effective resource management and service delivery is vital⁷.

EIP's Contributions and Support to the Agenda on Effective Institutions

With this in mind, the EIP and its members stand ready to support the goals and any future targets that emerge from the UN negotiations, as they pertain to the effectiveness of public sector institutions. In cooperation with existing initiatives, the EIP membership would be happy to assist in the following:

- **Exploring the implications of the targets**, as they relate to the effectiveness of public institutions for those governments across all income levels, accountability bodies, development agencies, and civil society organisations that are represented in the EIP.
- **Holding consultations and/or pilots to review the feasibility of targets** and related indicators, as they relate to the effectiveness of public sector institutions - for instance on strengthening the effectiveness of institutions to address service delivery priorities.
- **Developing an evidence-base around specific targets**, for example ensuring that national audit institutions are considering ways to enhance participatory decision-making in their work.
- **Assisting in the development of indicators** to measure the targets in the post-2015 framework (for instance on accountability, transparency, inclusion, participation, and effectiveness of public sector institutions).

⁴ In an EIP member survey conducted in 2014 concerning the priorities in a new Post-2015 Development Framework, accountability, inclusion and participation as well as access to information and transparency were attributed high priority by the respondents.

⁵ Public financial management/Budgets were seen as a priority area for respondents to the EIP survey.

⁶ These actors have been highlighted as a priority in the EIP survey.

⁷ The respondents in the above mentioned survey also highlighted the importance of effective institutions for sectors addressing basic needs such as food security, health, education as well as water and sanitation.

- **Advocating for more and better use of resources** to reach the targets, as they relate to the effectiveness of institutions. This would include assisting the membership in better allocating resources to the priorities that are emerging from the evidence-base and identified by EIP members.
- **Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships** through the EIP's 'Learning Alliances' to foster the sharing of knowledge and expertise on the effectiveness of institutions in a contextually appropriate manner, targeting both formal and informal institutions. This approach would be diametrically opposed to the more traditional supply-driven and contextually-neutral ways of operating in the past.

The Effective Institutions Platform

The Effective Institutions Platform (EIP) was established in 2012 as a multi-stakeholder partnership in order to share knowledge and experiences about institutional effectiveness and enable its members to experiment with different approaches to public sector reform. This process is facilitated through the establishment of learning alliances on specific aspects of public sector reform and institutional effectiveness.

The EIP has three objectives:

1. To support the implementation of public sector reform led by developing countries,
2. To better assess country institutions, systems and capacity development needs,
3. To improve the evidence base on institutional performance, inform policy and increase public sector accountability.

In order to achieve these objectives, the EIP currently delivers substantial contributions in the following areas: (1) change management and making reform happen; (2) indicators for success; (3) use of country systems (4) domestic resource mobilisation; and (5) accountable and inclusive institutions.

The [New Consensus on Effective Institutions](#) which underpins the work of the EIP recognises the need to strengthen institutions and capacities in developing countries to ensure greater inclusiveness, accountability, and improved delivery of public services, based on solutions specifically tailored to the country context and local processes.