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## “Accountability for the post-2015 development framework: untapping civil society potential”

A EuroNGOs workshop co-hosted by  
Alianza por la Solidaridad and Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal  
Madrid, 29 October 2014

### Background

The debate on the post-2015 agenda is becoming more focused on specifics and strong arguments are being made by various stakeholders on the need to increase the focus on accountability in the post-2015 framework.

Viewed from the international level, the momentum around accountability is strong and growing. In May 2013 the High Level Panel on the post-2015 agenda concluded that accountability at all levels should underpin the post-2015 framework and called for a data revolution. In September 2013 the UN Secretary General, in his report "A life of dignity for all", observed that "*strong monitoring and accountability will be crucial for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda*" and that, concomitantly, improved data collection, dissemination and analysis will be necessary. Around the same time, in the outcome document of the Special Event of the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs, Member States reaffirmed the importance of "*promoting [ ... ] accountability at all levels*". In May 2014 the President of the General Assembly organized an interactive dialogue on '*Elements for an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda*'; around the same time, the zero draft of the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals included a proposal for a '*regular monitoring and reporting of progress on SDGs within a shared accountability framework*'.

If the rationale for addressing accountability as an element of a post-2015 agreement is clear there are however many points that need to be figured out from both a policy and practice point of view. Should discussions on an accountability framework go hand in hand with the design of goals and targets or after the agenda is agreed upon? What are the exact implications of a universal framework in terms of accountability? Is accountability a parcel of the means of implementation/global partnership, a stand-alone goal or should it be integrated across each single goal? How can citizens and governments alike measure the progress towards the agreed goals if information is not openly available? What does a data revolution mean exactly? Does better and easier accessible data mean that information is acted upon?

## Aim

It is critical that as a community, we are well prepared - ahead of the publication of the UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report at the end of the year- to chip in the conversation around accountability, nurture the global debate in a meaningful way and ultimately influence the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda. To get clear thinking about accountability, civil society shall invest time to develop a common understanding, review best practices and assess its potential roles.

With this in mind this strategy workshop aims to promote a long-term strong and effective civil society engagement as watchdog of government' policies and actions related to the post-2015 development goals.

## Objectives

- Foster a common understanding of the concept of 'accountability' in the framework of the post-2015 development goals;
- Articulating ideas on the potential roles that civil society organisations can play in the post-2015 'accountability revolution';
- Explore concrete avenues for individual and collective NGOs actions in researching, reporting and reviewing government policies and practices related to the post-2015 agenda.

## Participants

This strategy workshop is specifically geared towards representatives from **civil society organisations** working on sexual and reproductive health and rights policies and programmes in the framework of the post-2015 development agenda.

## Programme and Format

This one day workshop is designed in three rounds of progressive conversations on:

**Topic 1. Creating a common understanding on key conceptual issues** (e.g. What is accountability? Who is or should be in charge of accountability? Accountability to whom? Accountability for what? Do we need an accountability revolution for the post-2015 agenda? What is the role of the High Level Political Forum? What are the implications of a universal framework for a post-2015 accountability mechanism?)  
*Format: Key note presentation, work in small groups followed by a final plenary debate.*

**Topic 2: Learning from and critically assessing existing accountability mechanisms and related civil society initiatives within and outside the SRHR community** (e.g. tracking governments' budget allocation and spending; tracking donors' ODA budgeting and spending; tracking governments' service delivering; tracking governments' policies; tracking governments' compliance with international agreements). *Format: Brief experts' presentations and moderated plenary discussions.*

**Topic 3: Strategizing forward: developing civil society regional and global accountability initiatives within the post-2015 framework.** *Format: Work in small groups using the 'smart chart' methodology.*

A detailed programme will be shared with registered participants ahead of the workshop.

### Workshop's output

The meeting will lead to a **toolkit** for civil society organisations wishing to work on accountability mechanisms to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights within the post-2015 framework.

### Practical information

The workshop, organized back to back with the 2014 EuroNGOs Conference and Annual General Meeting, will be held on 29 October (09:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) at La Casa Encendida (Ronda de Valencia 2, 28012, Madrid).

It is co-hosted by our Spanish members Alianza por la Solidaridad and Federación de Planificación Familiar Estatal (FPFE) and funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and EuroNGOs membership fees.

To register, please visit the workshop [webpage](#).