

Messages for the HLPF from the Global Review of National Accountability Mechanisms for SDG 6

Final Version - 9 July 2018

Recommendations for Governments

- National governments need to prioritize establishing and/or strengthening national accountability mechanisms so that there is a transparent and inclusive follow-up and review of their progress towards achievement of SDG 6.
- Governments should conduct a data gap analysis and more effectively align national monitoring mechanisms with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs indicators.
- Governments should establish and/or strengthen when weak inter-ministerial accountability mechanisms for SDG 6.

Recommendations for civil society organisations (CSOs)

- CSOs should collaborate more effectively including increasing coordination and communication among all stakeholders (particularly the most vulnerable and discriminated groups) to actively participate in existing platforms and have a role in holding national governments accountable for sector progress.
- CSOs are accountable to their constituencies and should have proper accountability mechanisms and capacities in place to monitor their activities to hold governments accountable to SDG 6.

Recommendations for development partners

- Development partners should continue to support the aid effectiveness agenda and work within government frameworks and priorities as well as support national sector development strategies and planning processes.
- Development partners should technically and financially support governments and CSOs to establish formal, regular and inclusive multi-stakeholder accountability mechanisms for the implementation of SDG 6.
- Development partners should ensure that the monitoring and reporting on the spending of funds have disaggregated data on progress towards reaching the most marginalized groups.

Recommendations for UN agencies

- The High Level Political Forum needs to recognize the role of CSOs in SDG 6 and adopt recommendations and guidelines for national governments to establish and use national accountability mechanisms for reporting on SDG 6.

Background

Governments are accountable for their formal commitments under SDG 6 and have committed to engage in systematic follow-up and review of implementation. Governments have agreed to and are responsible for aligning their national policies with the SDG framework and monitor their progress.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is working towards “a world where we reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and where there is improved hygiene”.

Global monitoring instruments are often used to track progress towards SDG 6 at national level because not all countries have national monitoring systems for keeping track on sector progress or those monitoring instruments are not yet aligned with SDG indicators.

Defining the SDG framework, indicators and institutional mechanisms are essential to track SDG 6. Achieving SDG 6 at the national level requires strong country sector systems. Strong governance and cross-sectoral coordination is critical for an effective and functioning sector.

Challenge/Problem

Global level

- Although countries have made commitments to the SDGs, the reporting process is not required and many countries are choosing not to participate in the national voluntary review process.
- Most of the human right to water and sanitation standards and principles are included in SDG 6 commitments. Therefore, the voluntary commitment is transformed to a binding commitment.

National level

- There has been limited progress demonstrated on commitments for SDG 6. Countries are at different stages of implementation and many are delayed or starting from scratch. Some countries are still mapping SDG 6 baselines, indicators and targets while other countries are developing new systems for data collection.
- At the country level, most countries have monitoring or review processes for the 2030 agenda however, these are not specific to SDG 6. There is a lack of coordination between the various ministries and departments responsible for SDG 6. It is important to incorporate appropriate indicators in national monitoring systems to see progress.
- There is a lack of adequate monitoring and reporting on SDG 6. Data is incomplete, scattered, unreliable, not updated and not disaggregated to track progress on discriminated groups and those most vulnerable, and space for CSOs to contribute to monitoring SDG 6 including independent reviews is limited.

Findings

- In most countries, accountability mechanisms for SDG 6 are not available. When present, they are not effective or are limited and do not include all of SDG 6. The existing accountability mechanisms do not provide a holistic approach within SDG 6 and towards all water and sanitation related SDGs.
- There are a lack of clear roles and responsibilities for the implementation of SDG 6. In many countries, there are multiple departments and ministries involved in SDG 6 but significant lack of coordination between them.
- There is no systematic or structured approach to accountability, and in most countries there is a significant lack of coordination and information sharing between civil society organizations leading to disjointed and competing messages. In addition, there is inconsistent participation of civil society in national and sub-national level dialogues. Coordination and participation often occurs around events but follow up is lacking.
- There are no standards for institutionalized participation of civil society in any of the SDG 6 review processes (national or global)
- There are multiple ways for civil society to engage in national and sub-national level processes. Government-led monitoring mechanisms serve as a platform for civil society to participate through provision and validation of data. Decentralized mechanisms are more accessible for CSOs to influence and hold governments accountable.