Good Governance to Accelerate SDG Implementation at all Levels: Missing Institutional Infrastructure for Process Accountability

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What is Governance?

- Governance is about monitoring the process of making and enforcing decisions within an organization or society.

- It is the process of interactions regulated by laws, social norms, power or language of a structured & organized social system. Compliance to & respect these regulating instruments are essential.
What is Governance?

- in a broad sense, denoting the complex ways by which *predictability and responsiveness* are maintained in contemporary socio-political systems
- Includes traditional activities of government, and also other *processes that regulate societal interactions*
- Structures of governance extend from the local and regional to the national and international, and different modes of governance predominate in diverse spheres of social life.
Robust Institutional Capacities

**Target 16.3**
Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice

**Target 16.5**
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery

**Target 16.6**
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

**Target 16.7**
Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
Opening Up the Black Box

Undisclosed decision making criteria → Rational Choice

Unverified assumptions → “Principle Agent” phenomenon

Undue influences and/or horse trading → Rent seeking/Corruption
Accountability System

**ACTORS**

- Responsible role/office
- Stakeholders

**PROCESSES**

- Defining - Responsibility & Performance Measures - Accountability to whom and for what
- Informing about performance
- Assessing

**OUTCOME**

- Affirmation
- Sanctions
Multilevel Interventions, localisation and Capacity Development


Localising data practices, & capacities
Common Institutional Gaps

- Digital infrastructure that supports data utilisation at different aggregate levels to support responsive policy making and implementation

- Data collection framework based on agreed operational procedures of governance requirements in specific contexts

- Adequate autonomy and coordination capacities at horizontal, vertical and diagonal levels

- Institutional learning culture with enabling scaffolders for innovative solutions
Closing the Gap

- Governance Quality infrastructure to generate and track standardised and structured data at scale and at different aggregate levels (“do the right things”, “do things right”, “fit for purpose”)

- Benefits:
  - Better informed policy making
  - Build analytic foundations for social impact of SDG implementation at
  - Build real world cases of successful policy intervention in modifying the mindset, behaviour, and attitude of institutions
  - Embedded knowledge for self-regulated improvements and innovation due to sound feedback
Good Governance for SDG Transformation

- Ensure coordination across functions/policy dimensions
- Ensure policy coherence & alignment
- Ensure inclusive representation of stakeholders and voices
- Safeguard individual right to development
Governance Quality Infrastructure for
-Process Accountability &
-SDG Transformation
Responsive Governance System

- Continuous learning needs to be part of the governance system for continual correction and self-regulation.
  - **Process** specifications & accountability as focal points for governance practices
  - **Empowering** the sub-national level authorities, e.g., cities and municipalities for SDG implementation & innovations
  - **Data-based management system** to ensure policy continuity and predictability
SDG Transformation

- Requires four basic approaches:
  1. Human rights based approach
  2. Whole of government approach
  3. Whole of society approach
  4. Leaving no one behind approach

Need for Good Governance