

**Session 3 – Working Group 3
Establishment of an Independent Monitoring Group**

ISSUES PAPER

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Brief Background:

Para 3.54. of the draft APD states that “The Government is committed to agreeing with its development partners on the principle of an independent mechanism for regular monitoring of the performance of both the government and its partners against accepted criteria (...).

Independent monitoring (IMG) means the formation of a team independent of both GoR and donor agencies to evaluate the state of aid relationships in Rwanda and to make recommendations for improvements.

Discussion Points

Why independent monitoring?

1. Growth of the idea of mutual accountability (e.g. Paris Declaration); need within a partnership framework to correct for past one-sided nature of performance monitoring. Is this seen as valid for Rwanda?
2. There is a commitment in the Paris Declaration that donor and recipient authorities will, “Jointly assess through existing and increasingly objective country level mechanisms mutual progress in implementing agreed commitments on aid effectiveness...” (50)
3. But do the preconditions exist in Rwanda: is there a sufficient willingness on all sides to open up to independent scrutiny of performance and to provide the information necessary for this? Is there enough unity among donors, e.g. to permit agreement on ToRs? And is there enough common ground between donors and GoR for the necessary agreement?

Terms of reference

3. Should ToRs be wide-ranging (as in Tanzania) or more narrowly confined to ‘objective’, quantifiable indicators?
4. Should they require equal attention to both GoR and donor performance or concentrate on the latter (on the grounds that the GoR is already well monitored anyway)?

5. What criteria should be applied (relates to #3)? Use indicators drawn from Paris, or from Aid Policy, or from a pre-established set of baseline indicators. If the latter, is the recent baseline study adequate?
6. How frequently should an IMG be convened? Should it be a one-off exercise? Would annually be too burdensome, unnecessarily frequent? If so, how frequently?

Modalities

Bearing in mind central importance of independence of team, issues arising:

7. How should it be financed and how to avoid a link between the pipers and the payers? A possible option: establishing a pool of funding to be administered and serviced at arms length by UNDP or a locally-based institution.
8. How should the team be constituted? Who decides and should there be rights of veto? Special importance of choice of chairperson.
9. What should be the mix of the team, as between:
 - Rwandans (is independence feasible?), other Africans, non-Africans
 - Different expertise (economics, politics, regional affairs, aid relations)

And how big should it be?

10. What should be the reporting process? Rights of all parties to comment on draft but not to veto any content?
11. What arrangements should there be for follow-up and monitoring implementation? (Initially in Tanzania the IMG chair was invited for annual visits for this purpose, reporting to CG.)

Anticipated Output(s):

A general agreement and shared understanding on the modalities for the establishment of an Independent Monitoring Group.