**CONCEPT NOTE “ PARTICIPATORY MONITORING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY”**

**POST-2015 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS-SECOND PHASE**

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| **Overview:**  The first phase of the Post-2015 Development Agenda was focused on the “Future Albanians Want”**.** The Future Albanians Want initiative was an attempt to elevate the voice of the citizens (colloquially “the man, woman on the street” to an inter-governmental, international level in the context of setting the international development agenda to succeed the MDGs. More than 5,000 Albanians actively participated in the consultations around the following topics: social inequalities, youth employment, and environmental sustainability. Youth participants had a strong say in the consultations (Young people under 25 represented 65% of the total).  During the consultations, people not only expressed their views on the future they want in the next decade or so, for them it is important to have access to improved service delivery at the national and local level. Therefore, participation and collaboration between the state and the citizens was considered as key to increasing state effectiveness.  Over the past two decades in Albania, much of the governance agenda was focused on building institutions that are capable and responsive to citizens, and which can in turn develop and implement policies for protecting human rights, deepen democracy and establish a functioning economy.    What lacks in these attempts, is the citizen engagement to responsive governance. Most of the programmes at different levels (especially at local level) have not succeeded to recognize the potential of citizens’ involvement in shaping the governance outcomes.  As per definition, *a citizen is a* [*p*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/person.html)*erson who is* [*entitled*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/entitled.html) *to enjoy all the* [*legal rights*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/legal-rights.html) *and* [*privileges*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/privilege.html)[*granted*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/granted.html) *by a state to the people comprising its* [*constituency*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/constituency.html)*, and is obligated to obey its* [*laws*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/law.html) *and to fulfill his or* [*duties*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/duty.html) *as* [*called*](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/call.html) *upon.*  This means, that the citizens should be put at the center of the state-building processes, rather than keeping them aside and perceiving them as having passive roles.  In this context, the global initiative to support participatory monitoring for accountability as a central feature of the new development agenda, was considered an important theme to convene the national dialogues in the second phase of the consultations. The consultations will help to:  - Showcase how more accountable, transparent, responsive governance is being pursued at the national and local level using either institutional or non-governmental participatory monitoring mechanisms/tools.  - Explore how participation and empowerment can improve accountability in the Post-2015 development agenda.  The following experiences will be used to achieve the above mentioned objectives, focusing on the relations and interaction between the state and citizens.  **1. Community Based Scorecards (CBS) (led by UNWOMEN)**  As a hybrid technique of social audit, community monitoring and citizen report cards (CBS) was used to extract social, political and public accountability and elicit responsiveness initially from the political parties’ candidates at the local level and then from the elected and local authorities. In partnership with 14 NGOs, the implementation of CBS began in October 2010 with the objective to use the local elections of May 2011 as a platform to raise issues and public debate on gender equality and women empowerment. CBS was implemented in seven regions and helped more gender sensitive electoral platforms. In 2012, the network of NGOs continued to work with elected local officials to establish mechanisms of dialogue between women groups and local authorities on the basis of CBS priorities and scoring to advocate for and monitor commitment to the gender equality in local planning and budgeting.  Through the support of CSOs, women’s groups (i) had a voice in what could and should be provided beyond the basics (ii) voiced their opinions/points of view on the electoral platforms of political candidates and quality and efficiency of the public services (iii) monitored the fulfillment of the tasks/commitments of the political parties’ candidates and elected local authorities (iv) identified main priorities and needs they want the local government to invest and use the budgets for (v) advocated with local authorities and decision makers to implement the priorities, (vi) established frequent forums of dialogue with local authorities on obligatory regulations for inclusion of public participation mechanisms, such as CBS, in their agendas.  Thus, the process strengthened the citizens’ voice, promoted their participation in local decision-making and, in particular, created real possibilities for a broader participation of the underrepresented groups, like women and girls, ensuring gender sensitive feedback on the identification of priorities; evaluation of the quality of delivered public services and monitoring of commitments. The CBS process helped local authorities to (i) better understand the needs and priorities of the community, and its special groups, in particular, (ii) better channel the available resources, in keeping with the needs and priorities of communities, (iii) enhancing their capacities, governing transparency and enabling them to improve the quality and efficiency of the services provided to the community. Overall CBS supports development of participatory democracy through systemic monitoring of local authorities’ and service providers’ performance and increased transparency and accountability of local governance in addressing women needs and priorities.  **2. Albanian National Referral Mechanism for Identification and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking and its Task force – ( led by IOM)**  Combating Trafficking in Persons has always been one of the priorities of the Government of Albania. The issue of human trafficking is one of the most terrible crimes of our time, targeting the most vulnerable people of our societies. In order to effectively respond to this crime there is a need for a comprehensive approach and the only way to address trafficking in persons is to work at the same time on prevention, prosecution of traffickers, and protection and assistance to victims and this comprehensive approach can only work if actors from many different sectors work together  Currently, Albania is a source country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Albanian victims are subjected to sex trafficking within Albania and in Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Kosovo, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Many women are subjected to trafficking after accepting offers of employment in waitressing, bartending, dancing, or singing in neighboring countries, specifically in Kosovo, Greece, and Macedonia. Albanian children are subject to begging and other forms of compelled labor. Some Albanian girls are subjected to sex trafficking or forced labor following arranged marriages[[1]](#footnote-1)”  During the years, the stakeholders working in the area of anti-trafficking identified the need to have a coordination mechanism in place to enhance coordination and improve quick assistance to the victims of trafficking (VOT). For this purpose, in 2005, was established the National Referral Mechanism for the VOTs. It coordinates the identification, return, reception, referral to assistance and reintegration of the VOTs or potential VOTs. In order to take into account current challenges for a better functioning of this mechanism, and the need to involve more actors that work in the area, the Cooperation Agreement to Establish a National Referral Mechanism for the Enhanced Identification and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking between Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, General Prosecutors Office, 4 shelters, IOM, World Vision and ARSIS NGO– was singed on 15 June 2012.  In November 2013, the Task Force under the leadership of the newly appointed National Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Persons (Deputy Minister of Interior) has been created to effectively ensure a participatory monitoring process of the agreement implementation by allowing all signatory members be part of it and know how the implementation process is going and take common informed decisions for improvement of the assistance provided to victims/potential victims of trafficking in Albania.  This mechanism has proved to be successful because i) beneficiaries’ needs are addressed in a faster and more efficient way ii)resources are better used and mobilized in a shorter time iii)being at the technical level it provides quick solutions and addresses the concerns that members might have in a quicker way;  iv) meetings are organized regularly, and all actors are continuously updated on the situation in the country.  **3. Child Protection Observatories ( led by UNICEF)**  The Child Right Observatory in Albania is a non-governmental entity established in 2009 as a civil society network intended to monitor the situation of children in the country.  Through its representatives at the sub-national (regional) level and in collaboration with local government units in municipalities and communes, the CRO is collecting statistical information from administrative records of health, education, social protection and other local authorities. Using the DevInfo software the wealth of statistical information is consolidated into a database accessible online at: <http://www.observator.org.al/odf-map/> .  So far, the CRO database has been a unique source of such disaggregated data: a user-friendly interface allows zooming into the specifics of Albania’s 374 municipalities and communes. Using this data complemented by survey-generated evidence, the CRO has been producing situation reports and contributed to action plans for children developed at the national and regional levels. In 2013 it produced the first comprehensive report on various dimensions of child poverty and deprivation in Albania.  An important spill-off of the CROs’ strong presence on the ground has been their ability to advocate with government authorities for enhanced local measures to address the needs of children and families, especially from vulnerable backgrounds. Lately, the CRO has been among the leaders behind a nation-wide initiative of “Every Roma Child in Kindergarten”. Their credibility of those who “know” the real situation has been instrumental in the role of advocates for early inclusion of Roma children.  Within the framework of the post-MDG discourse, the CRO will continue to play a critical role of an independent screening instrument to measure Albania’s progress towards more socially just and inclusive society. This work is being increasingly aligned with the effort of the national statistical agency (INSTAT) to strengthen social statistics, with the understanding that the degree of detail in CROs’ records is likely to remain a unique feature complementing regular data gathering on a more aggregated level. | | | | |
| **Activity** | **When?** | **Stakeholders** | | **Budget in US$** |
| UNCT Consultations on the preparation of the second phase of Post 2015 consultations | First week of April | UN CT staff | | **-** |
| UNRCO Consultations with lead UN Agencies for the preparation of the concept note | First week of April 2014 | 1. Lead UN Agencies  2. UNRCO | | **-** |
| Meetings with government and stakeholders to inform and involve them in the process of documentation of three case studies | Second week of April | 1. Line-Ministries(Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth) 2. Albanian National Referral Mechanism members 3. CPOs 4. Women Associations 5. Local Government 6. INSTAT 7. Youth organizations | |  |
| Consolidate the concept note and share with Post-MDGs Secretariat | Third week of April 2014 | 1. Lead UN Agencies  2. UNRCO | |  |
| Draft the ToRS for a consultant/s to document the selected case studies and facilitate the consultations | First week of May 2014 | 1. Lead UN Agencies  2. UNRCO | |  |
| Hire the consultant/s | Second week of May 2014 | 1. UNRCO | | **10,000 USD** |
| Prepare media campaigns and PR package | Third-Fourth week of April | 1. UN Communications Team | | **3,000 USD** |
| Media brunch on Albania’s participation in Post-2015 second phase | First week of May 2014 | 1. UN Communications Team | | **1,000 USD** |
| Organize focus group discussions | First-Third week of May 2014 | 1. Lead UN Agencies  2. UNRCO  3. Line-Ministries(Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth)  4. Albanian National Referral Mechanism members  5. CPOs  6. Women Associations  7. Local Government  8. INSTAT  9. Youth organizations  10. Roma organizations  11. Organizations working with vulnerable/marginalized groups | | **10,000 USD** |
| Document the three selected cases | Fourth-Fifth Week of May 2014 | 1. UN Lead Agencies  2. Lead UN Agencies  3. UNRCO  4. Line-Ministries(Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth)  5. Albanian National Referral Mechanism  6. CPOs  7. Women Associations  8. Local Government  9. INSTAT | | **2,000 USD** |
| Collect and consolidate feedback from the group discussions | Fourth-Fifth Week of May 2014 | 1. UN Lead Agencies | |  |
| Collect feedback on the media campaign using ICT tools | First Week of June 2014 | 1. UN Communications Team | |  |
| Draft and finalize the report | July 2014 | All stakeholders as above | |  |
| Public presentation of the report via a public event | Last week of July 2014 | 1. UN Communications Team  2. UNRCO  All stakeholders as above | | **4,000 USD** |
| Submission of the final report on the Post-MDGs consultations | Last Week of July 2014 | UNRCO | |  |
| **Synergies**  The consultation process in the second phase will draw upon synergies with different national development processes including the National Strategy for Development 2014-2020 and its sectorial and cross cutting strategies. The new NSDI reflects the new emerging priorities in different areas of development which also converge with the findings and recommendations of ICPD beyond 2014 review and its linkages with Post-2015 development agenda to ensure among others, dignity and human rights, health for all and governance and accountability. | | | | |
| **Process**  The process of consultations will be built on the extensive engagement of a wide range of stakeholders including youth, women associations, vulnerable groups, CSOs, central and local government. The combinations of different perspectives will be useful both for the depth with which the success/failure of experience in the area of gender equality, anti-trafficking as well as child protection could be further explored, and the breadth of insights they offer in the implementation of these participatory monitoring tools.  The purpose of the consultations process will be twofold:  - provide an analytical base on the experience, impact and lessons learnt on the three cases;  -continue an inclusive debate on the way how to stimulate other governmental and inter-governmental processes so they align with the aspirations of the community for an inclusive post-2015 development agenda with special attention to participatory monitoring.  These consultations will assess the relations between the state and people, reiterate the need for public accountability and identify opportunities in replicating positive examples as basis for the development of role models in the area of participatory monitoring. Several methods will be used for gathering inputs and data, including one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions, as well as E-consultations via social media by using Twitter and UN Facebook account.  The main challenge will be on the substantive side. Thus, the consultant will set the same parameters by conducting systematic review and meta-case study analysis for the documentation of the three cases with focus on the analysis of future potential strengthening of these participatory practices. The consultant will be non-biased and neutral when documenting the process, and will facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the consultations by guiding discussion and ensuring a result-oriented process.  The UNCT will use the extensive experience in the three selected models and provide relevant knowledge to identify challenges, opportunities and solutions with a bottom-up approach rationale. Three UN Agencies have been identified to lead the consultations, namely UNICEF on Child Protection Observatories; UNWOMEN on Community Based Scorecards and IOM on Albanian National Referral Mechanism for Identification and Assistance of Victims of Trafficking and its Task force. They will coordinate with other UN Agencies which will further complement the consultations process by sharing their experience and perspective in the different areas. The three selected case studies are very different in scope highlighting different aspects of accountability, data and coordination. It is planed that the focus group discussions with data providers and suppliers from local authorities/actors will feed into the development of the cases given that some questions to be asked to the participants will be formulated around the selected cases. The documented cases will feed both to the preparation of the analytical report as well as to global exercise dealing with the literature review. | | | | |
| **Partnerships**  UNCT intends to collaborate with the Government (both at the national and local level) and draw on their expertise for in depth analyses of the models. Our main counterpart is the Department of Development Planning, Financing and Foreign Aid. Likewise the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth will be a close governmental partner in the process. In addition, civil society, universities, high schools, private sector (i.e telecommunication companies) will be involved in order amplify at the widest range possible their voice on these accountability initiatives which aim to increase the transparency of governance in many arenas. | | | | |
| **Documentation**  Thorough documentation will be prepared by using audio-visual aids, facilitator’s reports, audio and video recording, photos etc. The report will be also accompanied by data set of the focus groups discussions and interviews such the list of participants, demographic information etc. Gender and age disaggregated analysis of how different groups of people access these participatory monitoring forums differently will be also documented.  A special focus will be given to the preparation of media campaign and PR materials. Key messages taken from the consultation process will be used to inform the public on the importance of their action in making and shaping service delivery they depend upon. Traditional media such as national TV and radio stations will be fed with information regarding second phase of Post-2015 consultations. A media brunch will be organized to inform media on the results coming out of the second phase of consultations.  The social media including UN Facebook account and Twitter will be used to inform citizens about the ongoing discussions, to post info about events, photos, invite them to participate, and use it as a public information sharing platform.  YouTube page will be also used to: a) post small video illustrating debates going on b) bring voices of people towards a citizen-centered approach 3) Post a final video story which summarizes the findings, debates and conclusions.  During the consultations, participation in e-discussion/dialogue taking place on worldwewant2015 website: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/accountability2015> will be promoted. | | | | |
| **Deliverables**  UNCT will submit the following:  - An analytical report which documents the achievements, lessons learnt, conclusions and recommendations for the three selected cases;  - Consolidated input from the consultations ( minutes, draft facilitator’s reports, video and audio recordings);  - Logistical information (participants’ info, locations, timing of the consultations etc). | | | | |

1. US Department Trafficking in Persons Report June 2013 – Albania [↑](#footnote-ref-1)