



Invitation to the seminar

“Transparent, Reliable, Understandable and Interactive: Challenges in Donors' Domestic Accountability”

15th – 16th of December 2009

AFD headquarters – Paris, France

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The French Development Agency (AFD) and the Informal Network of DAC Development Communicators (DevCom) are co-organizing a specialized workshop on the challenges in donors' domestic accountability from a cooperation agency's perspective.

Background

An increasing concern has emerged among donors around the ways for a development agency to address a growing demand for « accountability » in relation to its strategies, its actions and its impact. This demand has been expressed, over the last few years, on one hand by the international community of donors (placing the concept of accountability as one of the core principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, 2005), and on the other hand by the variety of stakeholders that shape the action of the agency both in donor and partner

countries (notably parliamentarians and civil society organizations).

The idea of an open, multi-stakeholder debate on accountability was born at the DevCom Network meeting in Berlin, May 2008, when the issue of communication of the results was discussed by a number of experts from development agencies. The search for efficiency, better aid results and democratic rules are calling for public institutions to improve their transparency, communication to citizens and accountability to all stakeholders of their actions.



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Objectives

1. Open a debate about current challenges and concrete responses to the increasing demand for accountability.
2. Explore experiences in the field of accountability and share best practice among practitioners from various development agencies in order to make it a truly collective exercise.
3. Present innovative tools developed by agencies to improve their accountability.

Format

The conference will last one day and a half, starting the 15th of December in the afternoon and ending the 16th in the evening. It will take place at the AFD headquarters in Paris, France. As a specialized workshop this event is aimed at development professionals in fields of evaluation, communication, public information, but it also involves the public administration (ministries, public agencies, members of parliament), media and civil society. Thirty to forty participants are expected to attend this participative workshop. Sessions will be held both in English and French (translation provided).

Preliminary agenda

FRAMING THE ISSUE

- **SESSION 1: Strengths and limits of domestic accountability**

PERSPECTIVES OF THE "ACCOUNTABILITY HOLDERS"

- **SESSION 2: "Formal accountability": The case of Parliaments**
- **SESSION 3: "Informal accountability": NGOs, Media, Think Tanks, etc.**

INNOVATIVE TOOLS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

- **SESSION 4: Initiated by bilateral and multilateral agencies (1) - Transparency and interactivity**
- **SESSION 5: Initiated by bilateral and multilateral agencies (2) - Independent evaluation and results' readability**
- **SESSION 6: Initiated by other international development actors**