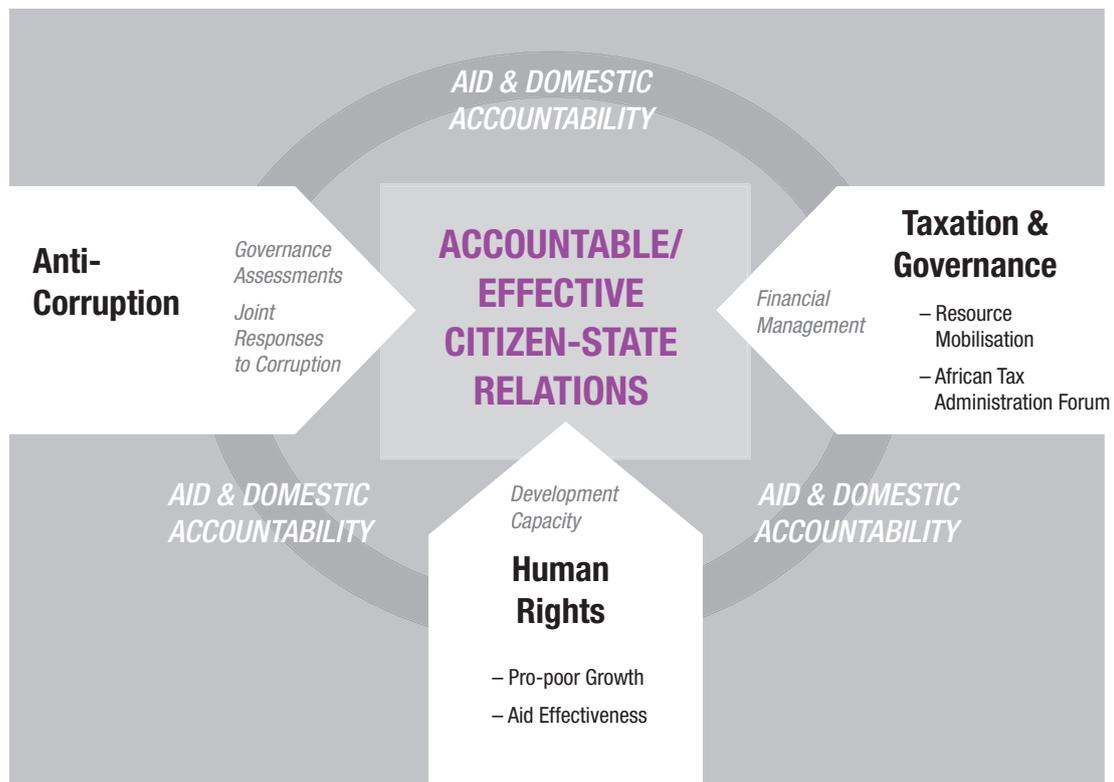


# THE OECD-DAC GOVERNANCE NETWORK (GOVNET)

The DAC Network on Governance (GOVNET) aims to improve the effectiveness of donor assistance in support of democratic governance in developing countries. It provides members with a forum to exchange experiences and lessons, identify and disseminate good practice, and develop policy and analytical tools. GOVNET promotes partner country ownership, co-ordinated donor approaches, results, and mutual accountability. GOVNET has served as an incubator for cutting-edge processes such as DAC work on fragile states, capacity development, and political economy analysis. Active partner country involvement in the GOVNET work-streams dates back to its founding *Guidance on Participatory Development and Good Governance* in 1995.

## GOVNET OVERVIEW



## Current GOVNET priorities include work on:

- **Aid and domestic accountability:** A new work-stream that integrates expertise in the GOVNET task teams on anti-corruption, human rights and taxation to provide guidance on how donors can help improve their support to domestic accountability in institutions including parliaments, supreme audit bodies, political parties, the media, and civil society. The work-stream is co-managed with representatives from these institutions in developing countries and is a core component of Cluster A (on ownership and accountability) of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. The work-stream is based on a number of case studies using as entry-points service delivery, budgets, taxation, anti-corruption and electoral processes. Findings will feed into the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Seoul 2011.
- **Human rights:** In recent years, human rights and development have been converging. Growing recognition of the crucial links between rights violations, poverty, exclusion, vulnerability and conflict has led many OECD member countries and multilateral donors to look at human rights more thoroughly as a means for improving the quality of development co-operation. In-depth work is underway in 2009/10 on producing principles on aid effectiveness and human rights through developing country consultations (forthcoming), exploring human rights and domestic accountability, and on pro-poor growth and human rights. This work is integral to the implementation of the human rights commitments in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) (paragraph 13c) and the 2007 *DAC Action-oriented policy paper on human rights and development*, which provides guidance on how to integrate human rights into development.
- **Anti-corruption:** In the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, donors committed to lending even greater support to developing countries' anti-corruption efforts, aligning with country-led initiatives, and promoting local ownership of anti-corruption reforms. Current work focuses on the implementation of the 2007 Policy paper and principles on anti-corruption, *Setting an Agenda for Collective Action*. In addition to continuing its support to developing country efforts to implement the UNCAC, GOVNET is working with several donors at the country level to improve joint responses to corruption. Second, guidance is being developed on how to address corruption in fragile states. Third, GOVNET works across the OECD to address the supply side of corruption. In 2010, the OECD started to track OECD members' efforts to trace, freeze and recover illegally acquired assets to the developing world (AAA commitment paragraph 24d).
- **Governance assessments:** Over the last decade, the importance of understanding the impact of governance on development has gained prominence and, as a consequence, the scope and volume of assessment tools have flourished. GOVNET has embarked on an analysis of these tools and their use in an effort to share experience, reduce the risks of duplicating assessments, and promote more coherent collective action in line with the Paris Declaration. In 2008, GOVNET drew attention to higher duplication of donor tools and approaches in governance assessment in its *Donor Approaches to Governance Assessments: Guiding Principles for Enhanced Usage and Harmonisation and a Sourcebook on Donor Approaches to Governance Assessments* (2009). In 2010 a survey will be launched to gauge donor performance against these principles.
- **Taxation:** In 2006, GOVNET began work on examining the governance aspects of domestic resource mobilisation, specifically taxation. Through the task team on Taxation, GOVNET facilitates exchange and dialogue among donors and experts, supplements existing technical expertise with a governance perspective, and provides guidance for an increased engagement of donors in the field of taxation. The DAC's *Governance, Taxation and Accountability: Issues and Practices* paper (2008) has had a significant impact on the international focus on domestic resource mobilisation, particularly in aid-dependent countries. GOVNET is now working with the OECD Centre for Tax Policy and Administration to support the development of the African Taxation Administration Forum – an African initiative designed to promote improvements in tax policy and administration in the continent. Following the first meeting of the DAC with the Committee of Fiscal Affairs and a Global Forum on development on domestic resource mobilization in January 2010, the OECD is designing a new tax and development program, which will be launched later in 2010.

### Contact :

For more information on the OECD DAC Governance Network (GOVNET) see [www.oecd.org/dac/governance](http://www.oecd.org/dac/governance).

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