



Accountability mechanisms are central

Conference paper by H  la Boujneh

There has been a great deal of debate over the past decade on the importance of decentralisation as a method for good governance. Despite the fact that development actors interpret the concept of decentralisation in different manners, there is a growing consensus that it involves more than just the institution of government itself. The ability of governments to achieve decentralisation processes also depends on the extent to which they are capable of working together with other institutions in society. A serious and efficient corporative relationship cooperation between states and non-state/non-government actors is needed on an international and regional level in a way to exchange best practices.

A more pluralistic institutional structure needs to be built that allows for a more decentralised way to promote development and social justice which offers a greater role for different forms of public-private and public-community partnerships, thanks to decentralised structures such as municipalities and city councils or others forms of platforms with the involvement of the local, regional and international civil society.

An efficient decentralisation processes is based on:

- The strategic dimension given to decentralised cooperation to strengthen the strategic dimension given to decentralised cooperation to improve a shared responsibility of local, regional and national governments.
- A legal framework covering decentralised cooperation activities and covering decentralised cooperation activities.
- Coordination and complementarity mechanisms to strengthen the coherence, the complementarity and the coordination within the states and non-state/non-government actors.
- The geographical coverage of decentralised cooperation to improve the percentage of ODA allocated in decentralised cooperation initiatives and sectors of intervention. To improve the operational mode to support decentralised cooperation enhancing its efficiency, focus on the most valuable type of projects in the field of decentralised cooperation and focus on strategic topics in the frame of the main sectors of intervention.
- The enhancement of the transparency and accountability mechanisms in the frame of decentralised cooperation strategies. To enhance the transparency, the accountability and the generation of knowledge in the frame of decentralised cooperation, to improve the civil society NGOs capacities in implementation and monitoring of the local institutions, transparent budgets, adequate public asset management, public reporting and access to information for citizens as well as the acceptance of public responsibilities and mistakes are vital to a responsible leadership.

Enhanced accountability mechanisms are becoming central to sound municipal and metropolitan governance. Local and regional governments are in a strong position to empower all inhabitants to fully participate in local political, social, economic and cultural life, which will help to better address inequalities, marginalized groups and vulnerable people. For that, guaranteeing access to information is essential to citizens' engagement. Furthermore, to strengthen public trust in government institutions, authorities should put in place anti-corruption mechanisms, in line with applicable international standards.

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