



REGIONAL MONITORING AND REVIEW MECHANISM FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF POST-2015 AGENDA

A PAPER PREPARED FOR UN-ESCAP, BANGKOK

Debapriya Bhattacharya

Chair, Southern Voice on Post-MDGs

and

Distinguished Fellow, CPD, Dhaka

debapriya.bh@gmail.com

21 May 2015

THE CONTEXT AND THE ISSUES

- ❑ Shaping the post-2015 is now at a penultimate stage
- ❑ Addressing the MDG fault-lines
 - Inadequate monitoring and review mechanism
 - Regional Monitoring and Review Mechanism (RMRM) almost absent
- ❑ Addressing the new issues
 - The “inclusive” agenda – Regional focus
 - Data Revolution – Disaggregation
- ❑ Focus of the paper → Conceptualising a RMRM for Asia and Pacific
 - Review of SDG preparatory docs
 - Revisiting of existing practices
 - Identifying the elements of an effective mechanism

REVIEW OF THE PERSPECTIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-2015

REVIEW OF UN DOCUMENTS

- Reports of the High Level Panel (HLP)
- UN Task Team
- Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs
- UN Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN)
- UN Global Compact of the private sector
- Synthesis Report of the UN SG

REVIEW OF NON-UN DOCUMENTS

- UN-NGLS
- Beyond2015
- CIVICUS
- Southern Voice on Post-MDG
- The Center for Global Development (CGD)
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- The New York University (NYU)

NEW DEMANDS ON RMRM

□ Perspectives on RMRM

- Lynchpin should be the UN Regional Commissions
- Build on existing practices of the concerned institutions
- Collaborate with regional development banks and other regional entities
- Invest resources in performing coordination function **within region** and **beyond**
- Link up to the global and national processes of SDG/FfD reviews and follow-ups
- Reach out to other platforms, such as G7+, G77, G20 and BRICS

NEW DEMANDS ON RMRM

□ Perspectives on RMRM

- Cover all SDGs, particularly the regional priorities
- Ensure **participation of stakeholders** such as CSOs/NGOs, private sector, scientific community, think tanks with adequate avenues of engagement
- Put in place **evidence-based independent assessment** and effective follow-up tools and modalities
- Generate **quality and timely data and statistics** by strengthening regional capacities and national systems

REVISITING THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK OF RMRM

□ UN Agencies and Commissions

- Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG) coordinated by UNSD
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Regional Commissions
- UN Specialised Agencies
 - UNICEF
 - Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
 - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

□ Other International Agencies

- Trade Policy Review Mechanism of WTO
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- The World Bank and IMF
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

REDESIGNING RMRM- LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ The reviews have to take place regularly following an agreed time of frequency

Collaboration with entities having specialised information and knowledge may broaden the scope to have access to relevant data

- ❑ To have proper authority, the monitoring and review mechanism should enjoy a high profile, desirably through ministerial level participation

Engagement of other stakeholders will also broaden the transparency and ownership of the mechanism

- ❑ The monitoring and review process may cover pre-determined specific areas of policy focus or any priority area concerning the post-2015 agenda

For this, area or policy-specific thematic groups may be created to provide exclusive information and analysis on the concerned subject

REDESIGNING RMRM- LESSONS LEARNT

- ❑ Availability of relevant, timely and comparable data statistics constitute the fundamental basis for having a credible monitoring and review mechanism

The frequency of the review will be dictated by the nature of the issue(s) under review as well as by the level of willingness of the concerned parties

- ❑ Various models of peer-review may be observed. This may be “universal” (i.e. covering all member countries) as well as “voluntary” (i.e. based on expressed willing to participate)

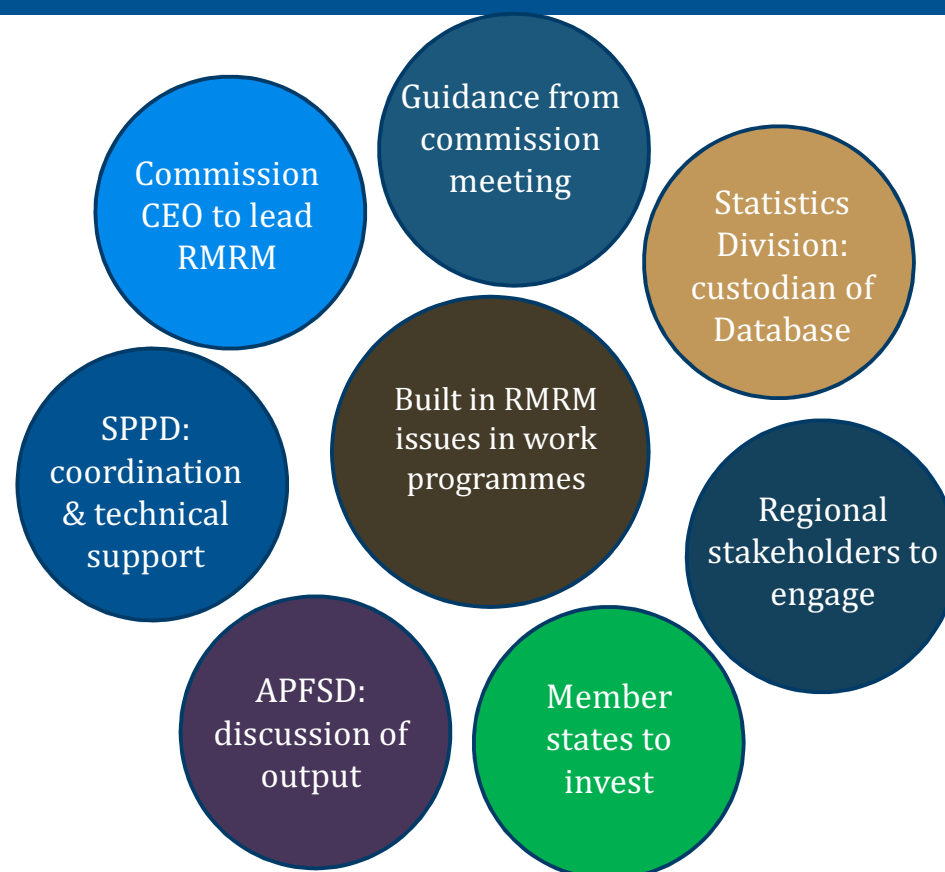
Even to putting in operation of a universal mechanism will necessitate expressed consensus among the member States and other stakeholders

- ❑ There has to be a feedback loop in the monitoring and review mechanism to ensure compliance of the commitments undertaken by the country reviewed

The effectiveness of the compliance mechanism will largely depend on the depth of the monitoring and review mechanism

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA FRAMEWORK ISSUES

- ❑ The regional commissions of the United Nations are best suited for hosting the RMRM in their respective regions.
- ❑ ESCAP to anchor “review and follow up” mechanism in Asia and the Pacific.
- ❑ Conceptualisation at three levels, viz.
 - (i) policy making and oversight
 - (ii) provision of data and information and technical analysis
 - (iii) validation of the process
- ❑ The *four sub-regional offices of ESCAP* will have to be integrated in the RMRM structures
- ❑ The *five regional institutions of ESCAP* have to provide specialised inputs in their areas of expertise.



ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA FRAMEWORK ISSUES

□ Guiding Principles

- Universal approach based on common but differentiated responsibility
- “Mutual accountability” of all the major actors
- Full transparency and disclosure pertaining to the process
- Multi-stakeholder participation at all stages
- Effective feedback loop regarding compliance
- Substantive linkage with global, sub-regional and national entities and processes
- Use of timely, disaggregated and reliable data and evidence
- Platform for exchange of ideas and good practices

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA FRAMEWORK ISSUES

- ❑ **Scope:** The RMRM has to focus on the full range of areas covered by the SDGs and their means of implementation.
 - ➔ A closer and in-depth look may be taken in the areas of regional priorities, programmes of action, regional public goods, technology facilitation and data need

- ❑ **An Issue:** Will be a separate mechanism to track and monitor the relevant indicators of Addis Accord (FfD3)?
 - ➔ There may be a rationale to institute a separate, but complementary monitoring track for the indicators of Financing for Development (FfD) along with the SDG-focused RMRM

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA OPERATIONAL MODALITIES

Review and reporting

- Independent Expert Group (IEG)/Group of Eminent Persons (GEP)
- Inter-Agency Task Team (ITT)
- Regional Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG)

Targeted thematic reviews

Voluntary Self-reporting by Member-States including the developed countries

Peer Review – Self-selection or Universal

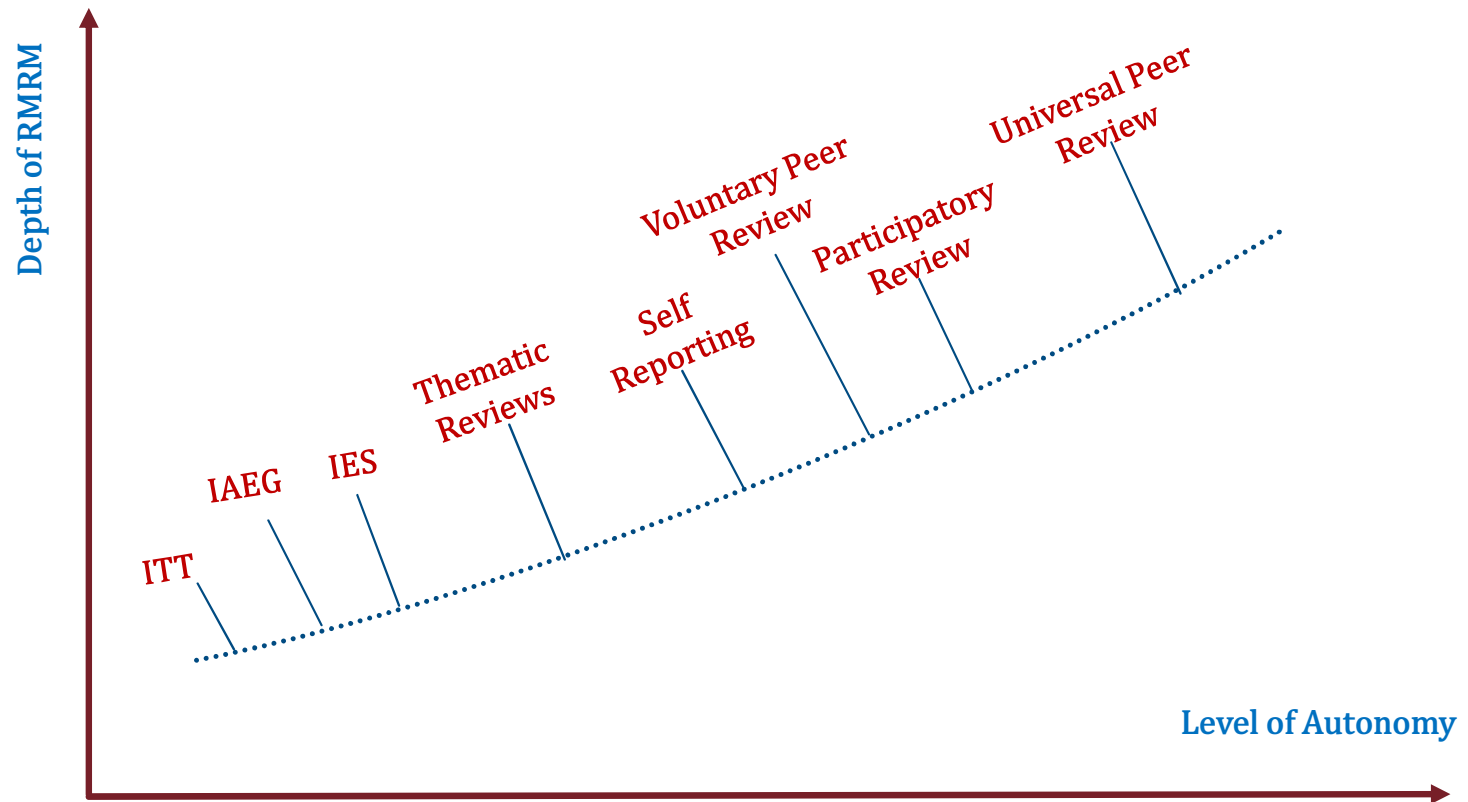
Participatory Review

Analytical Work

- Identify Regional Priorities
- Identify Data Needs
- Preparation of Base line
- Regional SDG Index and sub-regional SDG Index

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA

OPERATIONAL MODALITIES



ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA

MONITORING OF REGIONAL PUBLIC GOODS

❑ Regional Public Goods (RPG)

- Environmental sustainability
- Cross-border infrastructure
- Free trade agreement
- Acidification of oceans
- Cross-border crimes and
- Environmental pollution

❑ Regional Technology Transfer Framework

- Technology Facilitation Mechanism
- Technology Bank for the LDCs

❑ Regional Programmes of Action

- Istanbul programme of actions for LDCs
- SAMOA a Pathway for SIDS
- Programme of Action for LLDCs
- Beijing platform of gender quality and women's empowerment
- Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
- Disability "Make the Right Real" framework
- Pacific Energy Forum
- SE4ALL agenda

❑ Monitoring Financing for Development (including Climate Finance)

SEVEN SAMPLE INDICATORS FOR REGIONAL MONITORING

| Goal | Indicator no | Indicator | | | Rating |
|---|--------------|---|----------|----------|--------|
| | | Feasible | Suitable | Relevant | |
| Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries | 10.1.1 | Measure income inequality using the Gini coefficient or Palma ratio , pre- and post-social transfers/tax, at global, regional and national level disaggregated by groups as defined above | | | AAA* |
| | 10.1.2 | Change in real disposable income and consumption by quintiles over time, at global, regional and national level | | | BAA† |
| Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | 11.3.2 | Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs | | | BBB |
| | 11.a.1 | Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs | | | CBB |
| Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development | 14.c.2 | Number of countries implementing either legally or programmatically the provisions set out in regional seas protocols | | | BBB |
| Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development | 17.16.2 | Classification and trajectory of the multi-stakeholder partnerships in developing countries in terms of: a) Nature of partnership, b) Region: Global, regional , c) Objectives: Sharing technology, expertise etc. and d) Country type (where partnership is active) | | | CBB |
| | 17.18.2 | Number of countries that have formal institutional arrangements for the coordination of the compilation of official statistics (at international, national and regional level) | | | AAA |

ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RMRM IN ASIA DATA NEEDS AND STATISTICAL CAPACITY

- ❑ **Prime focus:** Strengthening national statistical system
- ❑ **Particular attention:** Improve the quality and frequency of nation-wide surveys and data on Regional Public Goods
- ❑ **Special issue:** More data on **South-South cooperation** and North-South Triangular cooperation as well as collaboration for data collection at regional level.

Create a Regional Trust Fund for Data and Statistics

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

❑ Six challenges of designing and delivery of an effective RMRM in Asia and the Pacific

- i. Creating a niche for RMRM
- ii. Developing effective tools and instruments for result-oriented operationalisation of the RMRM
- iii. Creating necessary data and information-related capacity in relevant institutions

- Regional commissions to creatively carve out an exclusive area of intervention
- Monitoring of RPG and agreed regional programmes of action are obvious
- Engagement of ESCAP in the a number of SDG targets and indicators is particularly needed

- ESCAP to fine tune some of its traditional monitoring methods
- Adopt new mechanisms for ensuring review of the delivery process
- Creation of an independent expert body, if not a voluntary peer-review mechanism

- ESCAP to draw up a roadmap to meet the new demands for data and statistics

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

❑ Six challenges of designing and delivery of an effective RMRM in Asia and the Pacific

iv. Endowing RMRM with necessary resources – human, financial and institutional

v. Demonstration of leadership in taking the RMRM process forward

vi. Ensuring requisite political support in favour of the RMRM and expanding popular participation in the new mechanism

▪ ESCAP to mobilise such resources with concerted and targeted efforts

▪ ESCAP Governing Body and Secretariat to do it energetically

▪ Member States to demonstrate their political commitment towards an RMRM to guarantee the credibility of the mechanism in the eyes of other stakeholders



*Thank You
for
Your Attention*