

## Round Table 5 Mutual Accountability

Key messages to the Ministerial Dinner, on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
By Ronan Murphy, Director General of Irish Aid, Ireland

There was a striking degree of agreement on key recommendations for strengthening country-level and international mechanisms of mutual accountability to improve development results.

- Strengthen the role of partner governments, parliaments and civil society in domestic and international accountability mechanisms. This includes in the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness.
- On parliaments, the need to address this area of weakness was a ringing theme of the round table, coming from parliamentarians themselves, ministers, government officials and civil society. It goes far beyond just informing them but strengthening their role in engaging with development processes and decision making.
- In the case of civil society there is a need both to strengthen their role and to encourage their emerging efforts to look at their own accountability.
- Country level mutual accountability needs to respect and support local accountability structures in order to lead to sustainable improved development results. The best development results come from those countries with the strongest domestic accountability mechanisms.
- Transparent information on aid, including for example on technical assistance, is vital. The same applies to transparency of government budgets. .
- Solid agreement on the need to take account of broader scope of accountability to include commitments on issues such as gender, human rights, environment and on donor commitments on aid volumes.
- Strengthen and use existing mutual accountability structures --- which already exist in most countries but are in too weak a form.
- The Working Party on Aid Effectiveness must be a champion of mutual accountability and ensure that mutual accountability is no longer the orphan of aid effectiveness.