



PRS DAY – APRIL 21

Session F: Second Round of PRSs

Discussants drew on their experience with the first round of PRS, to draw lessons for the second round.

Participation:

- a) If governments are to open up the PRS process to wider participation, governments and CSOs must see their relations as complementary rather than conflictual or contradictory.
- b) Private sector, local government, parliaments should also participate as key actors.
- c) CSO participation is most effective through networks that draw together CSOs' different strengths. Some networks already exist, some may have to be created. All need to provide feedback to and inform their constituent CSOs.
- d) Participation not just in the formulation of the PRS, but also in implementation and M&E. Governments should also allow CSO participation in negotiations with donors.
- e) Preconditions for meaningful participation: government and donors set up mechanisms, ensure the PRS is in the local language, allow enough time for consultation and participation, clarify most helpful areas for CSO inputs and independent analyses, provide necessary financial and knowledge resources.

Ownership:

- a) Ownership is affected by international/regional strategies—e.g., MDGs, Education for All, NEPAD Infrastructure Plan. Government must harmonize such goals and targets with its own national goals and targets.

PRS Content:

- a) PRSP should include macroeconomic framework, trade, employment generation, other issues that contribute to poverty reduction.
- b) Government should set appropriate timeframe for PRS.
- c) PRSPs may need to look at the integration of sectoral goals and strategies; instead of defining sectoral targets, define general outcomes to which different sectors will contribute.
- d) PRSs should show the links between poverty and environment: the natural resource base is key to growth and development as well as poverty reduction.
- e) PRSs should also include social protection measures, e.g., for those who care for HIV/AIDS patients, orphans.



Growth:

- a) Base PRSs on realistic, not overambitious, growth targets. Possibly use different scenarios based on different assumptions and growth projections.
- b) Look beyond GDP and dollar measurements to learn whether poverty is really being reduced.
- c) Cannot focus on growth alone, at the expense of poverty reduction, because it may result in exclusion of vulnerable groups.
- d) Articulate a growth strategy that will work for a particular country, which requires more country-specific analytical work.

PRS Implementation and M&E:

- a) Local governments, which must implement PRSs, lack capacities, financial resources, and information and data-gathering structures.
- b) Donors' conflicting priorities and lack of coordination affect implementation.
- c) Donors need to supply sufficient resources for implementation.
- d) CSOs have a comparative advantage in monitoring and gathering data on PRS implementation, especially at the local level; this information can then be provided as an input into government's countrywide performance monitoring and progress reporting.