Independent Monitoring of Global NGO the vision of the Multilateral Investment Fund

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1. Principles of Accountability

- NGO face the twin challenges of demonstrating effectiveness and accountability
- All organizations are accountable to multiple stakeholders.
- There is an "upward" accountability to funders, "downward" to beneficiaries and "internal" to their own mission and staff
- Often times the first is well developed through reporting and evaluation
- The other two tend to be neglected.



1. Principles of Accountability (CONT)

- Accountability is a chain that begins with shared values, vision and goals among stakeholders
- Accountability demonstrates transparency with information, provided in a meaningful way.
- Accountability integrates the measurements of results with mission and vision.
- NGO and donors often report and measure things that don't matter.
- Information should focus not on justifying existing programs, but to improve effectiveness and mission achievement



1. Principles of Accountability (CONT)

- NGO see accountability as being about punishment, not about organizational learning.
- Generating knowledge is not enough: learning involve the use of knowledge to improve what organizations do.



2. Benefits of independent monitoring networks and Recommendations to improve NGO accountability

- Select independent evaluators from a network willing to engage on collective learning. The benefits of such a network would be:
 - Measurement of impact over longer periods
 - Measurement things that are useful for improving long term effectiveness
 - Identification of common reporting needs
 - Development of systems for the collection and analysis of information
 - Documentation of existing reporting and learning platforms such as certification systems, standards and codes of ethics



2. Benefits of independent monitoring networks and Recommendations to improve NGO accountability (cont)

- Development of a common learning platform, identifying commonalities among major donors
- Mobilize the donors and engage in a new partnership between Donors, NGO and beneficiaries that enhances the three types of accountability ("upward", "downward" and "internal").
- Help the multilateral organizations effectively become innovative learning institutions as a donors.

