



Political Accountability: Preconditions of Good Financial Governance

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What is Accountability

The obligation a person, group or organisation assumes for the execution of authority and/or fulfilment of responsibility

This obligation includes:

- **Answering – providing an explanation or justification for the execution of that authority and/or fulfilment of that responsibility**
- **Reporting – providing a report on the results of that execution and/or fulfilment**
- **Assuming liability for those results (failure or success)**

What is Accountability

Responsibility:



The obligation to perform

Accountability:



The liability one assumes for ensuring that an obligation to perform – a *responsibility* – is fulfilled

Authority:



The right to act without prior approval from higher management. Authority is assigned. Responsibility is delegated.

What is Political Accountability

Political accountability is the accountability of the government, civil servants and politicians to the public and to legislative bodies such as a parliament.

In parliamentary systems, the government relies on the support of parliament, which gives parliament power to hold the government to account. For example, some parliaments can pass a vote of no confidence in the government.

(www.wikipedia.com)

Purpose and Key Aspects of Political Accountability

Accountability is a relationship

a contract between two parties

Accountability is results-orientated

It focuses on outcomes and impact

Accountability requires reporting

reporting is the backbone of accountability

Accountability is meaningless without consequences

obligation indicates liability and liability comes with consequences

Accountability improves performance

The goal is improve performance and be proactive in dealing with challenges

Understanding Political Accountability

- Machinery of government is a game between:
 - A principal – the public
 - An agent – the politician or policy maker
- The public delegates to the policy maker a set of instruments to execute certain goals
- Regular election are established as a control mechanism to ensure that policy makers do not pursue their self-interest
- The effective of the control mechanism vary with:
 - The type of political regime
 - Level of information amongst the public
 - The types of assets that prevail in the economy

Good Financial Governance

- Human Rights
- Democracy & Rule of Law
- Efficiency & Transparency of the State
- Pro-poor and Sustainable Policy Design
- Cooperative Stance within International Community

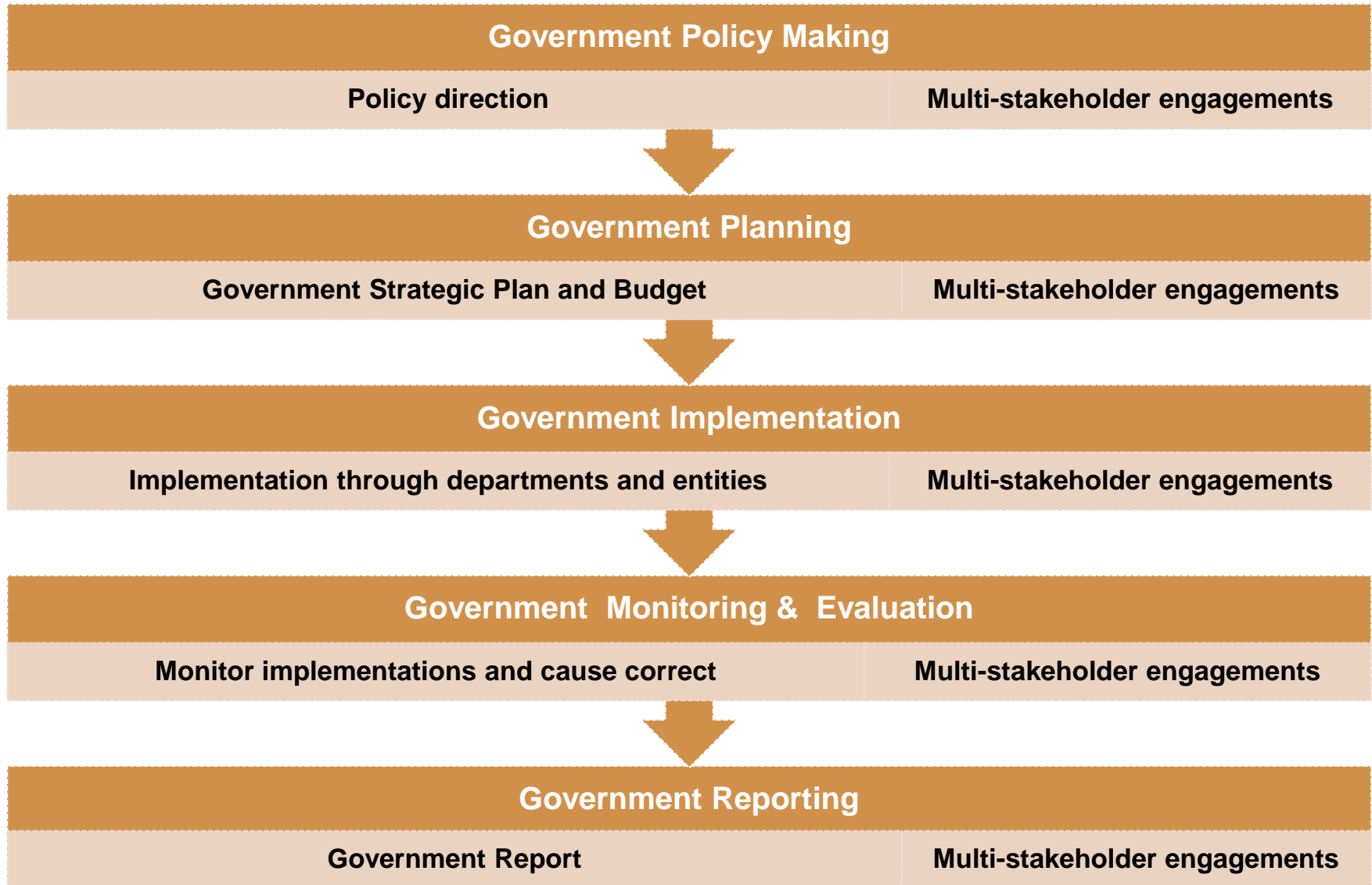


- Political Will
- Political Steering Capacity
- Policy Coherence
- Change Management
- Interests & Incentives
- Consultation & Cooperation Mechanisms

- Revenues
- Public Budget
- Financial Control
- Public Procurement
- Debt Management
- Fiscal Decentralisation

Courtesy of GIZ

Political Accountability in action



Conclusion

- The challenge IFF is a huge one
- It requires that a clear framework for political accountability be established
- It also requires that three elements of the state – The Executive, The legislative and The Judiciary be strengthened to execute effectively on their responsibilities
- It requires that there be a integrated system that allows for multi-stakeholder engagements at policy making, planning, implementation, monitoring & evaluation and reporting stages.
- The approach to dealing with IFF needs to be undergo the same stages of policy development, planning, implementations, monitoring & evaluation and reporting

THANK YOU