

GOVERNANCE, FOR WHAT?

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According to the UN public-opinion study, governance is important to the wellbeing of people, though other aspects can be distinguished as well (Bergh, Rocha Menocal, Rodríguez & Takeuchi, 2014). For example, in general, people tend to prefer government effectiveness rather than democracy or civil rights. Employment and the provision of public services are the main reasons people want a good government. Corruption is also identified as a problem, but it is considered as a secondary issue.

Other actors, such as investors are concerned about the level of governance in a country because it helps them decide whether and where to invest their capital. Similarly, international aid has been conditioned to improvements in the quality of governments and institutions in third world countries. In this regard, one can identify that governance is about three specific aspects: i) to increase State capacities; ii) to promote the wellbeing of people, and iii) to enhance national growth and social and economic development.

In short, governance has both theoretical and practical effects. However, the lack of definitions, homogeneous and comparable measurements, and an appropriate analytical framework mean that academic studies can be misled; funds and international aid are allocated inefficiently, and the encouragement of public policies and reforms may not be adequate for the development of countries.

For the above reasons, it is necessary to construct a basic consensus on the concept of governance. Considering this may help to see governance as a measurable cross-cutting perspective that promotes the success of the Post-2015 objectives.

PROBLEM
IDENTIFICATION