

The first review of an aid donor by recipient countries

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In 2014, representatives from Pacific countries and other development partners undertook the first ever review of a donor, New Zealand. The review was undertaken in tandem with the regular OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) review of New Zealand's development cooperation.

Since 1962, developed country aid donors have peer-reviewed each other's programmes under the auspices of the OECD Development Assistance Committee. And since 2010, Pacific Islands Forum nations have peer reviewed each other's progress in implementing the principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action through the 2009 Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific (Forum Compact), with particular emphasis on their use of national systems for development planning and budgeting, public financial management (PFM), progress towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aid management. These reviews are facilitated by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

This presentation draws on the experiences and findings of New Zealand's review to highlight strengths of the process and propose suggestions for improvement. It explains why New Zealand undertook to be reviewed, what was learned and why other donors and development actors, including international and regional civil society organisations, should submit to similar scrutiny as part of their commitments to mutual accountability and to strengthen partner country feedback and influence on donor practice.

