

Introduction to the topic

SDC, Learning Retreat DDLG and CH+R

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Independent State institutions: their functions

- Independent state institutions for ensuring **legitimacy** of and confidence in governance processes (e.g. election management).
- Independent oversight institutions for ensuring **accountability** of powerholders;

Why «accountability» and «legitimacy» in development cooperation?

- Accountability ensures that government action meets the stated objectives and responds to the needs of citizens
- Accountability improves relations between the rulers and the ruled, ensuring legitimacy of power;
- Legitimacy enhances acceptance and effectiveness of government, and builds trust in situations of fragility.

Accountability is a key factor of sustainable development (SDGs, aid effectiveness etc).

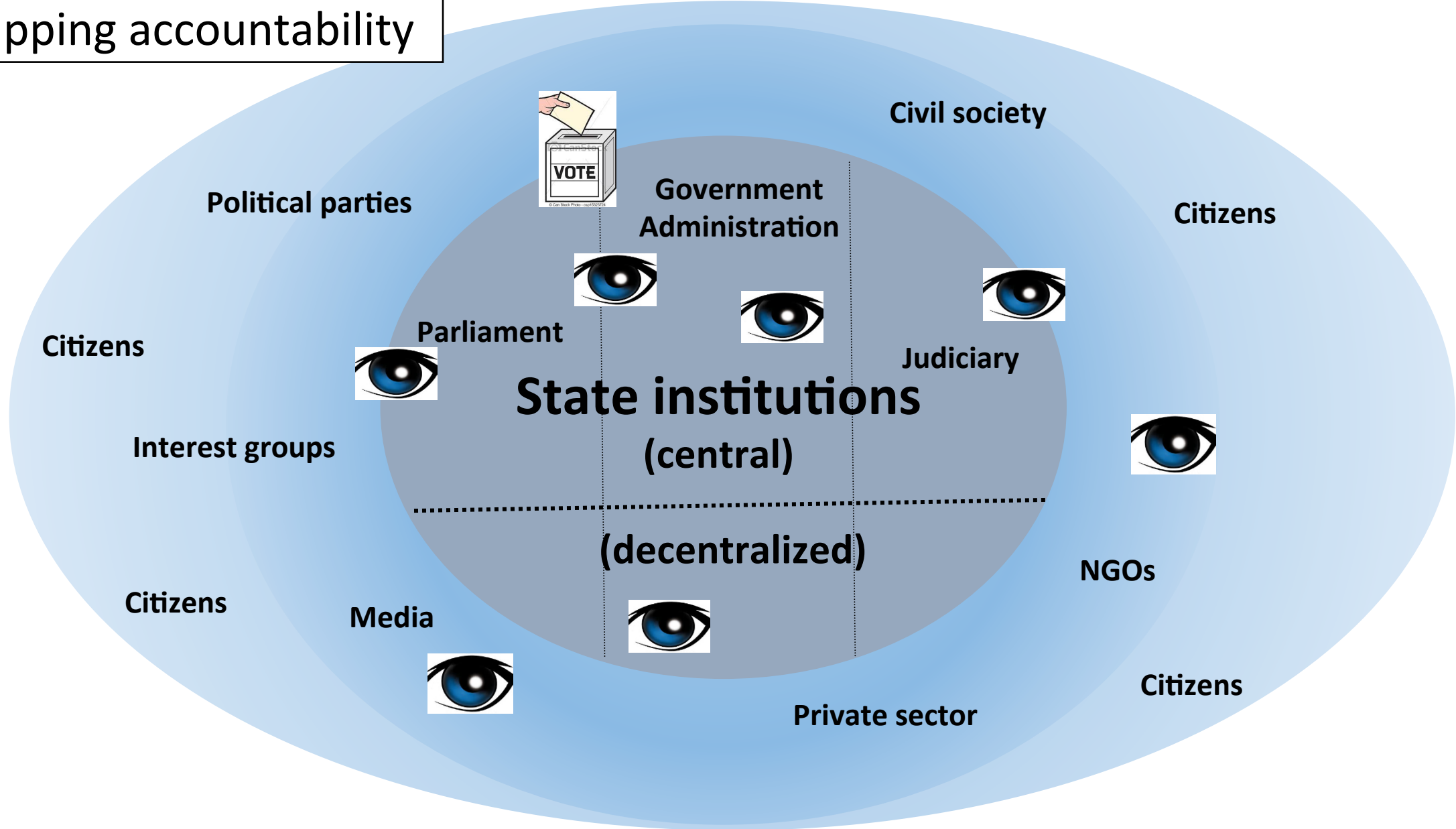
Accountability: principle of good governance

Three dimensions of accountability

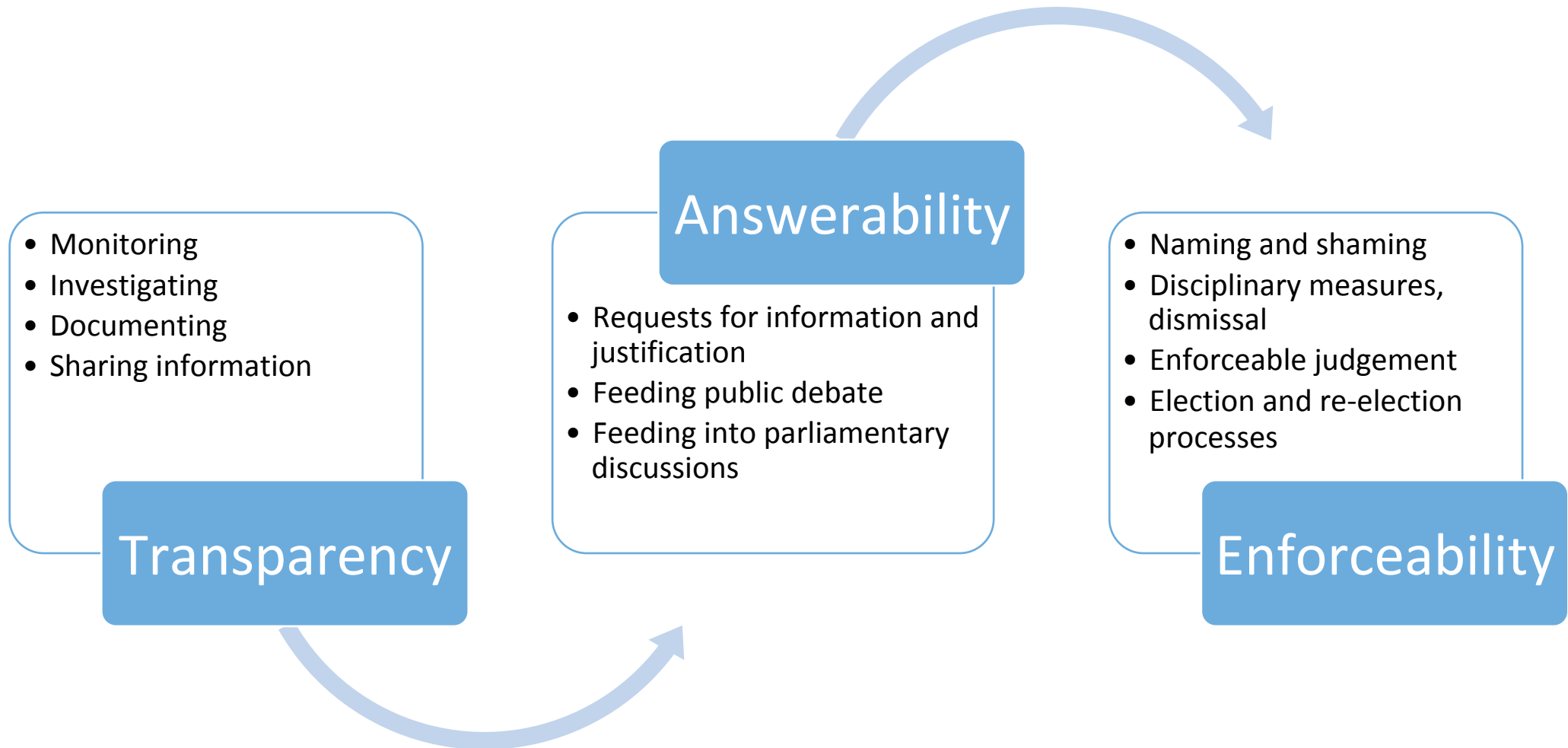
- Transparency
- Answerability
- Enforceability



Mapping accountability



Oversight institutions vary in their focus on accountability dimensions:



Independent institutions but part of the State

- Established by constitution, law, or government decision
- Members elected or selected by government, parliament, or judiciary
- Personal mandate, or collective body
- Funded by public budget, or external funding
- Overseeing government, administration, judiciary, or performing specific tasks (such as organizing elections)
- Assessing performance based on international standards, national laws, policies, in terms of effectiveness, responsiveness, efficiency
- Reporting to the government, parliament, or judiciary.