



ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE BOLIVIA

COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE:

**“PROMOTION OF AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

16-17 March 2016

Cochabamba, Bolivia



Preamble:

1. The Symposium on the "Promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development" was held from 16 to 17 March 2016 in Cochabamba, Bolivia, is organized by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic Affairs and social United Nations (DESA), in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Country Team in Bolivia.
2. The Symposium provided high-level public officials from Latin America and the Caribbean a platform to share knowledge of innovative practices and lessons learned on how to build an inclusive and accountable public administration for the achievement of sustainable development. Over 400 participants attended this capacity development event, including Ministers, government officials, representatives of the United Nations, regional development banks, academia and other relevant organizations.
3. Panelists discussed regional and international issues on how to promote: (a) effective and responsible for the advancement of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development institutions; (b) ethical leadership, professionalism and a culture of integrity in the public sector; (c) coordination and political and institutional integration: the change of mentality and change the mode of operation in silos; and (d) the commitment and participation, and mechanisms to ensure accountable government.
4. During the symposium, participants showed appreciation to the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (DESA) and the United

Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the successful event. They also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to exchange ideas and innovative experiences that can help all member countries in achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

5. Resolution 69/327 of the United Nations General Assembly, at the initiative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, reaffirmed that among the foundations of sustainable development are transparent, participatory, and responsible public institutions and a public administration that is professional, ethical and open to the use of information technology and communications. The resolution also encourages Member States to promote effective and responsible leadership, a high level of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in public institutions and the provision of public services at all levels.
6. The importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the world encompasses a common transforming vision based on solidarity, accountability and shared responsibility. It guides governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders interested in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote a better world for all.
7. The three global conferences of the United Nations in 2015 that have been the basis for strengthening international cooperation for the promotion of the agenda 2030, and have guided the Member States in the development of their own action plans to promote sustainable development: a) the Third International Conference on Financing for development held in Addis Ababa , Ethiopia, in July 2015 ; b) the Summit of the United Nations for approval of the Development Agenda was held in September 2015 to formally adopt the Sustainable Development Goals SDG ; c) the 21st Conference of the Parties (cop21) to the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change (UNFCCC) where Member States adopted a binding agreement to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the long term.
8. Democracy, good governance and the rule of law, along with a national and international enabling environment, are essential elements of sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection as well as the eradication of poverty and hunger "(A / RES / 70/1, para. 9).
9. Social equity should be a central focus of the action of public administration. The poorest and most vulnerable should have equal rights and access to public services on an equal footing. Public services and social benefits should help overcome inequality.
10. Service to citizens must be at the center of the transformation of public administration. Appropriate institutional, professional and ethical leadership, a focus on diversity and gender equality, the use of information and communication technologies, innovation, accountability in the public sector and capacity-building are all important (A / RES / 69/327).
11. Resolution 69/327 of the General Assembly also highlighted the positive contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities, including through some of their traditional values and principles, to strengthening individual and societal commitments in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration and promote inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development, including the Andean principles of *ama suwa* (do not be a thief), *ama llulla* (do not be a liar) and *ama qhilla* (do not be lazy), the Inupiat values of *pitqiksīgautaiññiq* (honesty) and *qiksiksrautiqağniq* (respect for others) and the Blackfoot value of *tukuki* (impartiality and incorruptibility), while recognizing that it is a duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

12. General Assembly resolution 69/327 reiterates that each State has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. It recognizes the importance of developing institutional capacity and human resources, e-government and citizen participation in the management development programs.

Recommendations:

13. Based on the interventions and fruitful discussion of the International Symposium on the “Promotion of an inclusive and accountable public administration for sustainable development” held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, this Communiqué highlights the following recommendations:
14. National sovereignty over natural resources, the economy and policies are essential for building and promoting an inclusive and accountable public administration that results in a nationally owned strategy based on dialogue.
15. States should decide how to incorporate the SDGs in their agendas, plans and national and local policies. Three elements are important to the implementation the SDGs: inclusion by involving all relevant stakeholders; social equity as the core of public action; and integration, by coordinating the actions of all public bodies in implementing the necessary plans.
16. The policies formulated by the States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals must be integrated and coherent. Policies are most effective when they are handled in a way taking into consideration their inter-related complexities. In this sense, horizontal coordination within the framework of the national government, and between central government and local authorities through integrated public policies, is needed.
17. Also, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires transformational leadership, capabilities, and resources in public administration complimented by ethical values for the transparent management of resources. Gender inequality must be overcome through a multiplicity of public policies and especially through participatory gender-responsive budgets.
18. It is necessary to rethink the relationship between state, market, and civil society. We must seek a government open to citizens. A new social contract is needed so that everyone is involved in the development plan. Hence, what is needed is a smart strategic vision of the public sector and ethical leadership at all levels so that the credibility of public administration is restored.
19. Public services must be aimed at curbing inequality. Public services are a fundamental responsibility of the State, in cooperation with civil society and the private sector. Therefore, it is necessary to promote a new model of cooperation with the private sector, which is focused on the welfare of all people.
20. For plans and projects to have effective results, they should be designed to meet the needs of people and have them participate actively in identifying their needs, identifying solutions, and most importantly in implementing plans and projects at all levels. The role of local authorities in sustainable development will be ever more important. Therefore working locally with all communities through innovative mechanisms is a must.
21. To overcome a silo mentality (working in isolation and without coordination), it is important to foster a culture of collaboration based on a vision of the common good and the results to be obtained to advance the realization of national development agendas and SDGs.

22. Innovation and technology allow the State to become closer to citizens and share information. It is also a tool for citizens to communicate their needs, knowledge and initiatives to the public sector. Furthermore, it is a tool for all stakeholders to work together in solving social, economic and environmental problems. Cooperation is needed to overcome the technical challenges and the digital divide. Processes improving public administration through the use of technologies should be made taking into account the efficiency and effectiveness of the solutions that these innovative instruments provide to citizens.
23. The human talent plays a fundamental role in achieving sustainable development. Thus, a new profile and new skills are needed to form the public servant of the twenty-first century, based on a culture of ethics and responsiveness to the needs of each and every citizen, with particular emphasis on gender equality issues. Public officials also need to identify future scenarios and long-term plans to eliminate poverty and inequality and to ensure the welfare of future generations. It is also important to continue to promote the principles of independence, impartiality, merit and professionalism of public servants. Honesty and integrity are fundamental to preventing corruption. Ethical codes are very important to ensure respect for the principles and values.
24. Furthermore, it is essential to continue to support capacity building through, for example, the exchange of innovative experiences in the areas of planning and institutional coordination, leadership and citizen participation. It is also important to develop methodologies to align national plans with Agenda 2030. International cooperation can also be important, for example through the support of institutions such as DESA, ECLAC and CLAD.
25. Collaboration at regional level is very important to promote innovation and the skills needed for development.
26. To review progress in advancing the SDGs, it is necessary to collect and analyze disaggregated data on various aspects of sustainable development. The potential of information technology and communication may be exploited in this regard.
27. This Symposium can give new impetus to our efforts to implement the Agenda, drawing from the experiences of countries that have started to implement Agenda 2030. Its discussions will inform the United Nations High Level Political Forum on sustainable development. The Forum is an important platform to review the progress of each country in achieving the SDGs. It would be ideal that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean consider assessing their own needs, priorities and progress in the adaptation and implementation of SDGs at national and local level. Countries can also submit these results to the annual session of the High-Level Political Forum that takes place at the headquarters of United Nations in New York in July.