

Expert Group Meeting on “Integrated approaches to international migrations: the perspective of public institutions and public administration”
Inputs to chapter 5 of the World Public Sector Report 2017

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 1 November 2017

Concept note

Background

The World Public Sector Report 2017 (WPSR 2017) will examine how governments, public institutions and public administration can foster integrated approaches to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The report will examine key challenges and opportunities for integrated approaches from the perspective of public administration, highlighting experiences from past decades both at the sectoral and cross-sectoral levels. It will also examine how governments across the world have chosen to address existing interlinkages among the SDGs, and the implications of this for public administration and public institutions. The report thus aims to produce a comprehensive empirical analysis of policy integration for the SDGs at the national and local levels, with a view to drawing lessons on how emerging initiatives aiming to policy and institutional integration might lead to long-term success in achieving the SDGs, in different developmental and governance contexts. Arguments made in the report will be illustrated by concrete examples in relation to SDG goals, targets or clusters thereof.

The report will be built around two structuring dimensions: first, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as an integrated and indivisible set of goals and targets; and second, the role of the government and public service, including the institutional aspect, in fostering sustainable development. The main thread linking together the chapters of the report is the question of how governments can support the delivery of SDGs through integrated approaches and from institutional and public service perspectives. The report will examine integration and its implications for the public sector through three complementary lenses: (1) horizontal integration, i.e. the management of cross-cutting issues in policy-making that transcend the boundaries of established policy fields; (2) vertical integration, i.e. how the actions of national and sub-national levels of government can be aligned to result in coherent outcomes; and (3) engagement of all stakeholders in the realisation of shared objectives¹. It will apply this structural framework to specific themes such as public health, post-conflict countries and international migrations.

Chapter 5 of WPSR 2017, will examine how public administration and public institutions can promote an integrated approach to responding to the needs of migrants, looking in particular at the challenges associated with access to basic public services by migrants. The chapter aims to address the following key questions:

- What are important linkages between international migrations and the SDGs, and how do they translate into questions in relation to public administration and public institutions?
- What are the different examples of legal frameworks, institutional arrangements and policy initiatives, programmes and strategies at the national level to develop integrated approaches to addressing the need of migrant populations?

¹ Extensive inputs to the report have been sought from scientists, government officials, UN system as well as stakeholders at all levels through an open call on DPADM’s website. See at <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports/WPSR2017-Call-for-contributions>

- What are innovative models in terms of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches adopted at the national level to manage issues related to migrants?
- What are successful examples and challenges in adopting approaches that are vertically integrated across international, national and local levels?
- How are innovative approaches to the delivery of public services designed and implemented to respond to the needs of different categories of migrants during different the phases of the migration cycle? How do they connect with the relevant legal, institutional and policy frameworks?

Objective of the meeting

The proposed EGM aims to inform the preparation of the World Public Sector Report 2017, by gathering practitioners working on institutional and public administration issues in relation to international migrations. The main objective of the meeting is to collect feedback and additional inputs from a group of committed scientists, experts and practitioners on this topic, in order to enhance the credibility and relevance of the report.

Expected outcome and outputs

The main outcomes of the meeting are expected to be a strengthened chapter that presents a concrete and systematic public administration perspective on how to address the linkages between migrations and various SDGs. The meeting also aims to gather some of the most recent policy and institutional updates on migration policies, their linkages to sustainable development policies, and reflect national debates and interpretations over these new policies and institutions across the horizontal, vertical and engagement dimensions of integration mentioned above.

Specific expected outputs of the EGM and review workshop are:

- A list of key ideas that could inform chapter 5 of the WPSR 2017;
- A list of topics where collaborative work between DPADM and other UN agencies working on migration issues may be desirable;

Programme of the EGM and approach

The EGM will include presentations by selected participants. It will be structured around the three dimensions of integration considered in the report (horizontal, vertical, engagement), with a view to collecting diverse perspectives on the main areas that the chapter aims to cover.

Venue and date

1 November 2017

United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 8

Participants

To ensure that the meeting can be most efficient and stay focused on improving the content of the chapter, the number of participants will be limited to 12-15. The EGM will convene representatives of the United Nations system and outside experts working on the intersection of migrations and development with also significant expertise in public administration, public services and/or policy integration and coherence.

Programme (tentative)

Opening
Session 1: Key challenges for national institutions to addressing international migrations in the context of the SDGs
Session 2: Horizontal integration challenges and approaches to various SDG-migration linkages
Lunch break

Session 3: Vertical integration challenges and approaches to various SDG-migration linkages
Session 4: Challenges and approaches to people's engagement in integrated approaches to migrations at the national level
Session 5: Wrap-up - Main messages

Contact information

Ms. Peride Blind, Governance and Public Administration Officer, blind@un.org

Ms. Xinxin Cai, Programme Assistant, cai2@un.org