

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2019

2019/26. Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions [2017/23](#) of 7 July 2017, [2018/12](#) of 2 July 2018 and other related resolutions on public administration and development, in which it affirmed that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration and that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Reaffirming further the outcome document, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,¹

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/327](#) of 14 September 2015, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of freedom, human rights, national sovereignty, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security, combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels as central to enabling inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development,

Referring to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,² which entered into force on 14 December 2005,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [73/218](#) of 20 December 2018, in which the Assembly recognized the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stressing that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [69/228](#) of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions, in which the Assembly emphasized that efficient, accountable and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing the role of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration, and the

¹ General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

relevance of the work of the Committee to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighteenth session,³ and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Committee on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, including on governance and public administration aspects of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in accordance with the 2019 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

2. *Invites* the Committee to continue to place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ at the centre of its work and to continue to advise the Council on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Committee to the high-level political forum, and reaffirms that the principle of leaving no one behind should be a core principle of public administration;

Building strong institutions for equal and inclusive societies

4. *Reiterates* the critical role of institutions in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, calls for institutions to develop more creative, flexible and integrated ways of working to this end, and notes that implementing the Goals does not necessarily require the creation of new institutions;

5. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Committee to take stock of progress on institutional aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 16 as a contribution to the global review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the ministerial and summit levels, and notes with appreciation its work in identifying progress, prospects and recommended actions for advancing the implementation of Goal 16 at the national and subnational levels, taking into account important linkages between Goal 16 and all Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Recognizes* that in-depth reviews of the institutional aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals at all levels could be strengthened by stronger evidence of governance capacities and analysis of trends in many areas, inter alia in relation to the competencies of the public sector workforce, policy and institutional coherence, production of public services, stakeholder engagement, corruption prevention, non-discrimination, fiscal transparency and access to information;

7. *Notes with interest* the ongoing work of supreme audit institutions to conduct audits of government preparedness for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and audits of implementation of specific Goals which can usefully inform national reviews of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

8. *Underscores* that realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and leaving no one behind require addressing the deep inequalities that exist in many countries, which may require institutions at all levels to play a greater role in promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies, inter alia through

³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 24 (E/2019/44).*

⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

more effective redistribution and social protection programmes, progressive and effective taxation systems and administration, and temporary special measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and their compounded negative impacts, including on the poorest and most vulnerable;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for pragmatic ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, and encourages Governments at all levels to consider applying the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2018/12, to all public institutions and in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account different governance structures, national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities;

10. *Encourages* the Committee to continue to identify and review related technical guidelines to operationalize the principles, including from sectoral perspectives, and to further engage the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities in this regard, in an inclusive manner, together with all relevant stakeholders;

11. *Takes note* of the initiative of the Committee to associate a set of agreed global Goal indicators with each of the principles with a view to contributing to strengthening the analytical basis for assessing the impact of reform policies on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;

12. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on strengthening the capacity of State institutions and re-establishing credible governance and public administration institutions and systems after conflict, and looks forward to the Committee's further engagement in promoting effective governance for sustainable development in post-conflict situations and its contribution to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission;

Follow-up

13. *Requests* the Committee, at its nineteenth session, to be held from 30 March to 3 April 2020, to examine and make recommendations on the theme of the 2020 session of the Council and the 2020 high-level political forum;

14. *Invites* the Committee to contribute to analysis and assessment of the 2020 theme of the high-level political forum and the Council, giving particular attention to the cross-cutting nature of all the Goals;

15. *Also invites* the Committee to continue to advise on approaches and practices related to the institutions, policies and arrangements being established to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind that the specific contexts and situations of countries differ widely, as well as to advise on making institutions effective, accountable and inclusive;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the present resolution fully into account in the work of the Organization, inter alia, in addressing gaps in research and analysis and in responding to the capacity development needs of Member States for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in pursuit of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and support innovation and excellence in public services for sustainable development through the United Nations Public Service Awards;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution through the established working methods of the Committee.

*42nd plenary meeting
23 July 2019*
