

Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Eighteenth session, 8-12 April 2019
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 1

Programme of work as of 5 April 2019

Monday, 8 April 2019

10:00-11:00

Welcome

Remarks by *Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, UNDESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government*

Remarks by *Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNDESA Statistics Division*

Election of officers [item 1]

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters [item 2]

Opening of the session

Opening remarks by *H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council*

Opening remarks by *Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs*

11:00-11:30

Briefing on the current United Nations context

Presentation on preparations for the 2019 HLPF at the Ministerial and Summit levels, including review of implementation of SDG 16, by *Ms. Irena Zubcevic, UNDESA Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development*

11:30-13:00

Governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century – [item 4]

The theme of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. In accordance with its mandate, the Committee will consider the governance and public administration aspects of this theme. It will

also adopt its contribution to the 2019 thematic review of the high-level political forum under this item.

Expert panel moderated by the Chair

Introduction of the topic by *Ms. Moni Pizani*

Remarks by *Mr. Louis Meuleman*

Remarks on leaving no one behind by *Mr. Marc Fleurbaey, Professor in Economics and Humanistic Studies, Princeton University and member of the Committee for Development Policy*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

Consideration of CEPA contribution to 2019 HLPF thematic review

13:15-14:45 *UNPSA sessional working group (Conference Room D) [closed]*

15:00-18:00 **Stocktaking of progress on institutional aspects of SDG 16 [item 8]**

The next four years: progress, prospects and recommended actions at national and subnational levels taking into account important linkages between SDG 16 and all SDGs

The 2019 HLPF to be convened under the auspices of ECOSOC will include an in-depth review of SDG 16. The Committee decided that in the lead-up to the 2019 Forum, that it would take stock of progress on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, identify and assess emerging challenges, and recommend further policy actions as a main contribution to the global review.

Presentation of Secretariat note on stocktaking of progress on institutional aspects of SDG 16 by *Mr. David Le Blanc, UNDESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government*

Expert panels moderated by the Chair

Effectiveness: *What has been done and what would need to be done (with respect to competence, sound policymaking, collaboration)? What is the evidence and how strong is it?*

Remarks by *Ms. Margaret Kobia*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organization

[Short break]

Accountability: *What has been done and what would need to be done (with respect to integrity, transparency, independent oversight)? What is the evidence and how strong is it?*

Remarks by *Mr. Gregorio Montero*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organization

Tuesday, 9 April 2019

10:00-13:00

Stocktaking of progress on institutional aspects of SDG 16 [item 8]
(continued)

Accountability: *What has been done and what would need to be done (with respect to integrity, transparency, independent oversight)? What is the evidence and how strong is it?* (continued)

[Short break]

Inclusiveness: *What has been done and what would need to be done (with respect to leaving no one behind, non-discrimination, participation, subsidiarity, intergenerational equity)? What is the evidence and how strong is it?*

Remarks by *Mr. Gowher Rizvi*

Remarks by *Ms. Harshani Dharmadasa, Deputy Associate Director, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organization

Discussion of recommended actions

15:00-18:00

Stocktaking of progress on institutional dimensions of SDG 16 [item 8]
(continued)

VNR dialogue with the experts moderated by Vice-Chair

The Committee will invite a number of 2019 VNR countries to briefly present their progress on institutional aspects of SDG 16, good practices and challenges. The members will respond and provide advice on specific concerns together with observers. Questions from

countries will be collected in advance. The aim is to promote direct interaction on institutional successes and challenges that VNR countries themselves have highlighted.

Remarks by *Mr. Ulvi Mehdiyev, Chairman, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations, Azerbaijan*

Remarks by *Mr. René Ruidíaz, Deputy Permanent Representative, Chile*

Remarks by *Mr. Aka Koffi Bernard, Director of Public Service, Côte d'Ivoire*

Remarks by *H.E. Mr. Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative, Croatia*

Remarks by *Ms. Kaila Gramajo, Planning and Programming Secretariat, Guatemala – by video link from Guatemala City*

Remarks by *Mr. Olafur Sigurdsson, Director of Multilateral Development Cooperation and Special Envoy for the SDGs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Iceland*

Remarks by *Ms. Diah Natalisa, Deputy for Public Service, Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform, Indonesia*

Remarks by *Mr. Georg Sparber, Deputy Permanent Representative, Liechtenstein*

Remarks by *Ms. Mariela Solari, Director, Victims and Witnesses Unit, Office of the Attorney General, Uruguay – by video link from Montevideo*

Expert feedback

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

18:15-20:00 Reception for participants (DC2-17th floor)

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

10:00-13:00 Relating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to practices and results [item 5]

At the seventeenth session, the Committee agreed on a set of eleven principles of effective governance for sustainable development, building on the conceptual framework presented at the sixteenth

session with the essential elements of Goal 16 (namely, effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness) at its core.

The principles, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council on 2 July 2018, highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the principles are linked to a variety of commonly used strategies for operationalizing responsive and effective governance, many of which have been recognized and endorsed over the years in various United Nations forums, resolutions and treaties.

At the eighteenth session, the Committee will continue to identify and review technical guidelines to operationalize the principles, including from sectoral perspectives, and consider further ways to engage the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities in this regard. The Committee will also consider linking the principles with related work on indicators to help interested governments gauge the extent of effective governance for sustainable development at the national and subnational levels and compare strategies undertaken in pursuit of governance objectives with others.

Expert panel moderated by the Vice-Chair

Introduction of the topic by *Mr. Geert Bouckaert and Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi*

National and regional perspectives

Remarks by *Mr. José Augusto Briones, Secretary General of the Presidency, Ecuador* – by video link from Quito

Remarks by *Ms. Sara Hamouda, Agenda 2063/SDGs Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism*

Remarks by *Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director of Public Governance, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*

Discussion of related initiatives

Remarks by *Ms. Archana Shirsat, Deputy Director General, INTOSAI Development Initiative* – by video link from Oslo

Remarks by *Mr. Osvaldo Borges, Chairman of the Secretariat of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics* – by video link from Praia

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

13:15-14:45

UNPSA sessional working group (Conference Room D) [closed]

15:00-18:00

Building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all [item 6]

At its seventeenth session, the Committee considered the question of stakeholder engagement in post-conflict countries. It concluded, inter alia, that re-establishing legitimacy and trust are important challenges faced by post-conflict societies, where certain groups may have been systematically excluded and military, police and other institutions may be associated with repressive or corrupt practices. At the eighteenth session, the Committee will expand its consideration of the institutional aspects of the security and justice sectors with a discussion of the underlying issues in promoting security and access to justice for all and ways to support the institution-building aims of SDG 16 in these areas.

In its resolution [70/262](#) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the General Assembly stressed the importance of closer cooperation between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission, and the centrality of development to sustaining peace. The General Assembly encouraged the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of relevant ECOSOC subsidiary bodies, as appropriate. The Committee will be invited to reflect on how it could contribute, through the Council and in accordance with its mandate, to the work of the Commission from a medium- to long-term perspective.

Expert panel moderated by Vice-Chair

Introduction of the topic by *Mr. Paul Jackson*

Remarks by *Ms. Lamia Moubayed Bissat*

Remarks by *Ms. Katarina Ott*

Sustaining peace: CEPA and the work of the Peacebuilding Commission

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

Thursday, 11 April 2019

10:00-13:00

Enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration [item 3]

At its seventeenth session, the Committee discussed the challenges of building the awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants at the national and local levels and readying institutions and policies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Committee stressed, inter alia, that efforts to rally civil servants and the broader public sector workforce around the Goals and instil a sense of commitment could be strengthened, along with new ways of working based on participation and engagement. The Committee also observed that new policy and technical skills will be required in the public sector, given the high rate of scientific and technological advancement and the service delivery and policy complexities associated with the Goals.

The Committee will continue its consideration of matters relating to enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration at the eighteenth session.

Expert panel moderated by Vice-Chair

Introduction of the topic by *Ms. Ora-orn Poocharoen*

Remarks on enhancing public sector capacity in Africa by *Ms. Bridget Katsriku*

Remarks on enlarging the concept of the public sector workforce and building comprehensive capacity of the State by *Ms. Regina Pacheco*

Reflections on national experiences

Remarks on governance of artificial intelligence and its application in public services by *Mr. Juan Antonio Rodríguez Hernández, General Director, Human Development and Professional Public Service, Ministry of the Public Service, Mexico*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

13:15-14:45

UNPSA sessional working group (Conference Room D) [closed]

15:00-18:00

Strengthening fiscal management at national and subnational levels [item 7]

At its seventeenth session, the Committee discussed issues related to effectively mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources, and observed that building competent public fiscal management capacity at

the national and local levels together with adequate oversight capacity remains a major challenge.

The Committee recommended that the SDGs be mainstreamed into national finance strategies to bridge the gap between policy priorities and actual government spending and, in the least developed countries, to ensure that the achievement of sustainable development does not depend on aid alone. Timely and regular production, publication and wide dissemination of executive budget proposals, enacted budgets and other budget reports should be considered, along with citizen budget guides that are simple to understand and accessible. Also important are effective participatory budgeting and formulation of indicators to monitor progress.

The Committee will continue its consideration of strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels at the eighteenth session.

Expert panel moderated by Vice-Chair

Introduction of the topic by *Ms. Cristina Duarte*

Remarks on stakeholder engagement in budgeting by *Mr. Juraj Nemec*

Remarks on fiscal decentralization by *Ms. Linda Bilmes*

Interactive dialogue with CEPA members, Member States, United Nations system and civil society organizations

Friday, 12 April 2019

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| 10:00-11:00 | Discussion of working methods [closed meeting] |
| 11:00-11:30 | Promoting innovation and excellence in public services for sustainable development: United Nations Public Service Awards – report of the sessional working group |
| 11:30-13:00 | Provisional agenda of the 19th session [item 9]

Discussion of proposals and documentation requirements

Adoption of the provisional agenda for the 19 th session |
| 15:00-16:30 | Adoption of the report on the 18th session [item 10]

Review of recommendations and matters to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council |

Review of draft report

Adoption of the report of the 18th session

Closing of the session

Side events

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

13:15-15:30 Meeting of the UN Public Administration Network partners (Room S-2724)
[closed]

Friday, 12 April 2019

13:15-14:45 Special event on building capacities of public institutions in small island developing States to implement the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Singapore and the Permanent Mission of Belize in collaboration with UNDESA/DPIDG (Room S-1522FC)