

CONCEPT NOTE

Plenary 2:

SDG 16: Making institutions more effective through enhanced accountability, transparency, inclusion and participation.



**Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
through Effective Delivery of Services,
Innovative Transformation &
Accountable Institutions**



Introduction

SDG 16, which aims to *'Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels'*, is of foundational importance for the achievement of all Goals across the 2030 Agenda. The Goal and its targets bring to the forefront the institutional dimension of sustainable development under the 2030 Agenda. SDG 16 will be reviewed for the first time at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York next July.

A number of the targets of SDG 16 directly apply to public institutions and public administration. Those highlight principles such as accountability, anti-corruption, transparency and access to information, inclusive decision-making, and non-discrimination. These principles provide the basis for, among other things, achieving equitable and quality education, advancing gender equality, combatting poverty and hunger, and ensuring that no one is left behind.

The United Nations Public Service Forum provides a unique opportunity for practitioners in public administration and outside to exchange views and share experience on how these principles are operationalized in the daily practice of public institutions and inspire public service initiatives such as those that are presented at the United Nations Public Service Awards.

Objective of the session

The Panel aims to provide a space for representatives of government, the United Nations, civil society and the private sector to discuss the ways in which public administration is striving to make institutions more accountable, effective inclusive and participatory in various country contexts and at different levels of government. Through the sharing of experiences and practices related to specific initiatives and case studies, it aims to shed light on concrete ways to promote sustainable development through enhancing participation, transparency and accountability in public service delivery.

Format

The session will be an interactive panel discussion. It will start with short interventions from each of the panelists (about 5 minutes), followed by rounds of questions and answers from the floor. There will be no formal statement or power point presentation. The moderator will be free to ask follow-up questions where necessary. In their interventions and responses to questions, panelists are encouraged to draw on their own experience, as well as to react on points made by other panelists as relevant.

The Panel will be conducted in English. Interpretation will be available to Azerbaijani and French.



Flow of the session

1. Introduction by the moderator (5 min)
2. Initial interventions by the panelists (30 min)
3. Rounds of questions and answers with the floor (50 min)
4. Conclusion (5 min)

Resource persons

Moderator: David Le Blanc, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Panelists

- **H. E. Ms. Sevinj Hasanova**, Deputy Minister of Economy, Azerbaijan
- **H.E. Ms. Pam Belcher-Taylor**, Mayor of Paynesville, Liberia
- **Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Representative to Turkey
- **Dr. Ra'ed Ben Shams**, Director General, Bahrein Institute of Public Administration, President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences

Guiding questions

- What are examples of successful transparency initiatives in the context of the implementation of the SDGs, at the sector level or across the board, at the national or local level?
- What are successful examples of participatory approaches in the context of SDG implementation?
- What measures have been taken to enhance government accountability, including with regard to SDG implementation?
- What are innovative examples of public service initiatives that have combined elements of transparency, participation and accountability?
- How can public administration better assess the performance and measure the effectiveness of public service interventions?

