



## DPADM Update to CEPA Members: April - May 2017

### CEPA related information

#### 16<sup>th</sup> Session of CEPA

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration held its sixteenth session at the United Nations in New York from 24 to 28 April 2017. Its theme was “Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: leadership, action and means”.

A key message of the session was that government and public institutions have the leading role to implement the SDGs and pursue policies to leave no one behind.

The Committee stressed that leadership is critical for driving SDG implementation. The highest level of government should continuously push implementation of the SDGs and implement new approaches to fighting poverty and corruption and to ensure a merit-based civil service. This, along with demonstrating the impact of public policy on SDG progress, is necessary to rebuild people’s trust in government. The Committee underscored that local governments have a critical role in reaching the SDGs, eradicating poverty and achieving equity. We should move away from a top down relationship and, instead, central and local governments should work as partners. Decentralization may be necessary to accelerate progress on some of the SDG targets but the resources and capacities of local governments should be commensurate with their responsibilities.

Another message of the Committee was that poverty eradication policies should be based on a solid consensus across all income groups. Policies should be developed in close consultation with all stakeholders, including the poorest. Poverty eradication should be established as an overarching objective of all parts of government and pursued through a whole-of-government approach.

The Committee also underscored that it is necessary to launch efforts to rally public servants around the SDGs and instill a sense of commitment, new ways of working based on participation and engagement, new skills, and a renewed sense of professionalism and ethics.

The Committee noted that the SDGs may call for specific governance improvements in a variety of different contexts. It accordingly started to define a set of voluntary principles and practices of effective governance for sustainable development grounded in the 2030 Agenda and other United Nations agreements. The Committee however was concerned that, in the absence of adequate resources and capacities, it would be very difficult to implement the SDGs regardless of institutional improvements and planning and strategies.

During the session, delegates from Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Kenya, Malaysia and Morocco made presentations on various aspects of their efforts to promote effective implementation of the SDGs. The Committee’s draft resolution and report will be conveyed to ECOSOC.

This year’s CEPA session made use of #CEPA2017 for its social media outreach which generated over 12 million potential reach by the last day of the session with over 200 tweets by 152 users. A more comprehensive social media report can be viewed here (insert link of social media report here).

CEPA 16th session was also featured in the SDG knowledge hub [here](#).

Click [here](#) to access CEPA 16 webpage.



### **2017 United Nations Public Service Awards**

The 2017 UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) is in its final stage. The Working Group of CEPA after deliberations recommended ten winners (first place) and four finalists (second place winners). Short-listed initiatives have undergone a process of verification and validation in order to ascertain congruence between the nomination documents and the reality on the ground. Letters of validation were sent to UN Agencies field offices to substantiate the impact and results of the initiative on the delivery of public services. The recommended prospective Award winners will be then submitted to the Secretary-General for his final consideration. The winners and finalists will be invited to attend the United Nations Public Service Forum and Awards Ceremony on 22- 23 June 2017 in The Hague, the Netherlands. Awards winners will be announced during the United Nations Public Service Awards Ceremony on 23 June. The United Nations Public Service Awards celebrates the United Nations Public Service Day, with a goal to inculcate a culture of innovation and exemplary public service through rewarding public institutions for their pursuit for excellence and responsive governance.

For more information, click [here](#).

### **Information on major UN developments and meetings**

#### **55th Session of the Commission for Social Development**

The 55<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD55), with the theme “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all” took place at the UN Headquarters in New York, 1 – 10 February 2017. With representatives of Member States in attendance, as well as UN entities and non-governmental organisations from around the world, the CSocD55 highlighted that the international community must bolster current commitments to eradicate poverty in all forms towards implementing the 2030 Agenda. It noted that poverty is a multi-dimensional concept that is related to several SDGs, and the need for a direct and vigorous focus on social groups to eradicate poverty is all the more relevant today. Even with significant achievements in stopping the spread of absolute poverty, relative poverty has persisted and increased. The CSocD55 underscored that countries cannot deal with these problems alone. Partnerships are therefore crucial for eradicating poverty and fighting inequality to ensure that no one is left behind.

More information can be found [here](#).

#### **8 - 10 May: 2017 Integration Segment of ECOSOC**

The 2017 Integration Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took place from 8 to 10 May 2017 at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Segment was chaired by H.E. Mr. Nabeel Munir, Vice-President of ECOSOC. The Segment addressed the theme “Making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies: what will it take?”

The Chairperson of CEPA transmitted CEPA’s contribution to the integration segment to the Vice-President of ECOSOC on behalf of CEPA. It is a Chairperson’s summary on the subject of making eradication of poverty an integral objective of all policies from a public administration perspective.

More information can be found [here](#).



## **Events organized by DESA/DPADM and other major developments**

### **SIDS Symposium on equipping public institutions and mobilizing partnerships**

On 24th April 2017, the first day of the 16th Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), Ms. Tishka Francis, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the UN, delivered a presentation to CEPA on the outcome of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Symposium. The Symposium was held on 21-23 February 2017 in Nassau, under the overarching theme of "Equipping public institutions and mobilizing partnerships". The informal communiqué of the Symposium highlighted that while SIDS face special challenges in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, SIDS are committed to the priorities, policy coherence and integrated actions needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SAMOA Pathway and other relevant international agreements. Underscoring that national governments have the critical responsibility to mobilize efforts to realize the SDGs, the Symposium also called for new, genuine, durable and effective partnerships for successful implementation of SDGs. It is also important to sensitise all levels of the governments as well as all institutions and actors to the SDGs. Likewise, it is urgent to mobilize and equip local authorities in SIDS, for example, through adoption of local 2030 Agendas.

### **Expert Group Meeting on the preparations of the United Nations E-Government Survey 2018**

The expert group meeting on the "Preparatory Process for the United Nations E-Government Survey 2018" held from 10 to 11 May 2017 at the UNHQ covered a wide range of topics such as the comparative analysis of global and regional e-government assessments; e-government in the context of the SDGs; overview of current Survey methodology in relation to the principles of 2030 Agenda; emerging technology trends in the public sector, and innovations in support of sustainable development. The outcomes and recommendations included expanding e-government benchmarking to the local level especially to assess the evolution of smart cities, further evaluating mobile services in light of ubiquity of mobile technologies, piloting user satisfaction on e-government services in response to SDG indicator 16.6.2 (Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services) and others on presentation of the results and further extending existing e-government country profiles.

More information [here](#).

### **24th UN/INTOSAI Symposium on "Digitalization, open data and data mining: Relevance and implications for SAIs' audit work and for enhancing their contributions to the follow-up and review of the SDGs"**

UNDESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) and the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) are jointly organising a symposium to stimulate an exchange of experiences on the relevance and implications of digitalization, open data and data mining for Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) and for their contributions to the review of the SDGs. The symposium will take place on 31 May-2 June 2017 in Vienna. On June 1, a panel discussion (organized by DPADM) will focus on innovative ways SAIs can contribute to the review of progress on the SDGs, leveraging collaboration with stakeholders and the use of data. INTOSAI has identified four areas for SAIs' contributions, including assessing national readiness for implementation and reporting progress on the SDGs, undertaking performance audits of programs that contribute to the SDGs, assessing and supporting the implementation of Goal 16, and being



models of transparency and accountability in its own operations. Participants will have an opportunity to take stock of ongoing initiatives in these areas and discuss the way forward. For more information, click [here](#).

### **World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)**

DPADM is preparing for the upcoming World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2017 which will take place on 12-16 June 2017 in Geneva at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters. The overall theme of the Forum is “Information and Knowledge Societies for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

UNDESA/DPADM serving as facilitator for the implementation of and follow-up to action lines: C1 - The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development & C11- International and regional cooperation, and C7- ICT Applications: E-government, is organizing facilitation meetings on 15 June 2017. For the meeting on C1&C11, the theme will be “The Role of Private Sector in Mobilizing ICTs for Sustainable Development Goals”, and for C7, it will be “Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity through Digital Government”. At both meetings, experts from governments, civil society and the private sector have been requested make brief presentations which will be followed by round-table discussions.

For further details, click [here](#).

### **2017 United Nations Public Service Forum**

The United Nations Public Service Forum will take place from 22 to 23 June 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands, under the theme The Future is Now: Accelerating Public Service Innovation for Agenda 2030. The Forum, which is held in honor of the United Nations Public Service Day, is organized by the government of the Netherlands and UNDESA/DPADM. It will include the UN Public Service Awards ceremony. The Forum will provide a platform to share experiences and discussion on public service innovation on, for example, youth, ageing, climate change, health, water or poverty and will allow Ministers and other senior decision makers to reflect on how best to mobilize the public service and accelerate innovation for realizing the vision of the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and to leave no one behind. It will be a moment to reflect on common challenges and exchange lessons learned from the new approaches and innovations that are being experimented worldwide.

[Click here](#) for more information.

### **Africa Symposium**

DESA/DPADM together with DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development of DESA, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the UNDP office in Togo, the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and the Government of Togo is organizing a Symposium in Lome, Togo, in October 2017. The Symposium will provide a common space for debate and training on how to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in an integrated fashion. It will reflect on how to take whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implementation. The symposium will include sessions dedicated to a more general debate along with sessions for practical training and knowledge sharing.