

Principles of Effective Governance for the SDGs

**National Capacity Building Workshop to Accelerate Digital Government Transformation
in Sri Lanka: Strengthening Digital Governance for Sustainable Development**

7 – 8 June 2023

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





What are the Principles for Effective Governance for Sustainable Development?

- Institutions play a critical role in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.
- However, public sector reforms needed to implement the SDGs continue to be a major and vexing challenge in many countries.
- Developed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA).
- The essential purpose of these voluntary principles is to provide practical, expert guidance to interested countries in a broad range of governance challenges associated with implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- They highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to reach the SDGs.
- Organized around three themes: effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness.



Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

Effectiveness

- » Competence
- » Sound policymaking
- » Collaboration

Accountability

- » Integrity
- » Transparency
- » Independent oversight

Inclusiveness

- » Leaving no one behind
- » Non-discrimination
- » Participation
- » Subsidiarity
- » Intergenerational equity



Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

What are they for?

- » Building strong institutions at all levels
- » Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
- » Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

Where do they come from?

- » Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
- » Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
- » Based on United Nations agreements

How can countries benefit from them?

- » As an analytical framework in policy formulation
- » As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
- » As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives

CEPA >> Committee of Experts on Public Administration

CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.



Principle

Commonly used strategies

Effectiveness

Competence

To perform their functions effectively, institutions are to have sufficient expertise, resources and tools to deal adequately with the mandates under their authority

- Promotion of a professional public sector workforce
- Strategic human resources management
- Leadership development and training of civil servants
- Performance management
- Results-based management
- Financial management and control
- Efficient and fair revenue administration
- Investment in e-government



Sound policymaking	<p>To achieve their intended results, public policies are to be coherent with one another and founded on true or well-established grounds, in full accordance with fact, reason and good sense</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic planning and foresight• Regulatory impact analysis• Promotion of coherent policymaking• Strengthening national statistical systems• Monitoring and evaluation systems• Science-policy interface• Risk management frameworks• Data sharing
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Collaboration

To address problems of common interest, institutions at all levels of government and in all sectors should work together and jointly with non-State actors towards the same end, purpose and effect

- Centre of government coordination under the Head of State or Government
- Collaboration, coordination, integration and dialogue across levels of government and functional areas
- Raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Network-based governance
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships



Accountability

Integrity

To serve in the public interest, civil servants are to discharge their official duties honestly, fairly and in a manner consistent with soundness of moral principle

- Promotion of anti-corruption policies, practices and bodies
- Codes of conduct for public officials
- Competitive public procurement
- Elimination of bribery and trading in influence
- Conflict of interest policies
- Whistle-blower protection
- Provision of adequate remuneration and equitable pay scales for public servants



Transparency

To ensure accountability and enable public scrutiny, institutions are to be open and candid in the execution of their functions and promote access to information, subject only to the specific and limited exceptions as are provided by law

- Proactive disclosure of information
- Budget transparency
- Open government data
- Registries of beneficial ownership
- Lobby registries



Independent oversight

To retain trust in government, oversight agencies are to act according to strictly professional considerations and apart from and unaffected by others

- Promotion of the independence of regulatory agencies
- Arrangements for review of administrative decisions by courts or other bodies
- Independent audit
- Respect for legality



Principle

Commonly used strategies

Inclusiveness

Leaving no one behind

To ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality, public policies are to take into account the needs and aspirations of all segments of society, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those subject to discrimination

- Promotion of equitable fiscal and monetary policy
 - Promotion of social equity
 - Data disaggregation
 - Systematic follow-up and review
-



Non-discrimination

To respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, access to public service is to be provided on general terms of equality, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status

- Promotion of public sector workforce diversity
- Prohibition of discrimination in public service delivery
- Multilingual service delivery
- Accessibility standards
- Cultural audit of institutions
- Universal birth registration
- Gender-responsive budgeting



Participation

To have an effective State, all significant political groups should be actively involved in matters that directly affect them and have a chance to influence policy

- Free and fair elections
- Regulatory process of public consultation
- Multi-stakeholder forums
- Participatory budgeting
- Community-driven development

Subsidiarity

To promote government that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, central authorities should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more intermediate or local level

- Fiscal federalism
- Strengthening urban governance
- Strengthening municipal finance and local finance systems
- Enhancement of local capacity for prevention, adaptation and mitigation of external shocks
- Multilevel governance



Intergenerational equity

To promote prosperity and quality of life for all, institutions should construct administrative acts that balance the short-term needs of today's generation with the longer-term needs of future generations

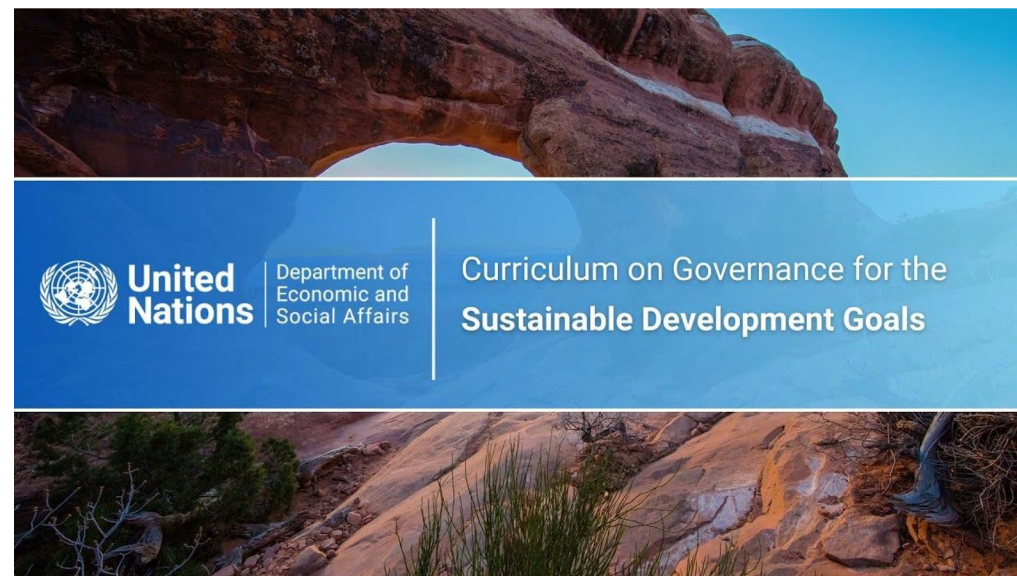
- Sustainable development impact assessment
- Long-term public debt management
- Long-term territorial planning and spatial development
- Ecosystem management



- The principles show the solid linkages between the institution-building objectives of the 2030 Agenda and all the SDGs. SDG 16 matters for all SDGs.
- They offer a range of recommendations for all levels of government, including local authorities.
- Can be used to assess and showcase good examples in public service delivery (VNRs, UNPSA).
- The principles should be interpreted together with the curriculum on governance for the sustainable development goals and other tools.

Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs

- The Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals aims to promote critical understanding of sustainable development issues, enhance governance capacity and strengthen public servants' awareness of their role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.





The Curriculum is composed of the following:

- A set of Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits for 5-day face to face capacity development workshops. The trainings can be longer or shorter in duration, depending on countries' needs;
- Online Courses on key governance issues to implement the SDGs;
- Facilitated Online Training and Capacity Development Workshops;
- Customized Online and Offline Capacity Development Workshops upon request of Member States;
- Offering a Certificate of Attendance upon successful completion;
- Global Community of Practice on key governance issues;
- Hosted on UNPAN for networking and online exchange of knowledge.

Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs



CHANGING MINDSETS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UN DESA | DPIDG
Training of Trainers | English



TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS
IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

UN DESA | DPIDG
Training of Trainers | English



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND
GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES FOR POLICY
COHERENCE

UN DESA | DPIDG
Training of Trainers | English



EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TO LOCAL PUBLIC
GOVERNANCE FOR SDG
IMPLEMENTATION

UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English



GOVERNMENT INNOVATION FOR
SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE
GROUPS

UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English



RISK-INFORMED GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE
TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
AND RESILIENCE

UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English



INNOVATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT
FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

UN DESA | DPIDG
Training of Trainers | English



Capacity Development Training of Trainers

4. Innovation and Digital Government for Public Service Delivery

Related SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17

Keywords: Innovation, Digital Government

Objective:

The training toolkit contains a set of comprehensive training materials aimed at strengthening the capacities of government officials to promote innovation for SDG implementation.

Upon completion of the training, learners will have:

- **Assessed how their government institutions support service delivery** for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs.
- **Mapped public services** in the context of their National Development Plan and the SDGs.
- Conducted a Visioning Exercise on what inclusive, effective, efficient, responsive and resilient public service delivery would look like in the future.
- **Examined the innovation challenges and opportunities**, capacity gaps and strengths vis-à-vis various dimensions of public service delivery: 1) responsiveness, 2) quality, 3) affordability, 4) accessibility and 5) people-orientation.
- **Designed a Roadmap and Action Plan** to identify priorities for innovation; which institutions will do what and how; baseline and action planning cooperation framework; examples and case studies of inclusive, effective, responsive and resilient service delivery.
- **Gained an understanding** of the importance of evaluation frameworks and how to use them.
- **Applied systems thinking and stakeholder analysis** to the promotion of innovation in service delivery.
- **Explored and applied to one's own context new methodologies** and approaches to promote innovation, such as innovation labs, design thinking, and feedback mechanisms.



Toolkit video is available on UNPAN



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A-Z Site Index

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Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

The [Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals](#) aims to promote critical understanding of sustainable development issues, enhance governance capacity, and strengthen public servants' awareness of their active role in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. It aims at developing the knowledge and capacities required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and support concrete outcomes and lasting impact. [Read more ...](#)

Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits





**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Thank you

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