Symposium on
"Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Accelerating Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Addressing Global Challenges"

Aide-Memoire

22 – 24 November 2022
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (KST), 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Thailand)

21 -24 November 2022, 8:00 PM – 3:00 AM (New York, EST)

In-person and via zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85993513278
Passcode: 12345, Meeting ID: 859 9351 3278

Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) Division
for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), through its
Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea (MOIS) and
Incheon Metropolitan City

I. Event Description

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)'s Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) and in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the Government of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City is organizing the 6th Regional Symposium. This year's focus is on "Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Addressing Global Challenges". The Symposium will be held on 22 - 24 November 2022. It is expected that participants from the Asia and Pacific region and beyond will attend the event, including participants from national and local governments, international organizations, academia, schools of public administration, NGOs and the private sector.

The Regional Symposium on "Effective Governance and Digital Transformation" is a UN DESA flagship annual event. It aims to raise awareness of critical public governance issues, examine current and future trends and provide new approaches and methodologies to support the United Nations Member States in developing their capacities toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also promotes peer-to-peer learning by providing participants with the opportunity to share knowledge and exchange innovative practices.

II. Objectives

The overarching goal of the Symposium is to strengthen the capacities of government officials to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate action. The Symposium aims to reflect on how best to equip public institutions with innovative solutions to address global challenges.

The Regional Symposium will build upon the results of the 2022 High-Level Political Forum and the 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2018.

The Regional Symposium is an opportunity for the Asia and the Pacific Region to come together, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to:

- Examine where the United Nations Member States stand in terms of SDGs implementation, with particular focus on SDG16.

- Discuss how to promote effective governance and build digital government capacities to address global challenges.

- Discuss challenges and share lessons learned in implementing the SDGs with a special focus on SDG 16 on "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions"; SDG 11 on

"Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; SDG 13 on "Climate Action" and SDG 17 on "Partnerships for the Goals".

- Discuss how to ready public institutions for strategic planning and foresight.

- Engage all stakeholders in decision-making processes, including the private sector and civil society organizations, to discuss innovative partnerships for building a sustainable society.

III. Structure and Methodology

The Symposium will be held in a hybrid format in Songdo, the Republic of Korea, from 22-24 November 2022. It is foreseen that the Regional Symposium will also offer ample opportunities for online engagement to ensure wide-ranging participation.

The Symposium will consist of one high-level opening, setting the scene session, three thematic sessions, three special sessions, a youth session, a learning lab, and field visits. The Symposium will also provide the opportunity to introduce UN DESA/DPIDG's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, Handbook Series on "Innovative Local Governance for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", present key findings from UNPOG/DPIDG's analytical work, and share the outcomes and policy recommendations from other recent capacity development activities, including webinars and national workshops.

The Symposium will be conducted in English.

IV. Thematic Focus

Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global 15-year plan of action that was adopted in 2015 to drive economic prosperity and social well-being while protecting the environment. Among its other aims, Goal 16 of the SDGs calls for the building of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Despite advances in many areas, action to meet the SDGs is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required. The 2019 SDG Summit[1] brought together world leaders to identify measures to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs by 2030. It resulted in the declaration of 'A Decade of Action' that announced more than 100 acceleration actions. These included the commitment to developing innovative and effective public institutions to implement the SDGs and address the climate emergency.

---

[1] A/RES/74/4

However, the unprecedented and multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Asia and the Pacific countries has reinforced pre-existing obstacles to realizing the SDGs[2] and these include growing inequality, poverty, hunger, armed conflict, and the impacts of extreme weather events fueled by climate change. At the height of the pandemic, Member States came together on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN) in September 2020 and pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and future generations. As part of their declaration, Heads of State and Government recognized that 'Our challenges are interconnected and can only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism.' The Declaration recognizes the urgent need to 'Protect our Planet' by taking strong and immediate action to reduce environmental threats and respond to climate-related challenges in line with commitments made to implement the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

In his 2021 report "Our Common Agenda"[3], the UN Secretary-General proposed key actions to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs to make a real difference in people's lives by encouraging solidarity, respect for human rights, better management of critical global commons, and global public goods. If the planet is truly to be protected, the UN Secretary-General proposed that Member States commit to several actions, including the 1.5-degree Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement and net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner; issue declarations of climate emergency and right to a healthy environment; a post-2020 biodiversity framework; a package of support to developing countries; and measures for adaptation and resilience. He also highlighted the need to rebuild trust in government and focus on the future through a deepening of solidarity with the world's young people and future generations, and by enhancing long-term thinking. The Secretary-General also stressed the need to enhance digital cooperation.

In 2021, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) resulted in a Ministerial Declaration[4], which reiterated the need to develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels if countries are to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and address climate change in a way that puts us on track to realize the 2030 Agenda.

To address these multiple interdependent global challenges, the public sector must innovate. Public sector innovation can be defined as the implementation by a public sector organization of new or significantly improved products, services, or ways of doing things, either within the structure of the public sector itself or in the way in which public services are provided (OECD, 2005). Innovation can be driven by promoting frontier technologies and digital government coupled with better partnerships with citizens, civil society, and the private sector. In the 21st Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

---

[2] Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2022- Widening disparities amid Covid-19
[3] UN Secretary-General's Report "Our Common Agenda"
[4] Ministerial declaration – 2021 HLPF on Sustainable Development

(CEPA)[5] held in April 2022, experts highlighted the potential that digitization offers for the public sector.

V. Thematic Areas

The Symposium will comprise a high-level opening session, a setting the scene session and three thematic sessions focusing on: i) Promoting Government Innovation and Accelerating Digital Transformation for Addressing Global Challenges; ii) Readying Public Institutions for Strategic Planning and Foresight; iii) Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs.

Setting the Scene

Global and Regional Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving the SDGs, with a focus on SDG16 and Addressing Global Challenges. Where Do We Stand?

The Setting the Scene Session provides a platform for representatives from national governments (including ministerial and other relevant high-level participants), international organizations, and other stakeholder groups to take stock of progress toward SDG implementation at the global and regional levels.

The Regional Symposium is taking place against the backdrop of a public health emergency of unprecedented impact, record levels of displacement triggered by conflict and extreme weather events, fossil fuel emissions above pre-pandemic levels, the threat of a global recession, and rising prices for food, fuel and fertilizer which could cause widespread food insecurity and social unrest.

Failures in prevention, such as unequal access to vaccines and delays in implementing basic public health measures, have all contributed to the COVID-19 death toll and widespread disruption to all spheres of life, as starkly manifested in the loss of millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in economic losses.

Globally, there is a need to accelerate efforts to deliver on the clear targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in particular. UNESCAP has highlighted that the Asia-Pacific Region is not on track to achieve any of the SDGs[6].

This Session will be an opportunity to discuss the global and regional progress of SDG implementation, what measures are necessary to correct course, and the options ahead if the world is to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The Session will hear the conclusions from the

---

[5] 21st Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration
[6] https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/ESCAP-2022-FG_SDG-Progress-Report.pdf

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, highlighting how interlinked crises are putting humanity's own survival into question.

The Session will also share the outcome of COP27, the findings of UNPOG's 2nd Capacity Needs Assessment and the World Happiness Report 2022 and the key factors contributing to citizens' happiness.

Guiding Questions

- What are the global trends in achieving the SDGs?

- Where does Asia and the Pacific stand in terms of SDGs implementation, with a focus on SDG16?

- What actions and capacities are needed to close the gap in promoting effective, accountable, and inclusive public institutions?

- What opportunities exist to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote effective governance for sustainable development?

Thematic Sessions

Session I. Promoting Government Innovation and Accelerating Digital Transformation to Address Global Challenges

Complex and far-reaching socio-economic challenges in the process of COVID-19 pandemic recovery, coupled with serious global challenges such as climate change and food and energy crises, call for transformation and innovation in approaches and strategies by all governments.

Accelerating digital transformation at national and local levels, with expansion of digital infrastructure and creation of new digital ecosystems, can greatly contribute to addressing complex global challenges in a more effective and inclusive way. Digital government, by harnessing frontier technologies, such as artificial intelligence, big data analytics, Internet of Things, drones, and immersive technologies, can allow more effective, agile and responsive policies and services to citizens by governments. It can particularly contribute to ensuring that government services are delivered to those who are marginalized and in vulnerable situations, and who have been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and by various global challenges. Digital government can also ensure that their special vulnerabilities and demands are effectively addressed.

Promoting digital transformation will also provide digital platforms where different stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and

citizens, can participate and interact to forge collective solutions, including those at the local level, to the global challenges.

For strategic, effective, and inclusive promotion of digital transformation, it is critical that government establishes a long-term and holistic roadmap and strategy for digital transformation and strengthens institutional arrangements for collaboration and coordination between national and local governments. Government also needs to collaborate with other stakeholders for creating an enabling ecosystem for digital transformation. Also, considering that a large portion of society, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable populations, face challenges such as the lack of access to ICT infrastructure and digital connectivity and insufficient digital knowledge and skills, it is essential that digital transformation policies are inclusive and people-centered by addressing the digital divide and promoting digital inclusion.

This Session will address how accelerating government innovation and digital transformation can contribute to fostering innovative solutions for addressing global challenges, by providing an overview of the global and regional trends of digital transformation and sharing innovative country practices. The Session will also share challenges countries experience in the process of accelerating digital transformation and discuss policy issues for promoting digital transformation in a strategic and inclusive manner.

Guiding Questions

- What are the global and regional trends in promoting digital transformation?

- Given that least developed countries are suffering the most from climate change, growing levels of poverty, and the global economic downturn, how can government innovation and digital government transformation help to address these global challenges?

- What are some of the innovative approaches, strategies, and country experiences in government innovation and digital government transformation to promote policy coherence and integrated services?

- What are the major challenges that countries experience in the process of accelerating digital transformation, and what are the lessons learned?

- How can the digital divide be bridged to leave no one behind and no one offline?

- What are the policy issues and capacities to be taken into consideration for promoting digital transformation in a strategic and inclusive way?

Session II. Readying Public Institutions for Strategic Planning and Foresight

The volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world is bringing about fast, disruptive changes that consistently challenge our ability to adapt and respond.[7] For instance, public institutions, both at the national and local level, have been strongly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate crises, which have affected key government functions and processes, undermining the effectiveness of government actions. The need to respond quickly and with drastic measures has created additional risks for institutional processes and organizations. Beyond individual institutions, the global crises have increasingly affected whole institutional systems and the way public institutions interact with people. To navigate the VUCA world, public institutions must adopt strategic planning and foresight.

Governments must enhance institutional arrangements for policy coherence and proactively equip themselves with the proper knowledge, tools, and competencies for planning future unknown future shocks that could disrupt social, economic, and environmental stability, in line with SDG 16 on strong institutions and the principle of effective governance for sustainable development[8]. The latter highlights the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to realize the 2030 Agenda.

Strategic planning and foresight are crucial for ensuring that governments are prepared to handle future crises. While it is impossible to predict the future, strategic foresight offers the tools for successful policymaking in the face of high uncertainty. This involves exploring and preparing for a diversity of possible developments to future-proof strategies, identifying potential opportunities and challenges, and designing innovative ways of improving well-being under rapidly evolving circumstances.

As the world continues to deal with several challenges, including climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, this Session aims at developing the capacities of national and local governments to promote strategic planning and foresight. The Session will also raise awareness and understanding of foresight concepts and uses in public institutions.

Guiding Questions

- How can the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Dssevelopment address the future unknown shocks?

- How can public institutions make better use of strategic planning and foresight?

- How can strategic planning and foresight add value to policymaking?

---

[7] https://www.undp.org/bhutan/stories/building-public-servants-capacity-strategic-foresight

[8] https://unpan.un.org/sdg16/prin_of_governance

- How can governments build anticipatory governance, what capacities are needed and what does it entail?

- Looking toward the future, what are some critical areas where countries in Asia and the Pacific region can take urgent actions to achieve the SDGs between now and 2030?

Session III. Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Partnerships for Accelerating the Implementation of the SDGs

Against the backdrop of a highly fragile global economic outlook with multiple, cascading, and intersecting crisis including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of climate change, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships has become increasingly important for accelerating the implementation of the SDGs and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, during the process of addressing challenges of the COVID-19, there has been a fundamental transformation in the paradigm of partnerships between governments and businesses and other related stakeholders, especially the civil society organizations representing voices and interests of those people in vulnerable situations.

Governments alone cannot address the huge challenges of achieving the SDGs and recovery from the COVID-19. A whole-of-society approach to engaging all stakeholders, which entails forging innovative partnerships, especially at local levels, is required. Local stakeholders have been very interactive with local authorities and many modes of innovative local technical or financial partnership have emerged, especially in cities, to support local authorities in deploying innovative solutions to address the COVID-19. Moreover, many city governments have been sharing their success stories and innovative solutions through city partnership platforms.

The success of the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed development agendas depends on the capacity to mobilize resources and strengthen the effectiveness of development institutions including the Bretton Woods Institutions. The seventh Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development[9] follow-up, which was held from 25 to 28 April 2022, highlighted that the mobilization of sufficient financing remains a major challenge in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that progress has not been shared evenly within and among countries, leading to further deepening of existing inequalities. The pandemic has put more countries at risk of debt distress, constrained their fiscal space and hampered economic growth. [10] The Forum further reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen multilateral cooperation and solidarity to combat the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, including its socioeconomic impact.

---

[9] [2022 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development | Financing for Sustainable Development Office (un.org)](#)
[10] https://developmentfinance.un.org/fsdr2022

Considering the interrelated and far-reaching impacts of climate change on different sectors of society, we need to continue to scale up investments in climate action, including by making finance flows consistent with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement as well as the Glasgow Climate Pact including its aspects related to finance.[11]

Moreover, the accelerated pace of digital transformation during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has redefined the role of the private sector and people in public governance, further accentuates the importance of fostering Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs). Governments need to work together with the private sector and people in building inclusive and human-centered post-COVID-19 digital society. Strengthened PPPPs can allow more effective use of human, technical and financial resources required for addressing diverse challenges of digital inclusion in the process of accelerating digital transformation and equipping the whole society for the "New Normal" with new ways of working, production and consumption, communications, and service delivery.

To foster PPPPs, government needs to create an open and enabling innovation ecosystem and encourage innovation by the private sector and people through providing platforms for innovation and collaboration. It is also important to collaborate and move together toward further opening of the economy and society, by promoting the digital economy and fostering new digital technology adoption with job creation for the most vulnerable populations, and empowering small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and ICT start-ups.

Against this backdrop, the Session aims to address the major challenges in creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the Private-Public-People Partnerships and discuss ways in which the private sector, academia and CSOs could be effectively engaged in building multi-stakeholder partnerships for Sustainable Development. It will also showcase effective strategies and pathways that could be adopted to strengthen international partnerships for financing for sustainable development and how to work together to address financing gaps in climate action.

Guiding Questions

- What are the major barriers in creating multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the PPPPs?

- How can the private sector, academia, and other civil society organizations be effectively engaged, including by leveraging innovative ideas, digital technologies, and resources, in decision-making and the delivery of public services?

- How can people and communities living in vulnerable situations be engaged in policymaking and the delivery of services?

---

[11] E/FFDF/2022/3 Report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

- How can national and local level public institutions work together in more collaborative ways?

- How can parliaments, subnational governments and the private sector be more effectively engaged in achieving the SDGs?

SPECIAL SESSIONS

I. UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for Sustainable Development – National Experiences and Lessons from Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malawi and Vanuatu

This Session will share how countries have embraced and acted on the UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals, which has been developed to promote a critical understanding of sustainable development issues, enhance governance capacity, and strengthen public servants' awareness of the active role they play in SDG implementation.

It will examine the national experiences and lessons of Bhutan, Cambodia, LAO PDR, Malawi, and Vanuatu on what they have managed to increase their capacity for SDG implementation with the support of UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG. Countries will share their experiences to date and next steps with a focus on capacity development in areas such as Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions; National to Local Public Governance; Design and Implementation of a Learning Outcome Assessment Framework; and the peer-to-peer learning on One Door Service Centers.

Guiding Questions

- **Vanuatu**: What have been the main learnings from the country's efforts to enhance National to Local coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation?

- **Malawi:** There are many ways in which corruption can undermine development efforts and sabotage the government's ability to provide effective, inclusive and accountable services. How have international good practices inspired actions at the national level?

- **Cambodia:** How much progress has been made with the localization of SDG implementation in your country? How is your organization helping to enhance national to local coordination for SDG implementation?

- **Bhutan:** Training on new mindsets, competencies and behaviors is key to strengthening public servants' capacity to implement the SDGs. What has been the major learning from the peer-to-peer learning in designing a training assessment framework?

- **Lao PDR:** What have been the major learnings from the One-Door-Service Centers (one-stop-shops) to achieve higher citizen satisfaction while focusing on implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

II. Strengthening Risk-Informed Governance and Resilience in Cities and Local Communities for Climate Action

With extreme droughts and recurring torrential monsoon rains across the globe, existing and emerging crisis illustrates an increasing impact of climate emergency. The global disaster landscape is fast changing, with extreme weather becoming more common and destructive. This phenomenon underlines the need for countries to reduce disaster risk and build resilience through innovative mechanisms. Systemic risk is associated with the cascading impacts that spread within and across systems and sectors such as ecosystems, health, infrastructure, and food production. Natural and man-made hazards interact with exposure and vulnerability to test the resilience of disaster-affected communities. These variables are socially constructed through a range of underlying drivers, including poverty and inequality, poorly planned and managed urban and infrastructure development, environmental degradation, climate change, conflict, displacement, and weak governance. Additionally, risk-related decisions are influenced by human nature, where risk perception and biases can override scientific facts.

Risk-informed governance, digital government and innovative frontier technologies presents rapidly evolving prospects for building resilience and fostering climate action across countries. Digital technologies as a development tool provide unique opportunities for developing countries to leapfrog intermediate steps in development while improving the quality and broadening the reach of public services. Effective public governance and digital technologies in particular, have the potential for strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability in cities and local communities for climate action. Governments are increasingly leveraging digital government tools and, in particular open data and big data analytics to effectively anticipate, prepare, and respond to risks and disasters. Strengthening risk-informed governance and innovative technologies have become more significant in building resilience in cities and local communities, especially for countries in special situations to help build back-better in times of disasters.

The Session will highlight and share insights on the significant role of risk-informed governance and strengthening resilience in cities and local communities for climate action. The Session will also delve into leveraging digital government solutions for DRR and resilience by exploring UN DESA's training toolkit on Risk-informed Governance and Innovative Technology for DRR and Resilience as well as the Handbook on Effective National to Local Governance for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, currently being developed by UNPOG.

Guiding Questions

- According to the *Asia-Pacific Digital Transformation Report 2022*[12], by ESCAP, the region is the most digitally divided in the world. What are the coherent actions aimed at accelerating digital transformation for disaster risk reduction and building resilience?

- To what extent is the application of DRR policies and risk-informed governance strategies helping to prevent new disaster risk, reduce existing disaster risk and manage residual risk, whiles contributing to the strengthening resilience and reduction of disaster losses?

- How do we prevent or halt the spiral of increasing disasters by addressing the key drivers, root causes and multiple interconnected risks? and how do we strengthen the synergies between climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to address climate and disaster risks through risk-informed governance?

- Digital government tools and frontier technologies are becoming more and more recognized for tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability. How can digital technologies and ICTs help tackle climate change, build climate and enhance disaster resilience?

- What are the challenges in promoting risk-informed governance and leveraging digital technologies to ensure resilience in cities and local communities?

- What are the key policy recommendations and takeaways in promoting risk-informed governance and digital technologies for climate action, disaster resilience, and environmental sustainability?

III. Government Innovation in Protecting Migrants and Refugees.

It has never been more important to ensure that national and local governance gives special attention to the integration of migrants and refugees in host communities. This requires a conscious effort to guard against the rise of xenophobic sentiment and monitoring the activities of vigilante groups where they exist and a policy of zero tolerance for hate speech and hate crimes. At the same time active measures are required to ensure their full integration into the life of the host nation.

The number of people forced to flee their homes stands at the highest level since records began. By the end of 2021 those displaced by war violence, persecution and human rights abuses stood at 89.3 million double the figure in 2011. Since then, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and other emergency situations have pushed the figure to over 100 million according to UNHCR. The Ecosystem Threat Register (ETR) released in September 2018 by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an Australian international think tank,

---

[12] ESCAP-2022-Flagship-Asia-Pacific-Digital-Transformation-Report.pdf (unescap.org)

estimates that at least 1.2 billon could be displaced by these threats by 2050. In this context, the international response to the problem has gradually begun to progress.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, floods and storms caused 28.6 million new displacements in 2020. The Global Compact on Safe Orderly and Regular Migration adopted by the UN in 2018 states that governments should work to protect climate refugees in the countries of their arrival by devising planned relocation and visa options if adaptation and return is not possible in their countries of origin.

The Session will discuss the issues raised for host countries when it comes to integration of people forced to leave their home country by events outside their control and how government innovation has helped to deliver integrated services to migrants and refugees. The Session will feature, among others, the example of Portugal which published its first Plan for Immigrant Integration in 2007 and established a One-Stop Shop for the delivery of public services to migrants. Portugal gives prominence to establishing good relations between migrant communities and the majority population. Since 2015, integration priorities are included in the five-year Strategic Plan for Migration. The plan focuses on legislation, service provision, research, public opinion, and empowerment of communities.

Guiding questions:

- What innovative legislation, government policies and measures are need to promote the integration of migrants?

- What activities need to take place at the local level to ensure that national integration plans are implemented successfully?

- How can government innovation and digital government help to provide effective, accountable, and inclusive services to migrants?

- What are some of the innovative practices to provide services to migrants, including by leveraging technologies?

YOUTH SESSION

Empowering Youth for Accelerating SDG Implementation – Youth as Leaders Innovators and Change-makers

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change has sparked a global crisis that is also undermining hard-won development gains and progress, the UN Secretary-General has called for integrating young people into decision-making mechanisms at the local, national and international levels to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs Decade of Action and delivery. From gender equality to education and skills development to fighting climate change, and protecting our oceans and biodiversity, young people are advocating many initiatives with creativity and commitment

in response to our fast-changing world and for future generations. As the UN Secretary-General highlighted in his report, "Our Common Agenda"[13], "it is time to find ways to give more weight to young people's collective interests and to make our systems work to safeguard their futures". Empowering youth for accelerating SDG implementation is emphasized in one of the commitments, 'Listen to and Work with Youth'.

Guided by the UN system-wide youth strategy, "Youth2030"[14], UNPOG has been strengthening its work for and with young people worldwide. The main objective has been to engage, support and empower young people to put their ideas into action. The Session will be an opportunity for young people to share their perspectives on how to transform the world into a fairer and more sustainable place and reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) amidst the continuing crisis. Based on the discussions of the 6th Youth Forum on SDG Implementation[15], the Session also aims to share the experiences of youth leaders engaged in climate action and SDG projects.

LEARNING LAB

A Learning Lab is a mini workshop in which participants can learn/test new tools or methodologies. The Regional Symposium will feature one Learning lab:

Learning Lab: Identifying Capacity Needs of Member States for Effective Implementation of the UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs

The Learning Lab will introduce the outcome of the 2nd Capacity Needs Assessment of Government Institutions to Implement the 2030 Agenda for and Identification of Priority Areas for Capacity Development in the Asia and Pacific Region and Eastern Africa, which was conducted by UNPOG under guidance from DPIDG and in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator Offices, and share the capacity development demands and challenges of selected countries which have responded to the Survey of the 2nd Capacity Needs Assessment.

During the Learning Lab, participants will be invited to group discussions/activities which will address the issues highlighted by the 2nd Capacity Needs Assessment that are inter-aligned with the thematic areas of the Toolkits of UN DESA's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs. Participants will have an opportunity to take part in the group activities/exercises selected from the following Toolkits:

- Training Toolkit on Strengthening Institutional Arrangements and Governance Capacities for Policy Coherence

---

[13] https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf

[14] https://www.unyouth2030.com/

[15] http://unpog.org/page/sub4_1_view.asp?tb_engagement_sn=6

- Training Toolkit on Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of People in Vulnerable Situations

- Training Toolkit on Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation

- Training Toolkit on Changing Mindsets in Public Institutions to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- Training Toolkit on Innovation and Digital Government for Public Service Delivery

The Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals aims to provide a holistic and integrated framework for capacity development around governance and public institutions. It aims to promote a 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.

The Curriculum on Governance is a comprehensive set of Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits, which contain ready-to-use and customizable training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs. The Curriculum provides methodologies and approaches to advance knowledge and assist governments in developing capacities at the individual, organizational, and institutional/societal levels, to drive the transformational change needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.

FIELD VISIT

A field visit will be organized for registered participants to **Incheon Start-up Park, IFEZ Smart City Operation Center, Incheon Free Economic Zone PR Center.**

VI. Expected Outcomes

It is expected that by the end of the workshop, participants will have:

- Increased understanding of trends, challenges, and opportunities for achieving the SDGs and addressing global challenges.

- Enhanced knowledge of the importance of innovation and digital government for effective, efficient, and inclusive public service delivery and for SDG implementation.

- Exchanged innovative ideas and good practices in strategic planning and foresight.

- Strengthened partnerships facilitated among diverse stakeholders across sectors from the region.

- Exchanged information about strategies, methodologies and lessons learned for risk-informed governance and resilience in cities for climate action; and

- Enhanced understanding of how to develop capacities to promote effective governance for sustainable development.

A report documenting the key discussions and outcomes of the proceedings will be produced and shared online with Symposium participants, stakeholders, and the wider public.

VII.   Target Audience and Beneficiaries

The Regional Symposium will primarily bring together government representatives from Asia and Pacific countries, and Eastern Africa.

Participants will be composed of government officials, in particular SDG focal points, representatives of ministries or other entities in charge of public administration and/or overseeing public service management, and ministries and agencies in charge of Planning, Environment, ICT and innovation, and other relevant stakeholders who are responsible for risk-informed disaster risk reduction, climate change, schools and training institutes, the private sector, civil society organizations, and academia.

VIII.   Follow-up Actions

Commitments to further promote and integrate key lessons and outcomes of the Symposium into national and local policies and programmes to address the global challenges and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be followed up via:

- Expression of commitment to integrating strategies and methodologies into policies, programmes, and legislative/ institutional frameworks

- Increased number of domestic capacity development training activities, policy initiatives and actions encouraged by the Symposium to support the sustainable and resilient recovery and SDG implementation and

- Number of partnerships between participating countries through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

IX. Co-organizers

The Regional Symposium will be co-organized by the UN DESA and the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Government of the Republic of Korea and Incheon Metropolitan City.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)[4]

Rooted in the United Nations Charter and guided by the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)[16] upholds the development pillar of the United Nations.

UN DESA brings the global community together to work towards common solutions to the world's most pressing problems. It helps countries translate their global commitments into national action in the economic, social, and environmental spheres.

.

UN DESA is a pioneer of sustainable development and the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where each goal finds its space and where all stakeholders can play their part to leave no one behind. We are a leading analytical voice for promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty, and a champion for tearing down the barriers that keep people in poverty.

UN DESA helps countries make informed decisions by providing a wealth of information through our publications and databases and through our support for international deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commissions, Forums, and other bodies.

Step by step, UN DESA works towards sustainable development for all.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Government of the Republic of Korea

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) is responsible for general affairs of the State Council, the promulgation of Acts and subordinate statutes and treaties, government organization and a prescribed number of public officials, awards and decorations, government innovation, administrative efficiency, e-government, personal information protection, management of government buildings and support for elections and referendums.

Furthermore, MOIS actively promotes local autonomy and decentralization by supporting business, finance, and taxation of local governments and mediating disputes among local governments. In addition, MOIS takes charge of establishing, supervising, and adjusting

---

[16] Department of Economic and Social Affairs, About UN DESA, Who we are
https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/about/who-we-are.html

policies related to safety and disaster management such as emergency countermeasures, civil defence, and disaster prevention.

Incheon Metropolitan City

Located on the West Sea (Yellow Sea) of Korea, Incheon is home to the Incheon International a large-scale seaport and Free Economic Zone and is rich in tourism resources. It is growing by leaps and bounds based on its foundation for nurturing various industries. The population of Incheon exceeded three million in 2016 becoming the third-most-populous city in Korea. At 1062 ㎢ Incheon also has the largest land area among the metropolitan cities in Korea.

Having successfully hosted the World Education Forum in 2015, Incheon is a city where everyone wants to live for its educational and living conditions. Four globally renowned foreign universities and eight local colleges have their campus in the city, and the city government provides various support programs for foreigners to settle in, which has led the number of foreign residents in Songdo to exceed 2,000.

In particular, Incheon stands as a global city where many international organizations are based. A total of 15 international bodies are located in Incheon, such as Green Climate Fund Secretariat, World Bank Group Korea Office, and 9 United Nations organizations. With the second expansion phase of the Songdo Convensia convention center completed recently, the city of Incheon is also emerging as a new hub for the MICE industry.

X. Contact Information

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)
UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

Juwang Zhu
Director
DPIDG/UNDESA

Adriana Alberti
Chief
Programme Management and Capacity Development Unit/DPIDG/UNDESA
alberti@un.org

Kyuchang Ko
Head,
UN Project Office on Governance/ DPIDG/UN DESA
kyu.ko@un.org

Ana Cristina Thorlund

Governance and Public Administration Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
thorlund@un.org

Prabin Maharjan
Programme Management Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
prabin.maharjan@un.org

Samuel Danaa
Associate Capacity Development Expert
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
samuel.danaa@un.org

Ms Hye Kyung (Shelley) Choi
Programme Management Assistant
UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
choi9@un.org