



**United
Nations**

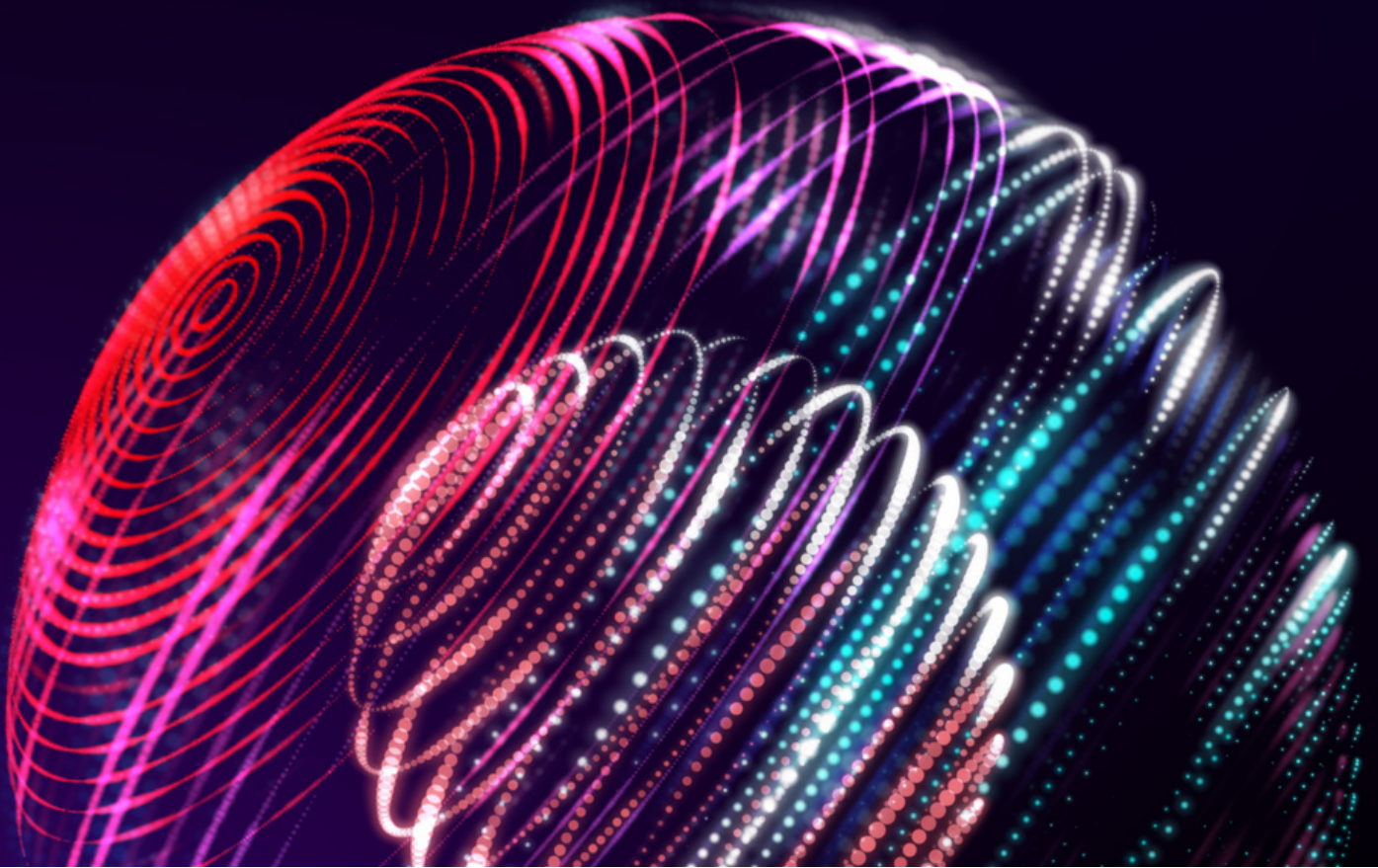
Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Presidential Summit on Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration

27 February

7am - 10:30 am (EST)

8pm - 11:30 pm (GMT + 9)



Concept Note

Event Description

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), will organize a “Presidential Summit on Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration”. It will be held online (via Zoom) on 27 February 2023 from 07:00 am to 10:30 am (New York time; GMT-4)/ from 8 pm to 11:30 pm (GMT+9). It will be conducted in English.

About the Organizer

DPIDG is a division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). It provides secretariat support to the United Nations Programme in Public Administration. DPIDG’s mission is to assist the Member States of the United Nations in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, inclusive, and innovative public governance, administration, and services for sustainable development.

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the need to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, in line with Goal 16. General Assembly resolution 60/34 of 17 March 2006 emphasized “the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of public administration”. In its seventeenth session in 2018, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) adopted 11 principles of effective governance. The principles, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2018/12, highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the SDGs.

CEPA has developed a wide range of commonly used strategies for operationalization of the principles. One of the principles is on competence which highlights that to perform their functions effectively, institutions are to have sufficient expertise, resources, and tools to deal adequately with the mandates under their authority. Commonly used strategies to operationalize this principle include the 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 and investment in e-government.

Since effective public institutions are of paramount importance in the delivery of programmes and services that directly support the implementation of the SDGs, including no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, among others, public servants need to be aware of the SDGs and the key principles of the 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the SDGs also requires new mindsets, competencies, and skills among public servants. The latter also need to have the capacities to transform the commitments made by UN Member States in the 2030 Agenda into transformative and accelerated actions that can improve people's lives, leaving no one behind. Associations of schools of public administration can play a critical role in ensuring that schools of public administration teach the SDGs to public servants.

The Presidential Summit will build on meetings of the Global Network of Schools of Public Administration spearheaded by DPIDG as part of the Global Initiative on Building Capacities of Public Servants for the implementation of the SDGs. The initiative launched in 2017 aims at supporting governments develop the capacities of public servants (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude, leadership competencies, and mindset) to implement the SDGs. It also aims to provide data and information about the development of capacities in the various regions of the world and support institutional capacity development for improved public service delivery. It fosters North-South and South-South exchange of effective governance practices to ensure cross-fertilization and mutual learning. The initiative was established to co-create with the schools of public administration (i) a curriculum on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, which includes several online and face-to-face training programmes, and (ii) a competency framework for public servants to implement the SDGs. It is also expected to help schools to mainstream the SDGs in their curricula and courses. Every year UN DESA/DPIDG organizes a global meeting with schools of public administration and institutes of training is held to take stock of their initiatives in terms of raising awareness of and mainstreaming the SDGs in their programmes and developing the necessary skills of public servants to respond to governments' priorities in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In 2022, the Annual Meeting with Schools of Public Administration provided an overview of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, which was launched in 2021 and made available online on the UNPAN website. The Curriculum is a comprehensive set of training of trainers' capacity development toolkits, which contains ready-to-use training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs. By facilitating training of trainers, the Curriculum can help equip public servants with the knowledge and capacities to implement the SDGs effectively. The Curriculum's training material can be used to run face-to-face and online training workshops at national and local government levels. The toolkits are inter-related, and modules from one toolkit can be used in combination with modules from other toolkits to suit specific countries' needs. More than 48 partnerships were established for internal and external review of the toolkits and over 1,000 participants took part in the online training workshop to pilot the toolkits with 94% of positive feedback. The learning outcomes of the training toolkits are usually designed around the often-expressed challenges of strengthening national to local government coordination and institutional effectiveness for the SDGs.

Prior to the 2022 meeting of the global network of schools of public administration, DPIDG conducted a survey on “Mainstreaming the SDGs” with the aim to provide an overview of the current state of courses and activities aimed at raising awareness and promoting the SDGs among public servants. Overall, the survey findings suggest that public administration schools, training institutes, and civil service commissions have been actively mainstreaming the SDGs in their training courses. However, they face various challenges in updating their training courses and incorporating the SDGs into them, including lack of resources and expertise.

DPIDG has also worked closely with associations of schools of public administration in organizing training of trainers and taking part in their annual events. Furthermore, DPIDG is working closely with the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) through the joint IASIA/UN DESA Task Force for the revision and update of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training. The Standards of Excellence, jointly developed by IASIA and UN DESA, were first issued in 2008 by a Task Force which included experts and practitioners from schools and associations of public administration, and representatives of international and regional organizations from across the world.

Objective

The Summit is intended for Presidents of Associations of schools of public administration who can play a critical role in ensuring that schools of public administration and institutes of public management teach the SDGs to public servants. It will provide an opportunity for Presidents of Associations of schools of public administration and development management institutes to present the progress they have made in mainstreaming the SDGs in their curricula. Presidents of Associations and Executive Directors of schools of public administration will be invited to share the new courses, partnerships and/or case studies recently developed on strengthening public institutions’ capacities to implement the SDGs. The meeting will also promote new ways of collaboration among Associations of schools of public administration, including South-South cooperation and training of trainers. Presidents of Associations of schools of public administration will also be invited to commit to mainstreaming the SDGs in their curricula. The key recommendations from the Presidential Summit will be presented as an input to the SDG Summit to be held at UN Headquarters in September 2023.

Structure

The Summit will be articulated in three sessions. The first session will focus on approaches, challenges, and opportunities in teaching the SDGs and developing capacities of public servants to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This session will provide an overview of the 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development. It will highlight the findings of the Survey on progress made in mainstreaming the SDGs in schools of public administration as well as the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs.

The second session will focus on new approaches and innovative practices in mainstreaming the SDGs in the curricula of schools of public administration through break-out groups.

The third session will focus on how to close the gaps in teaching the SDGs. Presidents of Associations of schools of public administration will be invited to share their recommendations and commitments in mainstreaming the SDGs in the curricula and programmes of their member schools.

Expected Results

The Presidential Summit will result in:

- (i) Enhanced awareness among Associations of schools of public administration of the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development and of the importance of mainstreaming the SDGs into the courses of schools of public administration.
- (ii) Strengthened capacities of the Associations of schools of public administration and institutes of training to mainstream the SDGs in the curricula of their member schools by exchanging knowledge on challenges, opportunities and innovative practices.
- (iii) Recommendations and commitments by the Presidents of Associations of schools of public administration to mainstream the SDGs in the curricula of their member schools as an input for the 2023 SDG Summit.

Target audience and language

Associations of Schools of public administration from all the five regions of the world. The webinar will be conducted in English.

Contact Information

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Agenda

27 February - 07:00 - 10:30 am New York time (EST)

7:00 – 7:15

Opening Session

Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (5 min)

Keynote Speech

The Importance of Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration

Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, President, American Society for Public Administration (10 min)

Facilitator: Ms. Adriana Alberti, Chief, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA

7:15 – 8:00

Session I - Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals in the Public Sector:

Approaches, challenges and opportunities

Objective: This Session will provide a global overview of the framework and methodologies on governance for the SDGs to strengthen the capacities of public servants

Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development and Strategy Guidance Notes

Ms. Saras Jagwanth, Inter-Regional Advisor, DPIDG, UNDESA (7 min)

UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs

Ms. Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta, Interregional Advisor, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA (5 min)

Results from the 2023 Survey on Mainstreaming the SDGs in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration

Ms. Stefania Senese, Programme Management Officer, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA (8 min)

Challenges and Opportunities in Mainstreaming the SDGs: Global perspectives

- Dr. Najat Zarrouk, President, International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) (10 min)

- Dr. Raed Mohammed Ben Shams, President, International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) (10 min)

Facilitator: Ms. Adriana Alberti, Chief, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA

8:00 – 8:45

Session II - Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals in the Public Sector:

New approaches and innovative practices

Objective: Participants will break into three Working Groups to discuss new approaches and innovative practices in mainstreaming the SDGs in the curricula of schools of public administration to develop public servants' capacities by discussing the following questions (10 min per question):

(i) Given the challenges and opportunities previously identified, what are some of the best strategies/practices that could be implemented to ensure the continuous engagement of public servants with the SDGs?

(ii) How can peer-to-peer learning and networks support your institution/organization in mainstreaming the SDGs into the curriculum of your programmes?

(iii) How can global organizations (UN DESA/IASIA/WB/others) support your efforts? How would you envision such support?

Each Working Group will be moderated by a facilitator and select a rapporteur who will present a summary of discussion findings in the plenary session.

Break-Out Groups (30 min)

- **Working Group 1** facilitated by Mr. Cesar Alfonzo, Executive Secretary, IASIA
- **Working Group 2** facilitated by Ms. Cristina Rodriguez-Acosta, Interregional Advisor, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA
- **Working Group 3** facilitated by Ms. Stefania Senese, Programme Management Officer, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA

Reporting back in Plenary by each Working Group (5 minutes per group)

Facilitator: Dr. George Scott, Secretary General, African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)

8:45 – 9:00 Coffee break

9:00 – 10:30 **Session III - Recommendations and commitments in mainstreaming the SDGs in the teachings of the schools of public administration**

Facilitator: Prof. Alex Brillantes, Secretary General, Secretariat of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA)

Objective: In view of the 2023 SDG Summit, the objective of this session is to provide the Presidents of Associations of Schools of Public Administration with the opportunity to present recommendations and commitments to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed in their member schools' curricula and training programmes. Each President could outline 3 to 5 key recommendations/commitments (5 minutes each).

Recommendations and commitments

Global

- Dr. Najat Zarrouk, President, International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA)
- Dr. Raed Mohammed Ben Shams, President, International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

Africa

- Dr. Ludeki Chweya, President, African Management Development Institutes' Network (ADMIN) (tbc)
- Dr. John Nakabago, President, African Association of Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)
- Ms. Savia Mugwanya, President, Africa Public Sector - Human Resource Managers Network (APS-HRMnet)

Americas

- Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, President, American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
- Mr. Devon Rowe, Executive Director, Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)
- Dr. Jenny Lopez Rodriguez, Vice President, Inter-American Network of Public Administration Education (INPAE)
- Dr. Ruben Echeverri Romero, President, Latin American Group for Public Administration (LAGPA)

- Dr. Trevor Brown, President, Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) (tbc)

Asia and the Pacific

- Dr. Jiannan Wu, President, Asian Association for Public Administration (AAPA)
- Professor Akhlaque Haque, Vice President, South Asian Network of Public Administration (SANPA)
- Dr. Tippawan Lorsuwannarat, Chairman, Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) (tbc)

Europe and Central Asia

- Mr. Marco Ongaro, Director-General, European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)
- Dr. Calin Hintea, President, Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee)
- Dr. Fabienne Maron, Scientific Director (IIAS), European Group of Public Administration (EGPA)

Middle East

- Dr. Nasser Al-Hatlan Al-Qahtani, Director General, Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO)
- Dr. Ghada Barsoum, President, Association for Middle Eastern Public Policy and Administration (AMEPPA) (tbc)
- Ms. Lamia Moubayed, Director, Founding member of the GIFT-MENA Network, Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (GIFT-MENA)

10:30

Closing Session –The Way Forward

Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, DPIDG, UN DESA

(Virtual Group Photo)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

