



Capacity Development Workshop and Panel Session on

“Advancing innovative partnerships and inclusive governance in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals”

*Within the framework of the 2022 IASIA Conference on
“Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles to Leave No One, No Place Behind”*

Rabat, Morocco - 25-29 July 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has had wide ranging impacts across all areas of sustainable development, including public service delivery and resource allocation, and has heightened inequality, particularly amongst vulnerable groups. As countries learn to deal with ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 they are also attempting to re-open economies and societies, addressing the impact of lockdowns and closures, including inflation, lagging employment, financial strains, and the social and public health consequences of COVID-19. While doing so poses an immense challenge, countries are also leveraging the opportunity to ‘build back better’, including enhancing the resiliency of their institutions to future shocks and crisis, while supporting targeted measures to address inequality and work towards shared and inclusive prosperity and sustainable development for all. Such efforts are crucial if the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are to be reached.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an interconnected agenda, requiring collective and multi-stakeholder efforts and actions for global challenges to be met. Partnerships, comprising stakeholders across all sectors and areas, provide an opportunity to share innovations, knowledge and resources better enhancing our chances of meeting the SDGs. However, for this to happen political will, adequate resources, and a strong commitment to creating, supporting and sustaining innovative partnerships and inclusive governance must be in place from the top levels of government.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted just how highly interconnected the world is. Early into the crisis it became clear that national responses alone were not enough, and while the COVID-19 pandemic placed enormous strain on public expenditure and resources, the crisis highlighted the need for sound partnerships, information and resource sharing at all levels. Strong example of partnerships to combat COVID-19 and more broadly to accelerate the Goals, have been forged and continue to drive forward innovation.

The pandemic has also uncovered a new inequality pandemic, as highlighted by the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres. How quickly countries will recover from this global health

crisis will be determined by how effectively public institutions respond to the new demands being generated by the pandemic, including widening inequalities, and in addressing existing challenges, such as preserving the planet for generations to come. Capacities for co-creation and co-production, through collaboration with vulnerable groups and partnerships, will thus be essential to recover from this crisis and mobilize technical and financial resources for service delivery.

As well as supporting partnerships between countries, a critical element of sustainable and shared development is creating and sustaining multi-stakeholder partnerships at the

local and national levels. Engaging all segments of society, including the most vulnerable, helps to better assess needs and responses to development challenges while also enhancing ownership of the Goals. As countries work to Build Back Better, sustaining, enhancing and leveraging these innovative partnerships will be at the heart of reaching the SDGs.

Against this background, UN DESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), is organizing two inter-linked capacity development activities under the umbrella of "Advancing innovative and inclusive partnerships and governance in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals" as part of the 2022 IASIA* Conference which will take place in Rabat, Morocco on July 25-29, 2022. The IASIA Conference will focus on "Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles to Leave No One, No Place Behind". UN DESA/DPIDG will organize a capacity development workshop, which will focus on building back better from COVID-19: enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. It will also organize a panel session on innovative governance for social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Objectives

The main theme of the IASIA Conference is 'Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles to Leave No One, No Place Behind' which includes the 11 Principles on Effective Governance designed by UN-CEPA and endorsed/adopted by ECOSOC. The workshop and panel session will contribute to the Conference by focusing on three principles: Collaboration, Leaving No One Behind and Participation in the context of enhancing innovative partnerships and inclusive governance to reach the SDGs.

The workshop will aim at building resilience and capacity of national public administrations to develop and enhance partnerships and build back better from COVID-19 to reach the SDGs, while focusing on enhancing innovation, technology and participation.

The panel session on innovative governance to leave no one behind will aim at developing capacities of public officials in countries in special situations to promote inclusive governance and engagement of vulnerable groups. The main theme of the workshop and panel are congruent with the theme of the umbrella IASIA Conference 'Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles to Leave No One, No Place Behind'.

The workshop and panel session emphasize DPIDG's work on the 11 Principles of Effective Governance designed by UN-CEPA and endorsed/adopted by ECOSOC. While drawing on the CEPA principles, notably those on collaboration, leaving no one behind and partnerships, the workshop and panel session will also highlight the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs and the innovative practices from the UN Public Service Awards.

Thematic Focus of the Workshop and Panel Session

Major themes to be deliberated during the workshop and panel session include:

Workshop on “Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals”

Enhancing capacities of public administrations to develop and maintain strong and innovative partnerships to build back better from COVID-19 and enhance public service delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for partnership and cooperation at all levels – from local to international, and across all areas, from resource allocation to information sharing. In line with SDG 17, which is being reviewed during the 2022 HLPF, the workshop will focus in on the types of partnerships needed to reach the SDGs and how these can be fostered as countries work to build back better from COVID. The workshop will explore lessons learned from some of the innovative partnerships developed in the context of COVID-19, particularly as they pertain to innovative public service delivery, and examine how they can be adapted as governments work to implement the SDGs. In particular, examples of partnerships in support of and/or with vulnerable groups will be drawn upon, underscoring the necessity of inclusive governance for shared prosperity and addressing rising inequality.

Panel discussion on “Innovative governance to leave no one behind”

Capacities for government innovation for social inclusion of vulnerable groups. The pandemic has exposed weaknesses in today's public institutions. It has exacerbated institutional vulnerabilities to tackle poverty and socio-economic challenges and made visible in many countries a lack of coordination among levels of government, which has worsened the situation, especially of vulnerable groups. The panel session will examine strategies, innovative practices and lessons learned on how to strengthen capacities for inclusive governance to leave no one behind.

Format

The workshop and panel session will be held in person in Rabat, Morocco. It will be conducted in English. The follow-up actions, including key recommendations and summary of the discussion, will be disseminated through the UN DESA website.

Targeted Audience

The target audience of the workshop and panel session includes public servants and leaders, including those from civil society and the private sector, who wish to enhance their capacity to develop and maintain partnerships for development across various parts of society and to engage vulnerable groups in service delivery.

Expected Results

It is expected that the workshop and panel session will result in:

- Enhanced understanding of the role of innovative partnerships and innovation in government for social inclusion for improved public service delivery for the achievement of the SDGs.

- Improved knowledge of empirical practices and pathways for collaboration, leaving no one behind and partnerships which can be utilized in efforts to build back better and reach the SDGs.