

Agenda (draft 5 September) Expert Group Meeting

“Enhancing Innovation to Building Resilient and Responsive Public Administration to Support the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – An SDGs Mid-Term Review Perspective”

The Expert Group Meeting is organized by the Public Service Innovation Branch (PISB), Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

**7-8 September 2023
Conference Room B
United Nations Secretariat
New York**

Format in person/remote presentation

Day 1 :

Time (EDT)	
9:00 – 9:30 am	<p><u>Opening of the Expert Group Meeting</u></p> <p><u>Welcome and introductions</u></p> <p>Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government UNDESA</p> <p>Ms. Elida Reci, Governance and PA Officer Public Sector Innovation Branch, Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government UNDESA</p> <p><u>Introduction of all experts</u></p>

<p>9:30– 11:00 am (1.5 hrs)</p>	<p><u>SDG implementation and the critical role of public administration at the time of multiple, intersected crisis: disruption, building back better or PA of the future; What is the role of PA innovation from a mid-term review perspective of the implementation of SDGs</u></p> <p><i>Moderator/Rapporteur: Ms. Elida Recí</i> <i>Keynote Presentation: Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief of SDG Monitoring, Statistical Division, UNDESA (15-20 minutes)</i> <i>Keynote Presentation: Ms. Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division of Sustainable Development, UNDESA (15-20 minutes)</i> <i>Q&A session: 10 minutes</i> <i>Discussions: 40-45 minutes</i></p> <p>This session will look at the intersection of governance and innovation and their critical juncture for the implementation of SDGs. It will initiate a dialogue on the PA from a structural perspective, by looking at the level of preparedness and resilience to develop and adopt innovation in public service delivery.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are multiple, intersected crisis teaching us in terms of <i>PA Response</i>? <p><i>PA Preparedness and Resilience</i> in challenging times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the lessons learn from the mid-term review of the implementation of SDGs? • What are the changes needed? <p><i>PA Open Innovation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role did innovation play in addressing the crisis? • What were the impacts of innovation uptake in social sectors during the crisis taught us? <p><i>PA Tacking Stock and designing Pathways forward</i></p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15am</p>	<p><u>Coffee Break</u></p>

<p>11 :15 - 12 :45 pm (1.5 hrs)</p>	<p><u>Expert Dialogue 1:</u> Political Leadership and Institutional Frameworks of Innovation</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. John-Mary Kauzya (5 min opening/bios)</i> <i>Presentation: Mr. Rolf Alter (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Innovation in Public Administration – learning from the Covid-19 period” by Mr. David Le Blanc (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Room Interventions: Ms. Amita Gill, UNDP</i></p> <p><i>Q&A: (10 Minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Discussions: (40-45 minutes)</i></p> <p>The intersecting crisis have once again emphasised the importance of political leadership capable of taking decision under challenges situations.</p> <p>The critical role of institutions in the achievements of SDGs in calls for institutions to develop more creative, flexible, and integrated ways of working, to address the structural and procedural weaknesses that might hinder the implementation of SDGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can institutions innovate, while at the same time creating an enabling environment for innovation? <p>Achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience requires long-term perspective in decision and policy makers, as well as institution-building at all levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are common challenges and how can transformational, innovative leadership and institutions respond to such challenges? What are the lessons learned? • What are the challenges in such institutional building in different regions? • What did we learn from the mid-term review of the implementation of SDGs and what should be the way forward? <p><u>Rapporteur:</u> <i>Ms. Victoria Kim PISB/DPIDG</i></p>
<p>12:45 – 2:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch Break</p>

<p>2:00 – 3:30 pm (1.5 hrs)</p>	<p><u>Expert Dialogue 2:</u> Regulatory Framework for Innovation</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Allan Rosenbaum (5 min opening/bios)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Building and Anchoring an Enabling Environment and Regulatory Frameworks Sensitive to Innovation and SDGs” by Ms. Najat Zarrouk (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Q&A: (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Discussions (50 minutes)</i></p> <p>The pandemic introduced new approaches and means of work, education and learning, and a paradigm shifts in the delivery of public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some of the initial findings and lessons learnt? <p>The high efficiency of public service delivery and uptake by the societies clearly shows that the reluctance of public administration and resistance to change has been costly. The last years have also shown the great potentials of public institutions in adopting to change as needed. How can we capitalise on some gains and best regulate the positive changes as we move to the next stage?</p> <p>Lots of efforts are needed to institutionalize the new boundaries (regulate hybrid work, regulate, and recognize online education as part of formal education, and so on. At this time of intersected crisis what lessons do we carry on to not allow that nature or human made crisis lead to disruption of basic public service delivery? What would be expert’s advice on addressing these challenges?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will these pathways above expedite the implementation of SDGs? <p><u>Rapporteur :</u> <i>Ms. Elida Reci PISB/DPIDG</i></p>
<p>3:30 – 3:45 pm</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>

<p>3:45 – 5:15 pm (1.5 hrs)</p>	<p><u>Expert Dialogue 3:</u> Leave no one behind – multi-stakeholders’ participation and whole of society approach.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Frank Zerunyan (5 min opening and bios)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Reaffirming State-People Governance Relationships/Whole of Society Approach during crisis¹” by Mr. John-Mary Kauzya</i></p> <p><i>Presentation: Ms. Nibal Idlebi and Ms. Lize Denner/ESCWA (15 minutes remotely)</i></p> <p><i>Room Interventions: Ms. Adela Pozder-Cengic, UNDP</i></p> <p><i>Q&A: (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Discussions: (45-50 minutes)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What have multiple crisis shown us in terms of whole of government and whole of society approach? • What are the trends in stakeholder’s involvement and participation? • How can we take stock of gains in terms of all of society inclusion as we move into a world of multiple crisis and aim to ensure the implementation of SDGs? • How whole of society approach addressed the resilience and responsiveness of public service delivery? • What transformational, innovative path should the government undergo to ensure that innovation leads to public services that are inclusive and address the needs of all groups within society? • How can we ensure that the voices of youth and women is better heard? <p><u>Rapporteur</u> : Ms. Elizabeth Niland PISB/DPIDG</p>
<p>5: 15– 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Summary of day 1 discussions</p>

¹ https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB_75.pdf

Day 2 : 8 September 2023

9:00 – 9:15am	<u>Coffee/ Opening of the day 2</u>
9:15 – 10:45 pm (1.5 hrs)	<p><u>Expert Dialogue 4:</u> Technology diffusion and technology uptake for innovative response</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mrs. Aida Opoku-Mensah (5 min opening/bios)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Global, regional and local trends based on the key findings of the UN E-government Survey” by Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Digital Transformation in Western Balkans” Mrs. Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Q&A: (10 Minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Discussions: (45-50 minutes)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can we build resilience and responsiveness in public administration through technology diffusion and uptake?• How the level of internet diffusion determined the level of online public service delivery?• What are some of the early innovative approaches allowing for technology uptake in education and work?• What are the patterns we see across the regions?• How can technology diffusion and technology uptake fast forward the implementation of SDGs?• Is there any evidence that digital gap led to increased gaps in crisis response and overall development?• What are the challenges and opportunities of new technologies?• How can we innovatively and responsively adopt them?• What are the lessons learned from the SDG mid-term review and what are the new pathways? <p><u>Rapporteur : Ms. Elizabeth Niland, DPIDG/PISB</u></p>
10:45 – 11:00 am	<u>Coffee Break</u>

11 :00 – 12:30 pm
(1.5 hrs)

Expert Dialogue 5: Public Financial Management (PFM)

Moderator: Mr. Rolf Alter (5 min opening/bios)

Presentation: Mr Yanis Kuehn von Burgsdorff, Financing for Sustainable Development Office, UNDESA (15 minutes presentation)

Presentation on “How to make a difference? Through improved budget credibility to better SDGs achievement” by Mr. Juraj Nemec and Ms. Katarina Ott (15 minutes remotely)

Q&A : (10 min)

Discussions : (45-50 Min)

The multiple, intersected crisis and the mounted response at all levels have stretched public financial resources to the limits, with many least developed and developing countries facing critical debt distress.

- How can countries ensure that crisis response won't derail critical financing needed for the implementation of SDGs? What is the role of public financial management and what lessons have we learned from the last few years?
- What was the role of public financial management during the covid response and what are the lessons learnt?
- What are the main challenges of in terms of PFM? How can innovative approaches and innovative technologies improve PFM?
- How can we ensure that countries will be able to maintain the path of implementing SDGs with long term expectations in reduced financial resources?
- What is the role of innovative finance and its interrelationship with responsive governance?
- What have we learned from mid-term review of SDGs and what are the new pathways?

Rapporteur : *Mrs. Elida Recí, DPIDG/PISB*

12:30 – 2:00 pm

Lunch Break

<p>2:00 – 3:30 pm (1.5 hrs)</p>	<p>Expert Dialogue 6: Public Servants at the heart of building responsive governance through innovation.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. John Nakabago (5 minutes opening/bio reading)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “Stagility: Ensuring stability and agility in institutions, leadership and public service workforce to build resilient and responsive governance” by Ms. Alketa Peci (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Presentation on “The Role of Public Service and Public Servants during crisis²” by Mr. John-Mary Kauzya (15 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Q&A: (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><i>Discussions: (45-50 minutes)</i></p> <p>The implementation of SDGs and the current crisis highlight the importance of public servants in designing public policy under changing and challenging situations, ensuring the public service business continuity and response through agility and innovation. This dialogue can discuss the public servants response through the ninth key roles of public servants, as highlighted in DPIDG/DESA paper respectively (i) ensuring continuity of public services; (ii) providing service before self; courage and humanness in practice (iii) quick thinking, creativity and innovation; (iv) information and awareness creation; (v) strategic thinking and planning amidst chaos; (vi) sustaining resilience and building a better effective and more responsive public service; (vii) building and enhancing State legitimacy, government credibility and people’s trust; (viii) resource allocation and distributive accountability; and (ix) collaborative and networked leadership.</p> <p>In building resilient and responsive governance, we would need innovative approaches in leadership, institutions, and strategies, means of implementation such as human and financial resources, but above all, we will need a new public administration that would address systematic and emergency issues with a changed mindset.</p> <p>This dialogue can look at this intersection of state-people governance relationships and adoption of innovation in the implementation of the SDGs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the lessons learned?

² https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/PB_79.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the changes needed? (Here we can further discuss – life-work balance, hybrid working, future of work and ethics, etc <p><u>Rapporteur : Ms. Victoria Kim, DPIDG/PISB</u></p>
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Coffee Break
3:45 – 4:00 pm	<p>Presentation of initial findings and recommendations</p> <p>Ms. Elida Reci. Governance and PA Officer Public Service Innovation Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government UNDESA</p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director Division of Public Institutions and Digital Government UNDESA</p>

Note:

- 1. The EGM invites the best level of expertise through a balanced regional and gender representation.**
- 2. In accordance with UN System Wide Approach, this EGM mainstreams gender and human right perspective, through content and representation.**