



HEADLINES



The UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) met for its 14th Session in New York from 20 to 24 April 2015. Experts from over 20 countries discussed the crucial role of public administration and governance for the achievement of proposed sustainable development goals ahead of the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda this September.

The 14th CEPA Session, which focused on the theme of *Building Trust in Government in Pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals: What Will it Take* was opened by Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs **Mr. Wu Hongbo**. “You are meeting at a historic moment”, Mr. Wu noted referring to the ongoing intergovernmental deliberations to define the post-2015 development agenda before highlighting the crucial role of public administration in achieving the goals of the new development agenda.

“From ending hunger and poverty, to ensuring quality education, healthy lives, gender equality, and access to water, energy, sanitation, employment, infrastructure, and to reducing inequality, emissions, unsustainable consumption, and to protecting oceans and our ecosystems – none of these goals and their related targets could be achieved without efficient, effective, inclusive, accountable and robust public institution”, Mr. Wu said.

“The vital role of institutions is built into the sustainable development goals themselves,” said **Ms. Margaret Saner**, the Chair of CEPA, making particular mention of Goal 16, which will call for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in tandem with promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and access to justice for all. It was noted throughout the week long discussions that the proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) present both tremendous opportunities as well as complex challenges to public institutions.

Mr. Wu underlined the importance of changing mind-sets noting that many government institutions work in silos. “With the adoption of the SDGs, which emphasise the three interlinked dimensions of

sustainable economic growth, social progress and environmental protection, this traditional mindset will no longer work. We must therefore get rid of silos, think out of the box, and try to bring the holistic approach into the mainstream of public institutions”, he said.

Highlighted in this year’s session was the importance of building citizens’ trust in government. For example, 2012 data from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showed that only 40 per cent of citizens in OECD countries trust their government. “There is need for governments to dialogue with their citizens more effectively to better understand citizen expectations: to keep as close as possible to citizens in designing, developing and implementing policies and programs that affect them. This will be particularly important in attempts to achieve progress on the SDGs”, **Ms. Meredith Edwards**, CEPA Member noted.

Assistant-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs **Mr. Thomas Gass** made a presentation on the status of the SDG negotiations and the expected historic impact of the SDG and the post-2015 development agenda; Assistant-Secretary-General Economic Development **Mr. Lenni Montiel** held an interactive discussion with CEPA on the role of public administration and governance in implementing SDGs and the post-2015 development Agenda; Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women **Ms. Lakshmi Puri** spoke on gender equality and empowerment in advancing sustainable development. Colleagues from the Division for Sustainable Development, the Statistics Division and the Office of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Support and Coordination also made presentations to CEPA Members.

Next year’s session of CEPA will be held from 18 to 22 April 2016. The Committee has proposed “Moving from commitments to results: transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in implementation and monitoring of the SDGs” as the focus of its work.

For more info on CEPA, [click here](#).

UNPAN Partners' Meeting



The United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Partners' Meeting was held on 21 April 2015 as a side-event of the 14th CEPA Session. The Meeting, opened by Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development **Mr. Lenni Montiel**, was attended by 15 representatives from 12 UNPAN partner organizations: AAPAM, ASPA, CAFRAD, CPSI, ESCWA, IIAS, INAP, IMPA-HR, IPAC, MBRSG, NISPAcee and RCOCI. **Asian Association for Public Administration**, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Office of the Prime Minister of Namibia participated as Observers. The 1st Session of the Meeting focused on reviewing the work of UNPAN in 2014 and the 2nd Session was dedicated to discussion on UNPAN's contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. UNPAN Partners indicated strong support and interest in linking the work of the Network to the new development agenda, especially the proposed goal 16. Suggested UNPAN activities on SDGs included online training courses, joint meetings and publications with UNDESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), sharing of sustainable development best practices and innovations as well as awareness raising in the UNPAN Partners' respective countries and regions.

For more information on this meeting, [click here](#).

2015 United Nations Public Service Awards Winners

UN/INTOSAI Symposium: Embedding Accountability for Sustainable Development



The 23rd United Nations/International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (UN/INTOSAI) Symposium was held in Vienna, Austria, from 2 to 4 March 2015. The participants of the Symposium discussed the topic *UN Post-2015 Development Agenda: the Role of Supreme Audit Institutions and Means of Implementation for Sustainable Development*.

The President of Austria inaugurated the meeting addressing representatives and heads of Supreme Audit institutions (SAIs) from more than 90 countries. In his address **President Heinz Fischer** highlighted the important role of Supreme Audit Institutions in monitoring performance in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda at the national level and in that context the need for strengthening the independence of SAIs.

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs **Mr. Wu Hongbo** noted in his opening remarks that “Member States and the public at large have both underscored the critical role of effective and accountable institutions in implementing the post-2015 development agenda. SAIs are at the core of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions”. Mr. Wu further noted that UNDESA “working closely with key partners, including INTOSAI, is committed to supporting national efforts, particularly in developing countries, to foster efficient, transparent and accountable public governance and administration”.

Secretary General of INTOSAI, **Mr. Josef Moser** reminded the participating SAIs that “it is our task to do everything possible to safeguard sustainable development”. He stressed the prerequisites for SAIs to contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to meet growing expectations. The Under-Secretary-General of Internal Oversight Services **Ms. Carman L. Lapointe** made a presentation on lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals and underlined the need to establish indicators and a baseline for monitoring the progress in implementation of SDGs by sharing methodologies for audit. Representing the Chair of INTOSAI, **Mr. Zhang Tong** mentioned the concepts of real time audit of livelihoods being tried out in China and stressed the need for collective wisdom and joint efforts.

The Symposium covered three themes -- expectations of the stakeholders ranging from citizens through parliaments and governments to donors, prerequisites for SAIs to play their role and the possibilities for INTOSAI, together with 193 member SAIs, to meet the expectations from them.

As many as 30 presentations were made on the three themes. Among them, **Ms. Jennifer Thomson** from the World Bank stressed the need for expanding the scope of audits by SAIs and **Ms. Margaret Saner**, Chair of UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration, underlined the importance of professional standards, code of conduct, independence, deep knowledge and skills combined with the ability to work collaboratively and across systems and themes. Representing citizens, **Mr. Amitabh Mukhopadhyay** mentioned their vulnerabilities and stressed greater intensity of efforts by

SAIs in fighting corruption, establishing shared accountability for public-private partnerships and undertaking performance audits for addressing issues in gender-responsive budgeting as well as of the regulatory process in protecting the environment.

In his concluding remarks for the Symposium Mr. Wu Hongbo highlighted that “SAIs play a key role in promoting an efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration, which is central to the implementation of sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda. In that context, Member States are encouraged to give due consideration to the independence and capacity-building of SAIs, in a manner consistent with their national institutional structures, as well as to the improvement of public accounting systems”. Mr. Josef Moser urged the SAIs to actively play their part in preparing for and furthering the SDGs.

For more information on the Symposium, [click here](#).

Expert Group Meeting on United Nations E-Government Survey 2016: E-Government for Sustainable Development



UNDESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on *United Nations E-Government Survey 2016: E-Government for Sustainable Development* from 16 to 17 March 2015 in New York.

The meeting brought together governance and public administration experts from academia and the UN to discuss how e-government can advance sustainable development and to contribute to the identification of emerging thematic areas, innovative practices and methodological issues as input for the United Nations E-Government Survey 2016.

For more information on this meeting, [click here](#).

First National Workshop on E-Government Development in I.R. of Iran



UNDESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM) held the First National Workshop on *E-Government Development* in Tehran, I.R. of Iran, from 3 to 6 March 2015. The four-day event brought together senior government officials from Iran's Ministries of Water and Energy, Education, Infrastructure, and Health, among others, to discuss current challenges in public service delivery as well as key concepts of e-government and e-participation. The workshop introduced two thematic tools, the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for e-Government Readiness (METER) and Measurement and Evaluation Tool for Engagement and e-Participation (METEP).

For more information on this workshop, [click here](#).



Workshops on Legal Alignment and Creation of the

National Version of the EU Acquis

The Regional School of Public Administration (ReSPA) organized a Seminar on *Creation of the National Version of the Acquis* from 17 to 19 March 2015 and Workshop on *Legal Alignment* from 24 to 26 March 2015 in response to the needs of stakeholders concerning the requirements of the European Union (EU) integration process of the Western Balkan Region. Both events targeted senior practitioners in charge of national coordination of these two processes and contributed to the exchange of experiences and good practices between counterpart institutions within the region.

For more information on the two events, click below:

- [Workshop on Legal Alignment](#)
- [Seminar on Creation of the National Version of the Acquis](#)

High-Level Conference on Promoting Sector Reforms through Budget Support and Improving Sector Service Delivery

ReSPA organized a conference on *Promoting Sector Reforms through Budget Support and Improving Sector Service Delivery* on 28 April 2015 in Danilovgrad, Montenegro. The objective of this high-level conference was to familiarize the target audience with basics of the Sector Budget Support through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA-II) 2014-2020 to be provided to ReSPA Members by the EU. The high-level representatives from NIPAC offices, Ministry of Finance and Ministries in charge of Public Administration, received direct inputs and explanations from European Commission representatives on the rational, policy and regulatory context of the Sector Budget Support as well as the implementation methodology.

For more information on this conference, [click here](#).

Follow-up Meeting to the Comparative Study on Abuse of Information Technology for Corruption

In co-operation with the Directory for E-Government of the Republic of Serbia, ReSPA organized a follow-up meeting to the Comparative Study on *Abuse of Information Technology for Corruption* from 27 to 28 April 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia. The meeting brought together members of working groups on Ethics and Integrity and on E-Government. It provided exchange of experiences on the practical application of the Checklist for Assessment of Risks for Abuse of IT for Corruption which has been piloted in several institutions in the region and possible follow-ups.

For more information on this meeting, click below:

- [Ethics and Integrity working groups](#)
- [E-Government working groups](#)

GAPA and E-Government Working Groups Meeting

ReSPA's General Administrative Procedure Acts (GAPA) and E-Government working groups made a study visit to the Austrian Federal Chancellery to collect information about electronic administration.

and administrative one-stop shop practices.. The aim of the visit was to motivate participants to consider how to implement elements of the Austrian good practices in the Western Balkans' public administrations and to analyse the strengths and challenges of electronic one-stop shops.

For more information on this meeting, [click here](#):

Call for Papers for the Nairobi Innovation Week



The University of Nairobi and C4D Innovation Lab announced a call for papers for the inaugural Nairobi Innovation Week to be held from 5 to 7 August in Nairobi, Kenya. With the theme of *Innovate and Prosper*, Nairobi Innovation Week will bring together government, academia, start-ups and other stakeholders for discussions.

Main activities will include keynote speeches, policy discussions, research paper and case study presentations, roundtable discussions and exhibitions of inventions and innovations by individual innovators, start-ups and organisations.

For more information on the submission guidelines, click [here](#).

Global Cyberlaw Tracker



The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Global Cyberlaw Tracker provides global mapping of cyberlaws. It tracks the state e-commerce legislation adoption across the globe. It indicates whether or not a given country has adopted legislation or has a draft law pending adoption. Non availability of data is also indicated. The maps and information are updated regularly.

For more information on the Cyberlaw Tracker, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony



The 2015 United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony (UNPSA) will take place in Medellin, Colombia from 23 to 26 June 2015. Focusing on the theme *Innovating Public Service Delivery to Implement the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, the Forum will be organized by UNDESA's Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), in partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and in collaboration with the hosting Government of the Republic of Colombia.

For more information on the UNPSA, [click here](#).

Congress of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)



The International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) in collaboration with the Fundação Getúlio Vargas is organizing the 2015 International Congress of IIAS to be held from 22 to 26 June 2015 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the theme of *Trust in Public Administration*. The meeting will have three subthemes: trust from citizens in government, trust from government in society, and trust within public administration.

For more information on this Congress, [click here](#).

The 23rd NISPAcee Annual Conference



The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee) is organizing its 23rd NISPAcee Annual Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia from 21-23 May 2015. The conference will focus on the theme of *Insourcing and/or Outsourcing: How Do They Contribute to Public Administration Reform?*

For more information on this Conference, [click here](#).

Open Government Data Sensitization, Gap Assessment and Strategic Planning

focus of the EGM will be the role of ICTs as key enablers of sustainable development. It will examine ways in which governments along with other stakeholders can address increasingly complex development and information society issues through more effective use of ICTs.

For more information on this meeting, [click here](#).



Information Economy Report 2015 - Unlocking the Potential of E-commerce for Developing Countries

The 2015 edition of the *Information Economy Report* examines electronic commerce and demonstrates how information and communications technologies can be harnessed to support economic growth and sustainable development.

To download this Report, [click here](#).



Discussion Paper: E-Commerce Trends and Impacts across Europe

This study investigates the patterns and trends of e-commerce activities as well as their impact on labour productivity growth in a group of European countries.

To download this Discussion Paper, [click here](#).



2014 WeGO Annual Report

The 2014 Annual Report of the World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO) summarizes WeGO's major events, programmes and new collaborations.

To download this Report, [click here](#).