Key Activities and Products of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

December 2020
Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

Effectiveness
- Competence
- Sound policymaking
- Collaboration

Accountability
- Integrity
- Transparency
- Independent oversight

Inclusiveness
- Leaving no one behind
- Non-discrimination
- Participation
- Subsidiarity
- Intergenerational equity

Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

What are they for?
- Building strong institutions at all levels
- Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
- Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

Where do they come from?
- Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
- Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
- Based on United Nations agreements

How can countries benefit from them?
- As an analytical framework in policy formulation
- As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
- As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives

Committee of Experts on Public Administration
CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.
Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

What are the 11 principles of effective governance?

How does one know when countries have implemented good governance? Although a cornerstone of all developmental efforts and the sine qua non of sustainability, governance is often nebulous. As a concept, it is hard to decipher. As a practice, it is hard to pin down. The eleven Principles of effective governance for sustainable development tackle precisely this conundrum: how to lucidly operationalize governance so that everyone can find common ground when talking about its scope and scale thereby integrating it ably into SDG implementation.

Developed to help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions with a view to achieving the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, they apply to all public institutions, including executive and legislative organs, public entities active in security and justice sectors, independent constitutional bodies and state enterprises, among others.

Coupled with 62 commonly applied strategies, many of which have been recognized and endorsed over the years in various United Nations forums, resolutions and treaties, the 11 principles are being operationalized in such ways that the global tapestry of governance can be made more visible and legible for all countries and all people.

What are the objectives?

Help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build effective, accountable, inclusive institutions at all levels, with a view to achieving the shared vision for the people and the planet embodied in the 2030 Agenda.

How can they benefit the Member States?

**SDG implementation**

- Strengthening evidence-based and action-oriented support for the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda
- Promoting policy and institutional coherence

**Effective governance**

- Bringing together relevant standards and operational guidelines in all areas of institution-building relevant to SDGs

**Engagement platform**

- Engaging the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities
- Promoting collaboration and engagement

**Reference point**

- Establishing, maintaining, and enhancing effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) held its nineteenth session through a combination of written consultations and informal meetings convened on 13, 15, 18, 21, 27 and 28 May 2020, using a virtual platform. The overall theme was “Promoting effective governance and institutional reform to accelerate delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals”, with particular reference to the Covid-19 pandemic response and recovery.

One of the key messages of the Committee was that many countries might not be prepared to implement the Goals at the desired scale and speed because of a general undervaluing of the public sector in economic theories of past decades and a disregard for the contribution the sector can make to society when equipped with adequate capacity and the appropriate skills and mindsets. Combatting corruption also remained a crucial precondition of effective governance for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More information is available [here](https://publicadministration.un.org/en/CEPA)
E-Government Survey 2020

Chapter 1: Global Trends in E-Government

Chapter 2: Regional E-Government Development and the Performance of Country Groupings

Chapter 3: Regional Challenges and Opportunities

Chapter 4: Local E-Government Development in Cities and Human Settlements

Chapter 5: E-participation

Chapter 6: Towards Data-Centric E-Government

Chapter 7: Capacities for Digital Government Transformation

Chapter 8: Addendum - E-Government during the COVID-19 pandemic: Policy Insights and the Way Forward

To read the Survey, please click here.

Click here to access the E-Government Knowledgebase
1. Information sharing
2. E-Participation
3. E-Health
4. E-Business
5. Contact tracing
6. Social distancing and virus tracking
7. Working and learning from home
8. Digital policy
9. Partnerships

List of Cases by Country

To read the compendium, please click here
Introduction: Institutions and the Sustainable Development Goals

Chapter 1: Progress on institutional dimensions of SDG 16

Chapter 2: Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals

Chapter 3: Budget Processes in Support of SDG Implementation

Chapter 4: Risk Management in Public Administration in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals

Chapter 5: Institutions for Gender Equality

To read the report, please click here
The 46 countries that presented voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum in 2018

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, countries have continuously updated institutional arrangements in order to enable government institutions and other stakeholders to implement the Agenda. This compendium aims to document institutional arrangements related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in a simple but standard way. The compendium covers the 46 countries that presented Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2018 at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on sustainable Development.

To read the compendium, please click [here](#).
Digital government in times of a pandemic

How COVID-19 teaches governments to embrace modern technologies for better public service

Find out more in UN DESA Policy Brief No. 61

bit.ly/UNDESAcovid

Policy Brief #61: COVID-19: Embracing digital government during the pandemic and beyond. Read more
Resilient institutions in times of crisis

Transparency, accountability and participation impact the effectiveness of COVID-19

Find out more in UN DESA Policy Brief No. 74

bit.ly/UNDESACovid

Policy Brief #74: Resilient institutions in times of crisis: transparency, accountability and participation at the national level key to effective response to COVID-19. Read more
It should not take a pandemic for countries to take care of their people

Social protection for all, especially the poor and vulnerable, is critical to a resilient society

Find out more in UN DESA Policy Brief No. 75

bit.ly/UNDESACovid
Service before self

Heroic public servants ensure effective response to COVID-19

Find out more in UN DESA Policy Brief No. 79

bit.ly/UNDESAcovid

Policy Brief #79: The role of public service and public servants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more
Robust data governance is a must to effectively combat COVID-19

Engagement of all stakeholders and partners across sectors is key.

Find out more in UN DESA Policy Brief No. 89

bit.ly/UNDESAPolicyBriefs

Policy Brief #89: Strengthening Data Governance for Effective Use of Open Data and Big Data Analytics for Combating COVID-19. Read more
United Nations Public Service Day

Public Service Innovation Hub

To access please click here or visit https://publicadministration.un.org/unpsa/database
The UNPSA is an annual Awards programme that recognizes excellence in public service at the local, regional and national levels. It promotes and rewards innovations and excellence in public service in support of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principle of leaving no one behind.

Four categories have been identified for nominations for the UNPSA 2021:

1. Fostering innovation to deliver inclusive and equitable services for all including through digital transformation.
2. Enhancing the effectiveness of public institutions to reach the SDGs.
3. Promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs.

More information is available here
Global Initiative on Governance for the SDGs

The Global Initiative on Governance for the SDGs engages schools of public administration and regional associations of public administration around the world to strengthen the capacities of governments and public servants (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude, leadership competences and mindset) to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Global Initiative was established in 2018 following a meeting that was held in Morocco with Schools of Public Administration who expressed an interest in working together. It is composed of global task force of schools of public administration.
What are the Topics of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs?

**CHANGING MINDSETS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
UN DESA | DPI DG
Training of Trainers | English

**TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ETHICS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**
UN DESA | DPI DG
Training of Trainers | English

**INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES FOR POLICY COHERENCE**
UN DESA | DPI DG
Training of Trainers | English

**EFFECTIVE NATIONAL TO LOCAL PUBLIC GOVERNANCE FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION**
UN DESA | DPI DG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English

**GOVERNMENT INNOVATION FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS**
UN DESA | DPI DG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English

**RISK-INFORMED GOVERNANCE AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE**
UN DESA | DPI DG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English

**INNOVATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNMENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY**
UN DESA | DPI DG
Training of Trainers | English

**DIGIT4SD: DIGITAL GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION**
UN DESA | DPI DG
Training of Trainers | English
What are the Topics of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs?

E-GOVERNMENT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
UN ESCAP & UN DESA | DPIDG | UNPOG
Training of Trainers | English

INTEGRATED POLICIES AND POLICY COHERENCE FOR THE SDGs
UNITAR, ECLAC & UN DESA | DPIDG | DSDG
Training of Trainers | English
Capacity Development Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

FACT SHEET

**BY THE NUMBERS**

| 7 | Toolkits under preparation and planned for launch in 2021 - for facilitation by the UN system, schools of public administration, RCOs, academia and other training providers |
| 100+ | Customizable modules in total, incl. concepts, practical examples, case studies, activities and audiovisual material - for application both in in-person and virtual settings |
| 48 | Partnerships for internal and external expert reviews of the toolkits, incl. cross-office collaboration with CDPMO, DISD, DSDG, EAPD, Forum on Forests, FSDO, PD and SD |
| 4 | Regions (Africa, Caribbean, Middle East and Asia and the Pacific) for 7 pilot tests of the toolkits, two of which have already been completed |

**PRELIMINARY FEEDBACK RECEIVED**

| 80 | Participants in the Online Training Workshop to pilot the toolkit “Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups” (3 – 5 November 2020) |
| 300 | Participants in the Online Training Workshop to pilot the toolkit “Risk-informed Governance and Innovative Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience” (18 August – 22 September 2020) |

“During the toolkit piloting, the speakers talked extensively about sustainable development, how to build resilience, and ways government can use risk-informed governance to reduce disaster. It was such an interesting and educative session.”

“The topics of the toolkit are very relevant to the context of our country. The toolkit is also user-friendly and could for example be used to train younger public servants.”

“The toolkit looks nice and well-designed, and it gives us some ideas for our own e-learning tools.”

**NEXT STEP IN 2021**

Pilot testing all toolkits by leveraging a whole-of-DESA approach to enhance capacities of public servants to effectively integrate SDGs into policy and practice.
Partnerships for Curriculum Review

Risk-Informed Governance and Innovative Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Addis Center for Sustainable Development at Kobe University (Ethiopia), Kenya School of Government, Ministry of Public Safety and Security (Republic of Korea) and Aslam Alam

Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups
UNDESA (Division for Inclusive Social Development, Statistics Division and Forum on Forests), International Labour Organization, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Ministry of Development Planning (Togo) and Korea Institute of Public Administration

Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation
United Nations Development Programme, UNDESA (Population Division and Financing for Sustainable Development Office), United Nations Human Settlement Programme, Addis Center for Sustainable Development at Kobe University (Ethiopia), Asian Association for Public Administration (Republic of Korea), Indian Public Administration Association, Kenya School of Government and United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (Morocco)

Innovation and Digital Government for Public Service Delivery
United Nations Human Settlement Programme, United Nations University, United Nations Innovation Network, Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (Barbados), Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative and Royal Civil Service Commission (Bhutan)

Transforming Mindsets of Public Servants to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
World Health Organization, United Nations Development Coordination Office, UNDESA (Capacity Development Programme Management Office and Division for Inclusive Social Development), Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (Barbados), Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, National School of Public Policy (Pakistan)

Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Ethics Office, UNDESA (Forum on Forests) and Kenya School of Government

Institutional Arrangements and Governance Capacities for Policy Coherence
Check out the redesigned United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) Website, now live at unpan.un.org.

UNPAN is a global network that connects institutions and experts worldwide working on governance and public administration for sustainable development.
The UNPAN Members are global, regional and national institutions. UNPAN Associate Members are individuals who serve in their personal capacity. UNPAN Members and Associate Members have demonstrated commitment to advancing knowledge and/or capacity development in the area of governance and public administration and sustainable development. Membership is for a period of five years with the possibility of extension.
The United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) is part of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). Its principal mission is to strengthen the public governance capacities of developing Member States in Asia and the Pacific and beyond to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Learn more on www.unpog.org
The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) were hosted online by the United Nations under the overarching theme *Internet for human resilience and solidarity*. The programme develops around the four main thematic tracks: (1) Data; (2) Environment; (3) Inclusion; (4) Trust.

The IGF 2020 pre-events, newcomers sessions, thematic introductory sessions, as well as the Open Forums, NRIs and DC sessions were hosted on **2–6 November** during the meeting's first phase. The meeting was officially opened on **9 November** and **closed on 17 November**. During this 7-day phase, workshops, main sessions, the high-level leader's track, a parliamentary roundtable, and thematic concluding sessions were hosted.

To find more on IGF, please click [here](#) or visit [www.intgovforum.org/vIGF/](http://www.intgovforum.org/vIGF/)
Ministerial Webinar organized by the Latin American Centre of Administration for Development (CLAD) on the effects of the pandemic on Public Administration in Ibero and Latin America

April 29, 2020

More information is available here (English)
More information is available here (Spanish)
"Leveraging Public Governance & Spearheading Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic - Responses in Africa"

Tuesday, 12 May 2020
New York 8 am | Rome 2 pm | Nairobi 3 pm | Seoul 9 pm

Join us via WebEx
Register: bit.ly/CDWebinarAfrica
Facebook Live: http://www.facebook.com/joinundesa

Speakers from Kenya, Italy, China, Republic of Korea & Ethiopia

More information is available here
Leveraging Public Governance & Exploring Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Arab Region: Structural challenges, gaps, weaknesses and resilience

Wednesday 24 June 2020
15:00 - 17:00 Beirut Time
(08:00 - 10:00 AM EST)

The webinar will be live streamed on:
https://www.facebook.com/unescwa

More information is available here.
"Leveraging ICTs and Digital Government for Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic - Responses in Africa"

Wednesday, 1 July 2020
New York 8 am | Rome 2 pm
Nairobi 3 pm | Seoul 9 pm

Join us via WebEx Event
Register:
bit.ly/3d8qMk6
Facebook Live
www.facebook.com/joinundesa

Speakers from China, Ethiopia, Republic of Korea, ECA, AUDA, AAPAM, ITU & more

More information is available here
Leveraging Public Governance & Exploring Innovative Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Arab Region: Building Better Institutions, towards a Brighter Future

Organized jointly by UN ESCWA, UN DESA and UNESCO Beirut Office

July 28, 2020
9:30-11:30 am NY Time

More information is available here
Capacity Development Webinar Series
on
Leveraging Digital Government & Spearheading Innovative Digital Solutions to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic in Caribbean SIDS

Wednesday 23 September 2020
1:00-3:30 PM (EDT)

Registration on: bit.ly/CaribbeanSIDSWebinar
WebEx for attendees: bit.ly/CaribbeanWebinarWebex
Facebook live: http://www.facebook.com/joinundesa
More information is available here
ACCELERATING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

13 OCTOBER 2020
NEW YORK 7:00 AM | ROME 1:00 PM
NAIROBI 2:00 PM | SEOUL 8:00 PM
FIJI 11:00 PM

JOIN VIA WEBEX EVENT

Event Number: 172 727 7342   Event Password: Event1234
Facebook Live: http://www.facebook.com/joinundesa

More information is available here
You're invited!

Capacity Development Webinar on

Strengthening the Role of Public Institutions in Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development

16 October, 09.00-11.00 am EDT

More information is available here
Symposium on "Effective, Inclusive and Accountable Public Institutions and Digital Government Transformation for Resilient Recovery and the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"

24 – 26 November 2020
11:00 am – 2:00 pm (Seoul, GMT+9)
9:00 pm – 12:00 am (New York, GMT-5)

More information is available here
Capacity Development Webinar

Developing institutional capacities in digital transformation for inclusive & equitable recovery

14-15 December 2020 | 8:00am - 12:00pm EST

More information is available [here](#)
1819C - Enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated assessments and institutional strengthening in Africa

**Ethiopia**
Enhancing policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated assessments and institutional strengthening of climate, land use, energy and water systems (CLEWS) to provide a means to assess policy coherence and help ensure cohesion and horizontal alignment of policies in a focused number of areas.

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy and the Planning and Development Commission have requested to develop a Joint Secretariat to coordinate the work of the analytical team, policy makers and leadership so that the CLEWs tool can support integrated and collaborative processes to planning and policy formulation to systematically and formally incorporate into planning processes.

**Cameroon**
Ministry of Economy, Planning and Land Planning has requested to enhance policy coherence for the SDGs through integrated assessments and institutional strengthening of climate, land use, energy and water systems (CLEWS) to provide a means to assess policy coherence and help ensure cohesion and horizontal alignment of policies in a focused number of areas. A Roadmap on institutional arrangements for policy coherence will be developed for Cameroon in the course of 2021.

**Namibia**
Namibia is the potential third country where the National Planning Commission may request to develop an institutional arrangement to coordinate the work of the analytical team, policy makers and leadership so that the CLEWs (climate change, land use, water and energy) tool can support integrated and collaborative processes to planning and policy formulation to systematically and formally incorporate into planning processes.

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**Partners:** EAPD, UNECA

**Time Frame:**
April 2018 - 31 December 2021

**Focus Countries:**
Cameroon, Ethiopia, Namibia

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**Main Expectations**
This project intends to build national capacities in two inter-related areas: on the use of modelling tools for the identification of synergies, interlinkages and trade-offs across sectors, goals and policies and on the mechanisms to strengthen institutional capacity to improve coordination and policy coherence in the design, implementation and evaluation of national policies for sustainable development. An integrated approach to capacity building is important to support countries, particularly developing countries.
Objective/Purpose of Project:

The objective of the Project 1819G is to strengthen the capacity of selected developing countries in Asia and the Pacific in organizing and mobilizing their institutions and public servants to enhance effectiveness and institutional coordination, public accountability, and engagement of key stakeholders in the implementation and review of the SDGs. The project is structured around two expected accomplishments, namely: (i) Improved capacity of beneficiary countries to mobilize public institutions and build their capacities for SDG implementation and review, according to country-specific circumstances and priorities, as well as ensure public accountability and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) Enhanced capacity of beneficiary countries to formulate strategies and policies to strengthen the technical capability and skills of civil servants to support SDG implementation and review. Recipient countries will also be encouraged to participate and present their findings during the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), as well as to take part in other related divisional capacity development workshops.

Lao PDR - Under the umbrella of the National Governance Public Administration Reform, DPIDG/UNDESA is contributing to the establishment of a Dashboard and Roadmap for the One-Door Service Centres (ODSCs) to facilitate the delivery of public services in a decentralized way.

Fiji – The Ministry of Economy, central agency for the 2030 Agenda, is designing a new inter-agency mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the SDGs including an SDG Task Force, following the positive results of the UNDESA mission to Fiji in March 2020 which met with 18 Ministries and Agencies.
Capacity Development Activities in 2020

- **37** Capacity Development Activities
- **175 +** Countries’ Government Officials were Trained
- **1000 +** Speakers
- **Around 12,500** Participants
- **Around 164,000** People Reached
For more information, please access to

publicadministration.un.org

unpan.un.org

or contact us at dpidg@un.org

Thank you!