



Application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*

Summary

Implementing the principle of leaving no one behind requires a deep understanding of its significance in any given context, the identification and mapping of vulnerable groups and the development of integrated, people-centred strategies that take into account the needs and aspirations of all segments of society as a matter of priority. This calls for inclusive, targeted interventions that engage all relevant stakeholders, in addition to equity-based, responsive laws and policies that address systemic inequalities, discrimination and exclusion, on the basis of existing good practices.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends that the Council:

Reaffirm the need for pragmatic ongoing improvements in national and subnational governance capabilities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, and *encourage* governments at all levels to apply the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, endorsed by the Council in its resolution [2018/12](#) of 2 July 2018, to all public institutions and in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account different governance structures, national and subnational realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities (Paragraph 12).

Encourage the Committee to continue to identify and review related technical guidelines and experiences to operationalize the principles at the national and subnational levels, including from sectoral perspectives, and to further engage the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities in this regard, in an inclusive manner, together with all relevant stakeholders (Paragraph 13).

Welcome the ongoing initiative of the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union to promote the application of the principles among its Member States in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and *encourage* other regional mechanisms, such as those associated with the United Nations regional commissions, to develop and implement similar initiatives in alignment with their own mandates and processes (Paragraph 14).

Note the increasing demands for assistance with operationalization of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development and the Committee's emphasis on the need to strengthen the secretariat of the Committee to enable it to respond effectively (Paragraph 15).

Encourage governments at all levels to enhance efforts to promote the meaningful participation of stakeholders in matters that directly affect them, including the poorest and most vulnerable, and to implement models of participation based on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that leave no one behind (Paragraph 11).

► See [ECOSOC resolution 2024/L.14](#)

Discussion

A. Building inclusive institutions that leave no one behind at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Leaving no one behind requires a holistic, enabling, coordinated and sustainable approach involving all stakeholders. Countries are encouraged to develop integrated, multidimensional people-centred strategies and build inclusive institutions, mutually reinforcing processes and targeted equity-based, responsive laws, policies and interventions at the national and subnational levels. An emphasis should be placed on reducing inequalities, intersectional discrimination and exclusion, whether inadvertent or deliberate, especially where those challenges can be linked to the rise of conflict with sometimes severe, even fatal, consequences for women and vulnerable groups. The application of a human rights-based approach and gender perspective to policymaking and service delivery are found to be highly relevant.

The Committee observes that building such institutions depends on identifying and mapping vulnerable groups, affected in particular by ongoing multiple crises, using various criteria and concepts. It also requires implementing targeted policies and addressing systemic issues and root causes of persistent inequalities, discrimination and exclusion linked, for example, to different religious beliefs, digital illiteracy and lack of education. Those actions will foster the conditions needed to enable equality of opportunity. Interventions should be aimed at addressing the needs of those furthest behind first and be paired with preventive policies to ensure that new groups do not fall behind at the same time as others escape poverty and deprivation.

Creating an enabling environment, with interministerial collaboration occurring in line with the whole-of-government approach and the intention to change the mindsets of public servants

can usefully be part of that effort. At the same time, governments can reinforce support for and empowerment of vulnerable groups through responsive service delivery, accessible and inclusive public communication, education, awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts, while aiming to close digital divides and address potential risks of emerging technologies.

Ensuring meaningful participation of all stakeholders in decision-making, monitoring and review processes is important, applying a whole-of-society approach. Civic engagement through a participatory approach and supporting local communities and civil society organizations can help to shape public decisions and hold governments accountable regarding the realization of the rights of vulnerable groups. The increased participation of women, young people and other vulnerable groups in political, parliamentary and electoral processes as candidates and voters should be promoted.

Macroeconomic policy instruments, such as fiscal and monetary policy, should work towards equitable sustainable growth, job creation and the reduction in poverty and inequalities, while also aiming to achieve debt sustainability. A dedicated and adequate budget should be attributed to interventions addressing the deprivations of those being left behind. Various options for financing such policies should be assessed, with the goal of providing safety net packages to the most vulnerable. Gender-based budgeting and auditing should be promoted.

Accessible, reliable and robust data are required to guide policymaking, facilitate prioritization and drive change. Governments and other stakeholders should be supported in order to identify, embed and

report effectively on the Sustainable Development Goals essential for leaving no one behind, expanding on the use of voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews. The development of new tools to capture data on the informal economy can be especially useful in addressing the needs and challenges faced by the large proportion of workers in the informal sector in many countries.

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals should be encouraged to better understand and address divergent rates of progress, while strengthening, regional, national and subnational capacities to better gather, analyse and use disaggregated data, understand disadvantages and deprivations that are leaving people behind and track progress in achieving the Goals using suitable indicators. Collective action should be taken by governments, human rights institutions and civil society to institutionalize community feedback mechanisms and collect people - centred data. At

the same time, all stakeholders, including marginalized communities, should be mobilized to bridge disaggregated data gaps.

Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management of efforts aimed at leaving no one behind are essential to ensure that strategies remain effective and responsive to the changing circumstances of vulnerable groups. Transparent, people - centred and gender-sensitive reporting, follow-up and review processes for the Sustainable Development Goals should be ensured that respect human rights and focus on those furthest behind. Lessons learned and good practices should be used to continuously improve policies and interventions. Addressing the challenges above through a comprehensive action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development is suggested as one concrete approach to leaving no one behind that can result in synergetic effects across policy areas.

Regional collaboration

The Committee notes that regional differences remain in terms of the progress made in leaving no one behind, emphasizing the need for effective monitoring and review processes and policy coherence within and across countries. It appreciates the further work undertaken by the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union to promote the application of the governance principles, including the principle of leaving no one

behind, among its Member States in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and continues to encourage other regional mechanisms, such as those associated with the United Nations regional commissions, to develop and implement similar initiatives in alignment with their own mandates and processes.

➤ **You can access the CEPA working group page for more information [here](#).**

* Excerpt from Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Report on the twenty-third session. See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 24 (E/2024/44-E/C.16/2024/9<https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Intergovernmental-Support/Committee-of-Experts-on-Public-Administration/22nd-session/22nd-session-report-and-summary>)

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) advising on issues related to governance and institution-building for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.