



## **Capacity Development Workshop**

*“Competencies for SDGs Implementation: New Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training”*

***Organized by***

***United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)  
International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA)***

***In collaboration with  
National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) of Mexico***

**13 – 17 October 2025  
Mexico City, Mexico**

**Concept Note**

## Background

The International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) 2025 Conference will take place in Mexico City, Mexico 13 – 17 October, under the theme "*Shaping the Future of Governance: Transforming Mindsets, Enhancing Skills, and Expanding Knowledge*." Organized in close collaboration with the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP) of Mexico, the conference will bring together scholars, practitioners, and students from around the world. The program will include plenary sessions addressing key issues in contemporary public governance, thematic panels and forums, sessions led by IASIA's Working Groups, and a dedicated PhD seminar.

Governance is essential for societal stability, economic development, and effective public administration. The 2025 IASIA Conference recognizes that in a rapidly changing and unpredictable world—marked by technological disruption, climate change, pandemics, and inequality—traditional governance models must evolve. The conference calls for a transformation in mindsets, upskilling public servants, and expanding knowledge to address complex, modern challenges. It emphasizes ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusive governance models such as AI-assisted policymaking, participatory democracy, and digital transformation.

The quality of education and training in public administration significantly affects the quality of governance. After a two-year review (2022-2024) and update process, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) Global Task Force on the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training, composed of worldwide eminent experts and practitioners, has finalized a new set of Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training which were launched in 2025.

In 2018, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, drafted by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). The last few years have also been marked by and impacted by digital transformation, including Artificial Intelligence. Revising and upgrading the Standards of Excellence has represented a real opportunity to affect the world for good profoundly. The Standards were reviewed to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals and reflect new developments in public administration. The review was conducted through a global and regional consultative process. It took place between 2023 and 2024. Over 1,000 contributions were received by schools and institutes of public administration, networks, academia, and representatives of international, regional, and national organizations through an online survey and by attending the various meetings scheduled throughout the year.

The Standards of Excellence are a set of criteria or benchmarks that define the highest level of quality and performance in education and training programs related to public administration. These Standards serve as a guide for academic and training institutions, as well as faculty, trainers, and practitioners, who aim to promote quality education and achieve exceptional outcomes. Over 1,200 expert contributions were received from academics, schools of public administration and training institutes, practitioners, interested stakeholders and representatives of the United Nations. The review process included seventeen global and

regional workshops and meetings, as well as an online Survey in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish).

Applying these Standards of Excellence in public administration education and training programs will result in more dynamic, tech-savvy, agile, and globally aware public servants and professionals who can navigate an ever-changing landscape and contribute to the advancement of sustainable development.

Within this context, the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) is hosting a capacity development workshop within the confines of the Conference under the title ***“Competencies for SDGs Implementation: New Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training”***. The proposed activity will include the preparation of a face-to-face capacity development panel to disseminate the new Standards, their importance for the strengthening of the public sector, their role in supporting the achievement of the SDGs, gathering inputs for the development of indicators and use around the world in support of schools and institutes of public administration education and training.

## Objectives

The main objective of the workshop is to contribute to the development of the capacities of public sector education and training Institutions and public servants to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This capacity development panel aims to:

1. Enhance capacities of schools and institutes of administration in the use and implementation of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training in support of a more agile, efficient, and inclusive public sectors of their Member States.
2. Strengthen the commitment and capacities of the schools and institutes of administration institutional development and the provision of public services to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda after the pandemic through a better understanding and use of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training.
3. Provide sound and innovative advice to schools and institutes of administration and other relevant stakeholders on the importance of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training.
4. Uncover challenges and identify building blocks for the use and implementation of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training.
5. Learn and apply new concepts, tools, and approaches to support strategies, capabilities, and action planning

In this context, the Workshop will provide a platform for institutes of public administration education and training, as well as public servants and related stakeholders to reflect upon and

develop the skills necessary to identify and develop strategies to apply the Standards of Excellence to their teaching and academic curricula.

## **Format**

The three-day capacity development panel will be held in-person and conducted in English. It will include the following topics:

- The 2008 Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training and the Need for Review and Update: Agenda 2030, Principles for Effective Governance, Pact for the Future and other Developments in International Public Administration.
- The Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development.
- Rationale for the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training:
  - What are they?
  - Why are the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training Critical for the World We Want and the Advancement of a Better Society?
  - Who can apply the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training?
  - What are the Expected Results of Applying the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training?
- Review of the 8 Standards of Excellence:
  1. Commitment to Public Service
  2. Inclusiveness, Openness, and Diversity are at the Heart of the Program
  3. Competent Faculty and Trainers are Central for Quality Education
  4. Engaged and Empowered Students and Trainees
  5. A Curriculum that is Purposeful and Impactful
  6. Combining Theory, Practice, and Community Engagement
  7. Adequate and Sustainable Resources are Critical
  8. Advancing Competitiveness, Collaboration, and Partnerships

## **Target Audience**

Program directors and general directors of schools and institutes of public administration education and training, civil servants, practitioners of public administration, civil society organization representatives, mayors, supreme audit institutions, representatives from international and regional organizations, and other stakeholders from several countries attending the annual IASIA conference. The IASIA annual conference is regularly attended by participants from over 60 countries representing LDCs, LLDC, and SIDS countries. The African continent is usually represented by a large number of participants, mostly from schools and training institutes and practitioners from the public sector.

## Expected Results

It is expected that by the end of the workshop participants will have:

ER.1 – Enhanced understanding of schools and institutes of public administration of the significant role the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training play in strengthening the public sector for the implementation of the SDGs, including through peer-to-peer learning when mainstreamed into their curricula, mission, and teaching practices.

ER. 2 - Enhanced capacity of schools and institutes of public administration in the use of Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training to advance and strengthen the capacity of national, regional, and local public sectors.

Means of verification for the expected outcomes may include:

- A post-workshop survey will be conducted to assess the perceived knowledge acquired by participants on the understanding of the New Standards and their possible inclusion and use for the teaching and training of public administration education.
- Workshop/training reports with participant evaluations indicating increased capacity in the use of the Standards to advance public administration education and training through accreditation or peer-to-peer initiatives.

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