

23rd Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration Inc. (EROPA)

Agenda item 6: Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development – Building Inclusive Institutions that Leave No One Behind at the Midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Good morning, Madam Chair, CEPA Members, and other colleagues present here in our session hall, as well as those joining us virtually. I am Alex Brillantes, Jr., the Secretary General of the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration. We are a Philippines-based international organization for practitioners and academicians in the Asia-Pacific region. We are here today to provide inputs and recommendations on *Agenda Item 6, the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, specifically, Building inclusive institutions that leave no one behind at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, for consideration by the UN CEPA Committee Officers and Members.*

We would like to reaffirm the expert's paper point that the pandemic, wars, conflicts, and digitalization seem to further the divide of society. Inequalities, not just in terms of income inequality but also within the context of opportunities, development, and education, among others, have been prevalent over the years. Hence, it is recommended that the concept of 5Es and an A (Brillantes & Fernandez), i.e., economy, efficiency, effectiveness, equity, ethics, and accountability, be considered in governance frameworks. Within this context, we are emphasizing equity, particularly the intergenerational equity concept that is very much aligned with sustainable development goals. Governments, along with their development partners like us, should always mainstream in our efforts the concepts of inclusiveness and non-discrimination.

Moreover, building upon the expert paper's recommendation to ensure that governments support and empower vulnerable groups through education and awareness-building efforts, the EROPA would like to emphasize the vital role of the first 1000 days of early childhood care and development and how important the government's interventions are for this formative phase is especially among the vulnerable groups. These are the foundation years in nourishing the youth's minds, which are vital in maintaining competitiveness and quality of mind for the future human capital and workforce of the world.

Since we are also underscoring the importance of leaving no one behind and inclusive institutions, we recommend formulating and legislating evidence-based and data-informed policy and government interventions that prioritize vulnerable groups. It is likewise suggested that a culture of learning be embedded where efforts for monitoring and evaluation are mainstreamed across the levels of the governments and the programs being implemented.

These are some of the recommendations of EROPA for consideration by the Committee. Please allow us to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for this opportunity to contribute to the attainment of our common goals. Thank you very much, and a pleasant morning to everyone!