



## FACT SHEET

### Review and Update of the

### Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training

In 2023, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), working in close collaboration with the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) initiated a worldwide initiative to review and update the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training which were first approved in 2008 through a collaborative and consultative process.

The Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training, aspirational in nature, aimed at facilitating organizations in the public sector to be high performing through the highest quality of public servants. The 2008 Standards are:

- (1) Public service commitment
- (2) Advocacy of public interest values
- (3) Combining scholarship, practice and community service
- (4) The faculty are central
- (5) Inclusiveness is at the heart of the program
- (6) A Curriculum that is purposeful and responsive
- (7) Adequate Resources are critical
- (8) Balancing collaboration and competition

While the Standards are still relevant today, they do not refer to recent inter-governmental agreements and to the insights from the work undertaken by UN DESA/DPIDG and IASIA in the area of public administration education and training.

Most notably, the Standards were issued before the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by 193 UN Member States. The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4). It also highlights the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on the respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels. Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda specifically calls for effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Indeed, public institutions play a critical role in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

The 2008 Standards of Excellence also do not refer to the 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which were developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public

Administration and endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council in 2018. UN DESA also developed a Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs which is being used by schools of public administration.

To ensure that the review process is as inclusive as possible, UN DESA and IASIA established a **global Task Force** composed of 30 academics and practitioners from around the world as well as representatives of international and regional organizations.

Several regional online workshops were held to gather inputs and views on how to review and/or update the Standards. The online consultations are open to all schools and institutes of public administration, networks, academia and representatives of international, regional and national organizations were invited to be part of the initiative.

Besides the regional workshops, UN DESA in collaboration with IASIA, developed several other communication materials to both disseminate the initiative and collect data. These include flyers in five languages (Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish), as well as a survey (also available in five languages) which allows practitioners and academics of public administration around the world to provide their inputs on how the Standards should be reviewed and/or updated. A dedicated web page was created, as well as event pages for each of the online regional workshops held so far.

A first meeting of the Task Force was held in April 2023 where Regional Chairpersons were selected, and a first meeting of this group took place in June 2023 to strategize on how to disseminate the initiative among their networks to ensure inclusiveness and to reach the largest number of public administration academics and practitioners, as well as education and training institutions as possible. Consultations were also held in dedicated special events during major regional and global conferences.

As of December 2023, **almost 1,000 people have participated in this process** with 735 people in regional workshops. Online responses to the survey included 99 comments. The table below summarizes the online regional workshops that have been held so far in collaboration with IASIA and other public administration schools and networks of Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East.

**Participation in Workshops for the Review and Update of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training**

- Total attendees as of 31 December 2023: 755
- Total participants in online surveys: 150
- Total participants: 905

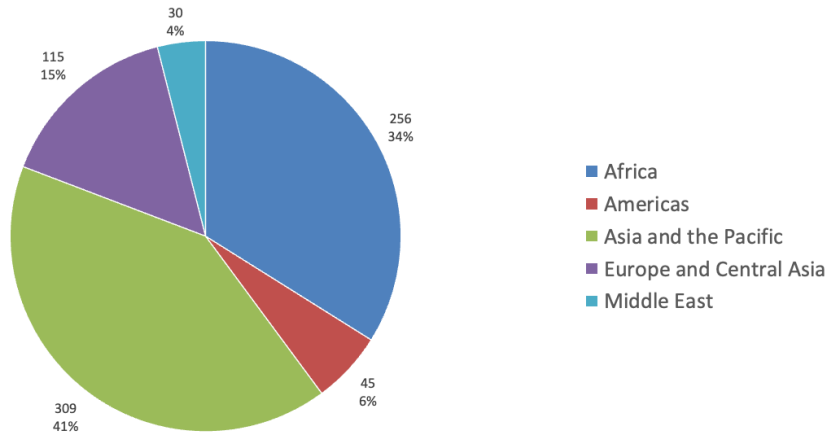
**Global and Regional Workshops in 2023 and 2024:**

<b>13 September 2023 (online)</b>	<b>Africa</b> (session in English) Organized in collaboration with Kenya School of Government (KSA), African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of United Cities and Local Governments Association (UCLG Africa)	<b>56</b>
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<b>5 October 2023 (online)</b>	<b>Europe</b> (session in English) Organized in collaboration with the Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPACEe)	115
<b>3 November 2023 (online)</b>	<b>Asia and the Pacific</b> (session in English) Organized in collaboration with UN DESA/UNPOG and the Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA)	139
<b>22 November 2023 (hybrid)</b>	<b>Africa</b> (session in French) Regional Workshop on the Review of the Standards of Excellence for Public Administration Education and Training in the context of the 7th edition of the African Forum of Territorial Managers and Training Institutes Targeting the Local Government (FAMI7_2023), Morocco	30
<b>5 December 2023 (online)</b>	<b>Americas</b> (session in Spanish) Organized in collaboration with the Latin American Group of Public Administration (LAGPA)	45
<b>8 December 2023 (hybrid)</b>	<b>Middle East</b> (session in English) held in the context of the Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research Network (MENAPAR) Annual Conference, 7-10 December, Egypt.	30
<b>31 July - 4 August 2023 (in person)</b>	Session organized in the context of the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) annual Conference was "Building Better Futures of Governance towards Achieving the SDGs in a VUCA World" (Session in English)	170
<b>6 – 10 November 2023 (in person)</b>	Session organized in the context of the Annual Meeting of the African Public Sector Human Resource Managers Network (APSHRnet) held in Kenya (Session in English)	150
<b>5 – 8 December 2023 (in person)</b>	Sessions organized in the context of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) Annual Conference, Zambia (Session in English)	20

Number of participants by region



The next regional workshop will be held on 20 February 2024 and is intended for Lusophone countries. Inputs from the global and regional workshops and conferences will be consolidated by UN DESA and IASIA and discussed during an Expert Group Meeting that will be held in October 2024. It is expected that the new Standards will be launched before the end of 2024.

For further information on the review process, please see the [Informational Booklet](#) or visit UN DESA's [dedicated webpage](#).