



2024 UN Public Service Awards Ceremony



**2024 UN
PUBLIC SERVICE FORUM**
*Fostering Innovation Amid Global Challenges:
A Public Sector Perspective*

Photo: UNDESA

United Nations Public Service Awards

The United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) is a prestigious international recognition of excellence in public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration worldwide. Through this recognition, UNPSA promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of public service.

UNPSA was first introduced in 2003 to promote and support innovation in public service when the United Nations (UN) General Assembly designated 23 June as Public Service Day through resolution 57/277. UNPSA is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and rewards initiatives that help advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNPSA runs on a two-year cycle. Applications for the 2026 UNPSA are open until 31 March 2025. Representatives of the winning initiatives will be invited to an Award Ceremony held at the UN Public Service Forum 2026 in Tbilisi, Georgia. More information about the 2026 UNPSA at:

bit.ly/2026UNPSA



There is no higher calling than serving others.



António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

> ELIGIBILITY

- Public sector institutions at the national, sub-national and local levels from all UN member States are eligible to apply.
- In the case of a partnership, the initiative must be led by a public institution and the application must be submitted by the leading public institution.
- Personal initiatives are not eligible, as UNPSA only rewards public sector institutions.
- Each UNPSA cycle defines specific Award categories. The initiative must be relevant to one of the categories selected for the current UNPSA cycle. Past categories have included: “Enhancing Transparency and Accountability” or “Gender-Responsive Public Services”.
- The initiative must have been implemented for a minimum of two years.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, the initiative must not be led or implemented by the UN System.

> HOW TO APPLY

Applications for the 2026 UNPSA must be submitted online before 31 March 23:59 (EDT) through bit.ly/2026UNPSA

The documents needed include:

1. A completed online application form.
2. Documents that confirm the validity of the initiative, such as project document, evaluation reports, case studies or other publications.
3. Supplementary information such as news articles, featured stories, videos, and outreach materials (optional documents).

Applications are accepted in the six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish). However, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply in English or French, the two working languages of the UN Secretariat.





> EVALUATION

All applications are reviewed according to several general criteria, such as adaptability or impact. Additionally, each category is reviewed according to specific criteria.

The applications go through several rounds of evaluation.

The final round is conducted by members of the Committee of Experts in Public Administration (CEPA).

The final list of awardees is reviewed by the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), on behalf of the UN Secretary-General.

> AWARD CEREMONY

Representatives of the winning initiatives are invited to receive their prize during a special Award Ceremony, held during the United Nations Public Service Forum, a flagship event organized by UNDESA.

> IMPACT

Since the first UNPSA edition in 2003, over 300 initiatives have been recognized. Many past winning initiatives have benefited from this prestigious prize, from better visibility to improved staff morale or motivation. Several successful initiatives were also adapted by other public institutions, multiplying their impacts well beyond their initial scope.

> CONTACT

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More information about the 2026 UNPSA is available at bit.ly/2026UNPSA

