

Opening remarks for H.E. Paula Narváez President of ECOSOC
23rd session of CEPA
15 April 2024, 10:15 a.m., UNHQ CR 1

Distinguished Chair,

Members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration,

Assistant Secretary-General Hanif,

Colleagues,

It is my sincere pleasure to be with you at the opening of the 23rd session of this esteemed Committee. Your expertise is highly valued by the Economic and Social Council and has become increasingly visible across the wider ECOSOC system.

This is due in no small part to the relevance and quality of your policy advice and programmatic guidance on issues related to governance and institution building for the 2030 Agenda. It is also due to the regular and thoughtful engagement of the Chair and others in the forums of the Council, for which we are grateful.

Your work on effective governance for sustainable development, institutions and climate action, digital government, public financial management reform, governance in conflict affected countries and other cutting-edge issues makes a significant contribution to the Council in advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For evidence of this, we can look to the broad participation of observers from around the world in this session, and the follow-up actions your deliberations seem to inspire among international and regional organizations, policymakers in government, the UN public administration network and so many others in pursuit of our common objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

When you convened last year, countries in all regions were facing mounting, multifaceted and complex challenges. There were alarming signs of stress related to climate change, inequalities, food insecurity, impending water scarcity as well as conflict in a fast-paced and interconnected world. While there has been progress in some areas since then, the stark reality is that the world has continued to grapple

with intersecting and prolonged crises that demand dramatic course correction if we are to achieve the vision and aspirations of 2030.

Strengthening governance systems and institutions in a context of rapid technological change are central to these efforts. This remains one of my top priorities for the Presidency of the 2024 ECOSOC cycle.

As you are aware, the Council's theme for 2024 is "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions".

Commitments call for action. Actions demand solutions. And solutions call for new insights into SDG delivery and poverty eradication that are responsive to evolving circumstances – as the related theme for this session suggests.

In its capacity as an expert advisory body, CEPA greatly assists the Council by offering in-depth assessments, setting forth policy options and, critically, concise focused recommendations for actions that can be operationalized.

The 2030 Agenda remains our blueprint for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises we face. The Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit reaffirmed the need for good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. But building strong institutions must proceed with a sense of purpose. The Council welcomes the Committee's inclusive approach and the engagement of all stakeholders in applying effective governance principles to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as an integrated and indivisible policy framework.

Dear colleagues,

This July, 38 countries will carry out voluntary national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the 2024 HLPF. Systematic follow-up and review of SDG progress from a governance perspective is multifaceted, context-dependent and a challenging technical exercise. Offering your expertise to VNR countries and Voluntary Local Review cities during this session, while facilitating peer exchange and the sharing of promising practices in the implementation of SDGs 16 and 17, is a useful way of deepening insights into opportunities and challenges at the national and sub-national levels.

Effective governance for sustainable development is a cornerstone of progress towards our collective vision for people and planet. The Committee has made a notable contribution to the Council's work over the course of the current term.

I look forward to learning the outcome of the deliberations on all matters before the Committee this week and wish you a very productive session.
