

**Opening remarks for H.E. Anatolio Ndong Mba Vice-President of ECOSOC**  
**24<sup>th</sup> session of CEPA**  
**7 April 2025, 10:15 a.m., ECOSOC Chamber**

Distinguished Chair,

Members of the Committee

Assistant Secretary-General,

Colleagues,

It is my honour to be with you at the opening of this 24<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. I would like to extend my congratulations to the newly elected Bureau and welcome you all to this august Chamber that is home to the Economic and Social Council.

Your authoritative guidance on governance and institution-building to advance the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs is highly valued by ECOSOC.

In the face of powerful, competing interests and multilateralism under threat, CEPA reminds us that achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience at a time of multiple crises require both a short-term and a long-term perspective in public policymaking. Your counsel as leading experts in governance and public administration helps ECOSOC stay the course to 2030 and beyond, even against the current shifting global landscape and the complex and interlinked challenges that we are facing.

Despite the scope and speed of societal shifts that we know are possible from pandemic responses, progress towards the SDGs continues to be far off track. In too many respects, the world is headed in reverse.

The world possesses the wealth, knowledge and technological capacity to meet the SDGs. One must therefore ask why our governance systems have been slow to deliver the transformations that are required and what concretely can be done about it.

As you are aware, the ECOSOC theme for 2025 is “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for leaving no one behind”. Your contribution to the 2025 high-level political forum reflects on these concerns and proposes key actions and measures in the governance domain to bring progress to scale. The Council is grateful for your input.

The CEPA contribution has been circulated for reference in the ongoing negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration. I look forward to your further observations and conclusions on the subject following the meeting this morning.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You are not here to solve all of the world's problems. Rather, the essential task of this Committee is to advise the Council on equipping governments in all spheres of action with the capabilities that are needed to deliver on our collective promises. The Pact for the Future, and all the commitments on which it builds, provide the vision and basic roadmap. Your work helps steer us towards the destination.

The Council recognizes and appreciates your foundational work on elaborating global norms of effective governance for sustainable development. While drawing on cutting edge experience, the effort is grounded in 80 years of multilateral study, deliberation and consensus-building, beginning with the basic values and principles expressed in the United Nations Charter. This evolving global norm of principles, practices and technical guidance has become an essential point of reference across policy domains and in all development contexts.

No less is true of your ongoing work on institutions and climate action, public financial management, institution building in post-conflict countries, digital government and public sector workforce development. With your expert analysis, policy deliberations and, very importantly, incisive, action-oriented recommendations, CEPA greatly assists the Council in all these areas.

I note with great interest that you will be engaging in a dialogue with United Nations agencies on strengthening governance systems in the transformation to sustainable development. This goes to the heart of the Council's calls for inclusion and solutions that consider issues from an integrated, multidisciplinary perspective across the UN development system.

It is very encouraging to see that CEPA is continuing its efforts to encourage follow-up to ECOSOC guidance by linking with action at the regional, national and subnational levels. The VNR peer exchange on institutional aspects of SDGs 16 and 17 that you will be convening later this week provides a valuable opportunity to share promising practices.

The number and diversity of observers in the room, and following online, is the strong indication that many other such connections are being made beyond the ECOSOC Chamber. It underscores the ongoing legitimacy and relevance of CEPA's consultative and consensus-based approach.

To conclude, as this is the last year of the current term of CEPA, I would also like to express sincere appreciation for the tremendous accomplishments of this membership.

I look forward to the outcome of the Committee's deliberations and wish you a stimulating and productive session.

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