

**Meeting of the Bureau of ECOSOC with the
Chairs of the Functional Commissions**

Wednesday 16 February 2011, 9 to 11 a.m.

Conference Room 6 (NLB)

Statement by Ms. Susan Woodward

Rapporteur of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, distinguished ECOSOC Bureau members and Chairpersons of Functional Commissions -

On behalf of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and our chairperson, Professor Luis Aguilar, I thank you for the opportunity to inform you on the work of CEPA and to welcome your goal, Mr. President, of more interaction among the functional commissions and your recommendations on how we may continue to enhance the cooperation between the ECOSOC bureau and the CEPA bureau. In my comments I will outline the Committee's mission, highlight its recent work, and present some details of the agenda for the 10th Session scheduled for the 4th to the 8th of April this year.

Let me begin by calling attention to the mission of CEPA, which is to report to ECOSOC, primarily, on the governance and public administration dimensions of sustainable socioeconomic development, particularly focusing on the following themes: (i) capacity development in governance and public administration, especially for post-conflict and post-disaster countries; (ii) public sector institutional and human resource capacity development; (iii) citizen engagement in development

management; (iv) the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in government (e-Government); and (v) innovations in governance and public administration. The main purpose that compels our concentration on capacity development in governance and public administration is the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Agenda including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, the Committee provides programmatic guidance to the Division of Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), including an annual review of its work programme.

In 2010 CEPA members made substantive contributions to DPADM capacity building conferences, workshops and seminars in different regions of the world, including: (i) a workshop on Standards of excellence in Public Administration Education and Training; (ii) a Discussion Panel on Public Administration and achievement of the MDGs, in Bali, Indonesia; (iii) an Expert Group Meeting on Human Resource Management Policies in the Public Service in Africa, in Durban, South Africa; and (iv) the United Nations Public Service Awards Program in Barcelona, Spain. We are dedicated to continue doing so. We have honored our commitment at the 9th session last April to support local public administration as resource persons and ambassadors for the Division. We focused especially on the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the Division's capacities to support the more active engagement of women in decision-making processes, both on issues that affect their lives and the lives of their families and on the ongoing democratization of their countries, especially through the use of ICTs.

In response to Mr. Seth's question at the beginning of our meeting, we chose the CEPA bureau at the start of our four-year tenure so that we would be able to set a multi-year agenda, public governance for results, and hope thereby to be more effective. At the 10th CEPA session this April, members will direct their attention to the newest work on public governance by which the leading role of government has changed, given the huge complexities and resource demands of the current period, as the most relevant societal goals are now achieved in association with private and social actors, above all citizens, *as* partners, enablers, facilitators, and collaborators. Of particular importance to CEPA this year are the rising number of devastating natural disasters, particularly due to climate change, which have moved from rare emergencies to regular, repeated occurrences in vulnerable countries and the need of their public administrations to find ways to anticipate, plan for, and manage on a recurring basis and for which regional and international mechanisms and funding will be essential, not least of which because of their effect on the ability to meet the MDGs and IADGs. A similar need for focus on innovative approaches to public administration in post-conflict countries will also receive our attention.

CEPA members have prepared three background papers to guide discussions and develop recommendations at the 10th session on public governance for results: (1) an overview of the conceptual and operational framework for public governance for results and its difference from current alternatives; (2) the challenges of post-conflict and post-disaster countries; and (3) a critical issue in all of these contexts, social protection for vulnerable groups and the causes of variation in these policies so as to discuss policy recommendations for effective alternatives.

Mr. President, I thank you again for this opportunity, and I assure you that we are looking forward to continued cooperation with the other functional commissions and with ECOSOC.