



13th SESSION OF CEPA

WORKING GROUP III
ON
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

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Conclusions: (1)

- **Creating feedback mechanisms for citizens is critical for successful engagement and public discourse on important development strategies, and improvement of public services.**
- **A range of modalities for citizen engagement are needed as well as ICT-enabled means.**
- **When citizens are involvement in public service delivery, they can also have a role in creating and designing policies.**
- **It is important to know not only when to engage, but also how citizens may wish it to**



Conclusions: (2)

- **Involving CSO actors with strong technical capacity to contribute to policy debates is important in creating room for citizen engagement.**
- **Strong media and journalism can assist in framing public debates too, thus increasing the potential for constructive outcomes.**
- **Examples from various countries demonstrate that citizen engagement and active participation can initiate important social changes; hence, UNPACS studies should focus on collecting and presenting such cases**



Conclusions: (3)

- **There is a need for changing the attitude and behavior of public servants, and improving their capacity to engage with citizens.**
- **Supreme audit institutions have an important role in helping citizens know if the governments are achieving their goals.**
- **There is an increasing demand for involvement of citizens in planning of audit work, in publicizing SAI reports and tracking the implementation of recommendations.**



Conclusions: (4)

- It is important for SAIs to do fact-checking and use benchmarks in performance audits at global, regional or country levels.
- In improving public accountability, it is also important for SAIs to be aware of politics and not assume that government decisions are entirely technical; but they should employ risk mitigation strategies to ensure their independence by e.g. spelling out the criteria of any assessments or evaluations.



Recommendations:

- Pursue public accountability agenda, especially demonstrating the potential impact of investment in involving citizens in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda
- Work to support and promote the independence of SAIs and strengthen the capacity of SAIs, including involving citizens for better transparency and accountability, with organizations such as INTOSAI, WB and others
- Continue UNPACS work, in particular focusing on the case studies of CE, on capacity and readiness of different countries through formal and informal institutions



Recommendations: (cont)

- **Advocate for and provide advisory services upon request, on a range of participatory mechanisms, including e-participation**
- **Continue the DMB branch's activities in coordinating with UN and non-UN bodies, and making strategic alliances (e.g. WB, OECD, etc.) to create an enabling environment for implementation of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda**



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