

**Committee of Experts on Public  
Administration (CEPA)**  
13th Session - New York, 7-11 April 2014

**Transforming Public Administration for  
Sustainable Development**

**Break-out Group I: Strengthening National  
and Local Capacities for  
Sustainable Development Management**

# Background paper focuses on:

1. The international consensus *around the role of governance as a catalyst for sustainable development and as an end in itself,*
2. *Strengthening capacities: an investment in transforming governance,*
3. A new vision of capacity building as a key to sustainable development.

# Some key messages from the discussions:

- no single rule or global principles that could be applicable to all countries
- define specific goals for governance improvements that help to achieve *specific* SDGs or other policy goals of the country
- these improvements should be the priority for capacity-building investments
- by this way we can achieve broader social development (transformative governance)

# Experimentalist governance

- involved stakeholders;
- broad goals;
- local units with some autonomy;
- local units reporting regularly on performance via peer review;
- goals reevaluated in light of lessons learned and revisited during implementation.

# Crucial wins...

- majority of best practices take place at the local level
- focus on key priorities that will dramatically change people's lives
- follow a transparent process in the identification of priorities and capacities
- use benchmarks and set clear responsibilities

# Collaboration with non-state actors

- Define their roles clearly
- Continuously monitor and assess the return on collaboration in order to ensure
  - efficiency
  - accountability
  - transparency
  - privacy

# Importance of women in enhancing the productivity of the public sector

- apply international pressure, respect of the international commitments, and disseminate the International Conventions on women's rights
- have a strong and clear vision supported with political will
- use data to monitor progress on what works i.e. disaggregate data by gender to decide which stakeholders to engage, when and how
- confront social norms and institutions that discriminate against women
- track governments' expenditure on achieving women's empowerment

# Strengthening supreme audit institutions (SAIs)

- In order to promote efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration
- Incorporate Declarations of Lima and Mexico as well as the UN General Assembly Resolution A/66/209 as an essential element of the Post-2015 Development Agenda



# Relevance to the post-2015 agenda

- We take note of Cluster 7 & 8 from the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (10th session)
- ◆ **Cluster 7: Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development**
- ◆ **Cluster 8: Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions**

These are the key links to the post-2015 agenda from the discussions and recommendations of the Break-out Group I.

# In conclusion

- translate and adapt Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at national levels
- ensure there exists adequate capacity in the country to identify governance constraints
- experiment and learn from solutions
- identify the optimal level at which to implement a solution
- ensure resources are matched at the appropriate level of responsibility
- coordinate capacity building activities at both international and national levels (utilize the Paris Declaration as an awareness raising tool in terms of aid/resource allocation)
- monitor, benchmark, audit, and evaluate capacity building activities against certain objectives

**THANK YOU**