

ECOSOC President, H.E. Ms. Lachezara Stoeva
Opening remarks

22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration
27 March 2023, 10 a.m.
UNHQ CR 4

Distinguished Chair,
Members of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration,
Assistant Secretary-General Spatolisano,
Colleagues,

It is my honour to be with you at the opening of the 22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). Your expertise is highly valued by the Economic and Social Council. Your work on effective governance for sustainable development, institutions for climate action, resuming development in countries in situations of conflict and post-conflict, and digitalization is a significant contribution to the Council in advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

You are holding your session at a time when the world is facing mounting, multifaceted and complex challenges. There are alarming signs of stress related to climate, inequality, food insecurity as well as conflict in a fast-paced and interconnected world. In the face of these enormous global challenges, we need to bolster our resolve to address them in a sustainable and integrated manner.

This year marks the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 SDG Summit in September will be a crucial opportunity for world leaders to convey their unambiguous commitment to the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap out of the current crises. It will step up action and rekindle the enthusiasm for bold transformative initiatives that move us in the direction of the world we want.

The Economic and Social Council is exploring transformative pathways that lead us to successful outcomes in 2030 and beyond. Your analysis and policy advice come at an opportune moment. I welcome the input you have already provided to the High-level

political forum on sustainable development, transmitted to me by the Chair earlier this month.

In your deliberations, I encourage you to give serious attention to the latest evidence for investing in institutions and the significant gains it can bring for human well-being and a better balance with nature. I am pleased to see that the Vice-Chair of the Committee for Development Policy will join this conversation, making an important contribution to the understanding of interlinkages and integrated approaches.

Promoting further collaboration among subsidiary bodies of the Council was one of the recommendations of the review of the ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies I led during the 2022 session. Another of the recommendations was to deepen and broaden stakeholder participation. As President of the Economic and Social Council, promoting inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement and partnerships to advance a sustainable recovery and development has also been a priority. Whole-of-society approaches are key for the implementation of the SDGs, as CEPA has also recommended consistently. I am delighted to see the large number of observers participating in this session, both in person and remotely. This high participation underscores the growing relevance and reach of the Committee's policy advice.

Another of my Presidency's priorities has been to help bridge the "great finance divide" identified in the 2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report. Many developing countries are still in no position to finance the necessary investments. The Committee's guidance on public financial management contributes to strengthening national capacity to manage financial resources for the SDGs.

Ensuring that the policy debates and outcomes of the Economic and Social Council make a positive difference to the lives of people, including the poorest and most vulnerable, at country level is crucial. Your engagement in follow-up to our Council resolutions on public administration at the national and regional levels and focus on pragmatic solutions to governance challenges are greatly appreciated. I also note with interest the Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews peer exchange. I appreciate the effort to promote direct interaction among countries, cities and experts on building strong institutions for the SDGs.

I look forward to receiving the outcome of your deliberations on the many institutional aspects of the 2023 theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF, and the full range of issues on your agenda this week.

Thank you.