

## 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

### Written statement by Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration Inc. (EROPA)

*Agenda item 5: Principles of effective governance for delivery of equitable and sustainable development for all*

Operationalizing responsive and effective governance is embedded in the overarching framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The process requires a deliberate focus on equitable distribution of resources, opportunities, and power within societies. It is paramount that governance structures incorporate robust, evidence-based policies that consider local contexts and effectively target the needs of beneficiaries, particularly those often left behind. Given the critical timeline of less than six years remaining to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a growing urgency to address governance gaps that disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Limited efforts from governments, paired with an overreliance on top-down strategies undermine the achievement of the Goals and are therefore deemed as insufficient towards addressing the grand challenges of today. Within this context, governments, rather than acting as the sole decision-makers, must adopt a multi-layered collaborative model. It is essential to engage with grassroots organizations, local communities, and international stakeholders to create solutions that are both inclusive and adaptable.

EROPA, as a regional organization of states, institutions and academics and practitioners of public administration has always emphasized need not to lose sight of the basics of the discipline of public administration. As a discipline in the field of management, the classic three Es of management *and administration* – *economy, efficiency and effectiveness* - must always be kept in mind in public management. However, public administration as a practice and as a discipline must always underscore the *public* of public administration. This means that *equity*, giving special attention to the *vulnerable* in accordance to the SDGs, and equally important, addressing the needs of the next generation in accordance to the principle of *intergenerational equity* must not be overlooked. All these must be founded by strict adherence to *ethics and accountability* which is indeed is a core principle in the discipline of public administration. This we all summarized in what we called the 5Es and an A of public administration as we pointed out during the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the CEPA. The emphasis on *equity* is indeed very aligned to our Agenda item 5 currently under discussion. principles of effective governance for delivery of equitable and sustainable development for all,

The Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA) therefore reaffirms the principles of effective governance essential for achieving equitable and sustainable development, as highlighted by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. One of its development partners, the Chandler Institute of Governance shares similar core principles rooted in the belief that good governance is crucial to achieving positive societal outcomes including the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. EROPA advances the principles of effective governance by equipping public sector leaders and

institutions with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need to govern efficiently and responsibly.

EROPA also recognizes the importance of localizing the Goals and highlights the need for pragmatic and continuous improvements in local governance capabilities to reach the Sustainable Development Goals. EROPA stresses the critical role of public administration in facilitating the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, EROPA, together with its Member States and Institutional Members, have been at the forefront of promoting collaboration among public administration practitioners, governments and international organizations across the Asia-Pacific region. Its training partners include the Local Autonomy College of Japan, National Human Resource Development Institute of South Korea, National Institute of Development Administration of Thailand, National Institute of Public Administration of Indonesia, Public Service Department of Malaysia, and Civil Service Commission and Local Government Academy of the Philippines, among others. This coincides with Sustainable Development Goal 17, which seeks strategic partnerships to facilitate equitable development. EROPA advocates strongly for the capacity-building of sub-national and local governments, ensuring they have sufficient resources and autonomy to localize the Sustainable Development Goals effectively.

To achieve equitable governance, EROPA urges continuous monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of policies and programmes, allowing timely adaptation and ensuring they remain aligned with sustainable development priorities. Furthermore, innovative solutions and the strategic use of digital technologies should be leveraged to foster transparency, efficiency, and broader citizen participation in governance processes.

Finally, EROPA underscores the importance of intergenerational equity, calling for governance practices that balance immediate needs with the sustainability of resources for future generations. The next logical step is to invest more in human capital by promoting equitable access to quality education, healthcare, and skills development, thus ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable prosperity for present and future generations.