

24th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by Green Mentoring and Solutions Private Limited

Agenda item 9: Leveraging key advances in building strong institutions and governance for climate action, focusing on clean energy transition

The dual crises of climate change and unsustainable energy consumption are among the most pressing challenges of our time. As temperatures rise and extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, the urgency for a swift and equitable transition to clean energy has never been more apparent. However, this transition is not merely a technological or financial endeavor; it is, first and foremost, an institutional challenge. It requires robust governance systems, accountable public institutions, and inclusive frameworks that ensure no one is left behind.

This statement from Green Mentors, an international environmental and educational organization based in India, outlines a series of observations and recommendations based on community practices and institutional engagement. The organization empowers young people and public institutions to further the sustainability agenda through the Green School Program and related initiatives in over 45 countries.

The climate emergency calls for bold public leadership and systemic reform. Tackling this challenge requires adapting institutional mandates and transforming cultures, operational norms, and public expectations. Enhancing the capacity of public administration to manage climate risks and facilitate the clean energy transition is crucial for safeguarding the sustainability and equity objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I. The governance imperative for climate action

Institutions establish the framework for developing, coordinating, and delivering public policy. For climate action to be effective, institutions must operate with a clear purpose, cohesive policies, and consistent implementation. The fragmentation of responsibilities across different agencies—often seen in developing contexts—undermines efficiency, delays decision-making, and compromises accountability.

Developing integrated institutional arrangements that consolidate mandates and align objectives across ministries, departments, and jurisdictions is essential. These arrangements should rely on effective legal frameworks, clear reporting lines, and coordinated action plans. Institutional coherence enhances operational efficiency and strengthens the credibility and predictability needed to attract private-sector collaboration and investment in clean energy initiatives.

II. Strengthening public sector capacity for clean energy governance

Clean energy transitions are complex. They require coordinated infrastructure investment, regulatory innovation, behavioral change, and inclusive and future-oriented financing mechanisms. Public institutions must have the tools and competencies to drive and manage these transitions.

Green Mentors emphasize the importance of investing in public sector capacity-building, particularly at the subnational level. In many countries, local authorities are tasked with implementing climate and energy programs but frequently lack the necessary institutional and financial resources. Strengthening administrative, technical, and economic capacities at this level is essential.

Civil servant training programs should incorporate modules on climate data interpretation, climate finance, project design, renewable energy procurement, and regulatory compliance. This should be supported by creating cross-sectoral climate governance units within public administrations to ensure continuity and learning across electoral and bureaucratic cycles.

III. Fostering inclusive, participatory governance for energy transitions

No clean energy transition can be sustainable without the active engagement of communities and the informed participation of citizens. Public institutions must, therefore, prioritize transparency, inclusivity, and responsiveness in climate governance.

Participatory processes—like citizens’ assemblies, youth climate councils, and local energy dialogues—ensure that climate and energy policies are context-sensitive and socially acceptable. They also foster awareness and ownership of solutions, thereby enhancing their long-term sustainability. Institutions should be structured to engage communities early and consistently while meaningfully integrating their input into planning and policy implementation.

Attention must be paid to involving groups that have been historically underrepresented or disproportionately affected by climate change, such as women, Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, and people with disabilities. Ensuring inclusive governance not only aligns with the principles of the 2030 Agenda but also results in more effective and equitable policy outcomes.

IV. Empowering youth through institutional innovation in education

Young people represent the most affected and capable cohort in addressing the climate crisis. Green Mentors' flagship initiative, the Green School Program, operates as a practical model of institutional transformation through environmental education. The program integrates climate literacy, clean energy practices, and leadership development in school systems, aiming to empower youth as agents of change and institutional ambassadors for sustainability.

The Green School Program has demonstrated how academic institutions can catalyze clean energy awareness and policy advocacy through partnerships with educational authorities, local governments, and multilateral institutions. Schools become laboratories for climate solutions—introducing solar panels, waste-to-energy projects, and water conservation measures while fostering a culture of sustainability leadership. This model provides a blueprint for scaling youth engagement through institutional channels, building a climate-conscious citizenry while contributing to national goals on energy transition and public awareness.

V. Mainstreaming climate considerations across public planning and finance

Effective governance for climate action necessitates the integration of climate considerations at each stage of policy planning, budgeting, and implementation. Ministries of finance, planning, and economic development must adopt policies that evaluate climate risks and include mitigation and adaptation objectives within national development frameworks.

Green budgeting practices, climate-sensitive public investment plans, and climate risk screening for infrastructure projects should be institutionalized. Additionally, developing natural capital accounting is essential for quantifying environmental assets and liabilities, facilitating better decision-making and accountability.

In this regard, public administrations should encourage the adoption of digital tools, open-source platforms, and real-time monitoring systems. These technologies improve data accessibility, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and aid in tracking progress toward clean energy goals.

VI. Enhancing institutional coordination and multi-level governance

Climate governance is inherently multi-scalar. Local, national, and global efforts must align to create synergistic outcomes. Institutional frameworks should enable vertical coordination across different levels of government and horizontal integration across sectors. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) need to be translated into localized action plans that clearly define roles, resources, and reporting mechanisms. Coordination platforms—such as climate task forces, interministerial councils, and public-private dialogue mechanisms—can enhance alignment, reduce duplication, and foster innovation.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration is encouraged to promote multi-level governance models that prioritize cooperation, decentralization, and subsidiarity. Clean energy governance must shift from a top-down model to one that empowers local actors while ensuring coherence with national and international commitments.

VII. Bridging institutional gaps through partnerships and networks

Institutions need not act alone. Partnerships with civil society, academia, private sector actors, and international organizations can significantly enhance institutional effectiveness. Knowledge-sharing, joint capacity-building, and co-design of programs can foster resilience and innovation. For example, partnerships between public institutions and the insurance industry can support climate risk financing and close protection gaps.

Likewise, cooperation with international financing institutions can unlock investment for renewable energy infrastructure in low-income regions. Global platforms—such as the UNFCCC, the High-Level Political Forum, and CEPA—can serve as knowledge brokers and facilitators of institutional learning. Cross-border cooperation on energy interconnectivity, green technology transfer, and regional resilience strategies should be promoted.

VIII. Recommendations

1. **Institutional coherence:** Establish integrated governance frameworks for climate and energy supported by clear mandates, reporting structures, and legal foundations.
2. **Capacity development:** Invest in training and reskilling civil servants at all levels in climate governance, clean energy planning, and implementation.

3. **Inclusive participation:** Create institutional mechanisms for public engagement in energy policy, focusing on youth, women, Indigenous communities, and marginalized groups.
4. **Climate-responsive planning:** Embed climate objectives into national development strategies, public budgets, and procurement policies.
5. **Local empowerment:** Strengthen subnational institutions with adequate financial and technical resources to implement energy transition projects.
6. **Digital transformation:** Promote digital tools for climate data management, citizen engagement, and real-time monitoring of clean energy outcomes.
7. **Multi-level governance:** Support aligning local, national, and global climate action through coordination platforms and shared accountability frameworks.
8. **Partnership-based governance:** Leverage collaboration with academia, civil society, and international organizations to enhance institutional innovation and delivery.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the clean energy transition represents both a formidable challenge and a transformative opportunity. Institutions are the vehicles through which this transformation must be steered. The ability to govern climate change effectively—to design inclusive policies, coordinate complex systems, and implement sustainable solutions—will determine the viability of our common future.

Green Mentors call upon Member States, development partners, and all stakeholders to invest in the evolution of strong, inclusive, adaptive public institutions capable of driving climate ambition and delivering just, equitable energy transitions. The decisions taken now will define not only our energy systems' trajectory but also our societies' sustainability.