# Bottom-up approach and methodologies:

Developing Foundations and Sound Principles of Public Administration



#### Presentation Outline

- Background (antecedents to choice of theme)
- Underlying assumptions
- Objectives and overview of the Three Questionnaires
- Implementation Plan
  - Annex (the 3 Questionnaires)



### Background

- Challenges facing the modern state in connecting and/or reconnecting with civil society
- CEPA's on-going interest in an approach and in methodologies for developing foundations and principles of sound public administration
- The instrument(s) to generate necessary data on good practices in civic engagement (without "ranking" states)



### Underlying assumptions

- There is as yet no universally accepted model of governance and public administration that is firmly anchored on "bottom-up" principles;
- Such a model stands a good chance of emerging if preceded by empirical studies that, besides capturing current practices, solicit various stakeholders' views on future directions;



### Underlying assumptions contd.

- The empirical and studies will not end with a universally acceptable civic engagement model much less an automatic technique for resolving vexing public administration issues;
- Countries around the globe have, with varying degrees of success, beaten different paths to bottom-up public administration solutions;



### Underlying assumptions (contd.)

■ Notwithstanding the enormous differences between and among cultures, there is a broad measure of consensus on the need for public administration systems that are at once inclusive, participative, accountable, and "customer-caring";



### Underlying assumptions (contd.)

- The launching of a cross-cultural study will accelerate movement towards a convergence of views on a bottom up approach and on methodologies for developing foundations and principles of sound public administration;
- To generate necessary and relevant data, the study will have to explore more than one source



# The three research instruments: an overview

- Why three instruments: data sources; whose views/perceptions are relevant; who is likely to know what
- Length of questionnaires and the bias towards coded questions and structured responses
- Information sought (respondent's notion of what constitutes sound public administration principles; their definition of a "bottom-up" approach/strategy; their views on how public administration principles could be made to respond to citizen concerns; and their recommendations on how to optimize the benefits of civic engagement in public admin.



### The instruments' target groups

- Questionnaire 1: Policymakers and senior government officials
- Questionnaire 2: Opinion leaders (the group that stands between the Government and civil society)
- Questionnaire 3: Individual citizens/households (so-called "ordinary citizens", the beneficiaries/"victims" of state policy)



## Objective of Instrument 1 (Policymakers and senior government officials)

#### Solicits respondents' views on:

- \* selected public admin principles;
- range and effectiveness of mechanisms for civic participation;
- \* the role of the citizen in service delivery;
- \* professionalism and political impartiality;
- \* public officials' responsiveness and accountability to the citizen.



# Objectives of Instrument 2: Opinion Leaders

- Who are the opinion leaders and why should they be treated as a separate category (focus on intermediating role)
- Respondents' views on public administration principles, citizen participation, public service professionalism and impartiality, and the responsiveness and accountability of public officials to the citizen;
- Biographical section: for data disaggregation at the state of interpretation and analysis.



### Objectives of Instrument 3: Individual citizens/households

- Cognitive and affective orientations of "ordinary citizens" towards public administration processes; civic participation in, or engagement with, the processes; the impact and effectiveness of service delivery systems in place; and on accountability of public officials to civic society;
- Biographical section



### Implementation Plan

- Research design
- Preparation of a full-length project document and resource mobilization
- Testing of 3 instruments around NY area
- Conversion of instruments into electronic format (using existing software)
- Administration of Questionnaire 1 (using electronic and conventional channels)



### Implementation Plan (contd.)

- Based on responses to Questionnaire 1, selection of a representative sample of countries to participate in the next stage which is:
- Administration of Instruments 2 and 3
- Identification of partner institutions to administer questionnaires 2 and 3
- Conduct of research methodology workshops for national partner institutions



### Implementation Plan (contd.)

- Administration of questionnaires 2 and 3
- Translation and administration of the two instruments in local languages (and retranslation of responses into English);
- Project monitoring and progress reporting;
- Data analysis and interpretation;
- Preparation and submission of report to CEPA
- Publication and dissemination of findings



#### Recommendation8-

In light of the foregoing observations, the Secretariat recommends that CEPA endorse the launching of a project on "Bottom up approach and methodologies for developing foundations and sound principles of public administration", as well the mobilization of necessary resources.

