

# **2025 ECOSOC Coordination Segment**

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations

## **Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

### **Remarks**

Thursday, 6 February 2025, 10:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Panel 1:** Conversation with Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions and Chairs of functional commissions and expert bodies on accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs including by leveraging the outcomes of the Summit of the Future

Given the complexities of the current global context, advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-informed solutions for the implementation of the SDGs can no longer be generated solely by improving the functioning of the government machinery. New governance and institutional perspectives that integrate (a) an understanding of the evolving global context and its influence on societies with (b) government actions and capacities to stay the course towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 need to be further elaborated and tested.

In our work, we stress that achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience at a time of multiple crises requires both a short-term and a long-term perspective in public policymaking, together with institution-building at all levels, based on effective governance for sustainable development. This includes integrating reflections of a long-term vision of society into planning, monitoring and reporting on the Goals and into voluntary national reviews of progress.

Five transformative actions are urgently needed in public administration to deliver sustainable development. They are:

1. Anchoring the SDGs to the public discourse as a policy framework for the future;
2. Promoting sustainability through national budgets to increase public trust;
3. Investing in changing mindsets in the public sector;

4. Applying the principles of effective governance for sustainable development; and
5. Closing gaps in awareness of the Goals and of their importance at all levels.

The Committee has provided extensive guidance in each of these areas and will continue to build on its core work in 2025 – situating new insights within today’s complex and turbulent global context.

We will also continue supporting Member States by applying agreed norms of effective governance to the study of critical issues in public administration. Promotion of strategic foresight to ensure long-term thinking and planning, while making governance more anticipatory and adaptive, is part of a broad framework of CEPA guidance provided to interested countries.

On climate change, our contribution has been to examine and draw attention to specific technical solutions to strengthen institutional capabilities for adaptation and mitigation – through sustainable public procurement; natural capital accounting and monitoring of the state of natural resources; addressing insurance gaps to protect public interest; and building public sector capacities to attract climate funding. The dual challenge of preparing for and responding to extreme heat events while promoting access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is next on our agenda.

This action-oriented guidance linking SDG 13 and SDG 16 may be highly relevant to countries committed to accelerating progress on their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.

On public finance, we provide a broad set of recommendations on sound, inclusive, science- and evidence-based public financial management to help guide government action to deliver sustainable development through 2030 and beyond.

The Committee’s strategic guidance on fiscal institution-building and financial processes serves as an enduring reference on effective PFM and to making the best use of scarce resources in both the short- and long-term, across all development settings.

The Pact for the Future underscores the role of science and technology in safeguarding the needs and interests of future generations. However, achieving this vision requires more than just technological solutions—it requires governance frameworks that leverage scientific expertise at all levels of government to ensure that technology is used responsibly and does not exacerbate existing inequalities or create new risks.

At our session in April, we will expand on the potential ethical, regulatory, and operational risks and challenges associated with the deployment of artificial intelligence in public administration. We will delve into questions of oversight and regulation, the role of Supreme Audit Institutions within a broader framework of accountability, and practices that promote strategic and responsible deployment of artificial intelligence systems across the public sector.

A concern for leaving no one behind as a core principle of public administration remains at the heart of these efforts, including in relation to building a qualified public sector workforce that is attractive to both senior-level employees and, crucially, to younger generations. Institution-building in post-conflict countries is another element.

Lastly, on coordination and coherence across the UN system, we very much encourage systems thinking in the governance domain and encourage all UN system entities to join the Committee in its deliberations. We would also recommend that ECOSOC continue to support active collaboration across the system in pursuit of key transformative actions to deliver the SDGs.