

STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

AT

**21ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

4 APRIL 2022

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**Distinguished Chair,
Members of the Committee of Experts on Public
Administration,
Under-Secretary-General for Economic and
Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin,
Dear Colleagues,**

1. It is my sincere pleasure to be with you at the opening of the 21st Session of the Committee. I extend my congratulations to all of you, as newly appointed and re-appointed members and wish you a productive and impactful programme of work over the next four years.
2. I highly appreciate the interrelated perspectives on Public Administration, Public Finance and Public Economics that you bring to the UN. All these fields are crucial to understanding and addressing the increasingly complex governance challenges of our age.

3. I am optimistic that your expertise will help us find ways to accelerate progress towards all SDGs and SDG 16 in particular on effective, inclusive and accountable institutions, in today's challenging environment.
4. As you are aware, the 2022 theme of the Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is "**Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**"
5. This broad theme is more than just a slogan. It reflects a high level of ambition, at a time of great need against the backdrop of unprecedented challenges. We must, therefore, not fall short of expectations.
6. Our Economic and Social Council is determined to continue its global push to respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and -- despite the monumental challenges brought by the pandemic and

the climate crisis -- move quickly to reach all the SDGs within this Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development.

Chairperson,

7. The transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda calls for new thinking and new ways of working. One cannot hope to build a better future for all with the same old patterns of behaviour – in the public sector and in society as a whole. It is those ingrained habits that have led us to where we are today.
8. The Council thus looks forward to your guidance on **“Transforming institutions and governance to build forward better towards 2030”**, and the full range of complementary issues on your agenda this week.
9. I am pleased to note that since 2015 CEPA has placed the 2030 Agenda at the core of its work. The Committee’s pragmatic, yet far-reaching advice, has not gone unnoticed.

10. The Council welcomes the ongoing focus of CEPA on the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which we endorsed in 2018. Many countries have shown great interest in the principles which relate to important questions of sound policy-making and intergenerational equity.
11. Your insights into these and other aspects of institution-building, and their impact on the achievement of all the SDGs, are a valuable contribution to the work of the ECOSOC system.
12. This week you will examine ways of building strong institutions, to address climate change and sustainably manage natural resources. Interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs capture the essence of the 2030 Agenda as a universal and indivisible roadmap to our common future.

Chairperson,

13. Given the importance of the Sustainable Development Agenda, the engagement of CEPA with other ECOSOC

bodies to this end -- in this case the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting of the Statistical Commission, as well as the Peacebuilding Commission -- is encouraged and appreciated.

14. I am pleased to note that the **2022 ECOSOC Youth Forum** will be held on **19 and 20 April**, immediately after the CEPA session. The Forum offers young people a space to share their perspectives on the 2030 Agenda, and ideas and solutions for its implementation.
15. I also wish to underscore that the voices of the youth on questions of governance and institution-building are an essential part of the conversation. It is thus gratifying to observe that later in the week you will be engaging with youth in a dialogue on the role that young people play in building strong institutions for sustainable development.
16. The reflections to be gained from this will help inform participants' thinking in advance of the Youth Forum and come at an opportune moment as we also prepare

for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

17. On **21 April**, I will also convene an **ECOSOC Special Meeting on the New Urban Agenda** to feed into the General Assembly's High-Level Meeting on this important topic. The Council will be considering the impacts of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in addressing rising inequality and assess the state of UN system support.
18. While keeping an eye on the long-term, the Council's review of implementation of the New Urban Agenda may provide an early point of reference for your deliberations on the application of the principles of effective governance at the subnational level, as the two are closely linked.
19. You may also use messages from the ECOSOC Special Meeting I convened recently on proper management and use of natural resources, rather than as a cause of conflict.

Chairperson,

20. The General Assembly, in its Resolution 75/290 A, invited the President and Bureau of the Council to work with the bureaux of the subsidiary bodies and in consultation with delegations on further enhancement of the work of subsidiary bodies.
21. Our top priority is to ensure that the work of the subsidiary bodies should reflect an integrated and action-oriented approach to the SDGs and be informed by solid evidence-based reviews of progress. The subsidiary bodies are also encouraged to work in an efficient, effective, transparent and inclusive manner.
22. I know that CEPA is well-placed with respect to the ECOSOC review, and I would like to extend sincere thanks to the Chair and members of the Committee, both for taking the guidance of the Council fully on board in recent years and for the exemplary engagement in our joint meetings. I urge you to use the opportunity of this review to express your

assessment of the work of CEPA and how it can be further improved.

Chairperson,

23. Allow me to conclude by recalling that the HLPF this year will contribute to preparations for the **2023 SDG Summit** to be held next year in September.

24. The **2023 SDG Summit** marks the mid-point of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is not far off. As we move towards 2023, I urge you to set a high performance bar. The ambition, practical, technical and expert nature of your policy recommendations, and the original, independent and leading-edge thinking that you collectively bring to pressing global challenges is urgently needed.

25. I wish you every success in your deliberations and look forward to your analysis and recommendations.

I thank you for your kind attention.