Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Eighteenth session, 8-12 April 2019
Wednesday 10 April 2019 (10:00-13:00)

"Building Strong Institutions for Equal and Inclusive Societies,'

Introduction

- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at this important session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and share our work and perspectives. We thus contribute to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development in the spirit of Agenda 2030.

- I will do so within the context of the work of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics whose secretariat is located in INECV and of which I head.

- I would like to take a few minutes to share some information on the Praia City group and the work that we are charged to do by the UN Statistical Commission to advance international standards of statistics in governance, human rights, peace and security.

- I have been asked to share some thoughts on the ongoing work of the Praia Group particularly the Handbook we are developing on Governance Statistics as well as to share some thoughts on the Group's approach to measuring governance and CEPA's 11 principles of effective governance.

Ongoing work of the Praia Group and the development of a Handbook on governance statistics

- The Praia Group has more than 90 members worldwide (NSOs and non-NSOs) and a database of 244 institutions from the world statistics community. Its steering committee is composed with 9 different members (UNDP, OHCHR, PARIS21, AfDB, NSOs – Mexico, Cabo Verde and Philippines), PRIO and IRD-DIAL.

- The Praia Group has as its mandate to "contribute to establishing international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance". To this end, the Group has been charged to develop "a handbook on governance statistics for national statistical offices, which will cover the conceptualization, measurement methodology and dissemination of governance statistics".

- The Handbook includes "methodological and practical guidelines for the improved gathering and compilation of governance statistics at all levels, including covering issues of concept definition, data quality, comparability, methodology, possible sources, compilation and dissemination mechanisms".

- It will take stock of existing practices in governance data collection and proposes guidelines for the improved production and compilation of official governance statistics.

- Finally, the Handbook is intended as a tool for those wishing to produce and understand governance statistics and is <u>primarily targeted towards national statistical agencies</u>.

- The Handbook is currently in the drafting phase with first drafts of each of the chapters covering nine governance dimensions now completed. These nine dimensions draw from international human rights standards and leading conceptual understandings of governance and include the following:

    1. Human rights
    2. Participation
    3. Openness
    4. Access to and quality of justice
    5. Responsiveness
    6. Government effectiveness
    7. Absence of corruption
    8. Trust
    9. Safety and security

- Chapter working groups have been comprised of Praia City group members and under the leadership of a lead institution or co-leading institutions. A final consolidated draft of the Handbook is expected to be completed by the Fall this year and the UN Statistical Commission has committed to facilitate a global consultation across national statistics offices at the end of the year.

- Each chapter defines the governance concepts; identifies key dimensions of the concept and provides guidance on data sources for measuring the concept.

- Importantly each chapter also highlights key indicators for each of the governance dimensions though a human rights approach ensuring that indicators relate to structures, processes and outcomes.

- In simple terms, structures refer to the acceptance of norms, principles or standards related to good governance (i.e., adoption of a law or establishment of a government agency). Meanwhile, processes address the implementation of the governance commitments and norms or principles by the authorities in the form of policy

programs and the delivery of goods and services. The concept of processes also describes how public institutions transform resources into outputs and the satisfaction of society regarding these outputs. Finally, outcomes are the results of efforts/processes of government in people's lives.

- They represent the objectives of governance in terms of the improvements valued by society. This analysis has been previously employed by reports on specific governance dimensions such as Human Rights and enables to assess performance in particular fields and different stages of the delivery of public services and the government actions necessary to guarantee rights. Thus, the utility of this framework will hopefully go beyond this or other materials, so we encourage its use across different domain areas for anyone working with governance statistics.

Importance of governance statistics for sustainable development

- I wanted to share a few words on the importance of governance statistics in the context of the commitments all countries have made to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and to SDG 16 in particular.

- Governance statistics help to ensure that the relationship between the State and its citizens is transparent and accountable. They assist in the monitoring of governance for its own sake and in monitoring the contribution of governance to development and development planning. Governance statistics also help to identify groups in the population that are most affected by bad governance systems, with a view to putting in place targeted policies to address this.

- Demands for governance statistics are increasing. Governments, academia, civil society, private sector entities, media organizations, and international organizations are the main users and require statistics on different aspects of governance.

- Measuring progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16 "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" has also stimulated demand for governance statistics and will be a particular challenge for many countries because it is a new Goal that was not part of the Millennium Development Goals framework.

- There are many obstacles to be overcome, both political and technical – including lack of capacity or methodologies amongst government agencies for implementation and a lack of available data for measuring progress, monitoring and reporting. However, there is also a lack of investment in countries national statistics systems including in the area of governance statistics. This Handbook aims to address some of these challenges in providing guidance on how to measure key governance concepts at the heart of the 12 targets of SDG 16.

The Praia City Group and the SDG 16 Global Indicators

- The Praia Group has also been assisting the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs and custodian agencies for the Tier III SDG 16 global indicators in strengthening the methodologies to enable these indicators to be upgraded to Tier II and be measured and reported on by countries.

- There has been significant progress in the measurement of the SDG 16 global indicators. At the time of the adoption of the global indicator framework by the UN General Assembly in July 2017, only 15 of the 23 global indicators for SDG 16 were classified as either Tier 1 or Tier 2.   There is now only one remaining Tier 3 SDG 16 global indicator under target 16.4, SDG 16 indicator 16.4.1 measuring illicit financial flows.

- It is my pleasure to report to this session that at the ninth meeting of the UN Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) which convened in Beirut last month, the Group reviewed 5 Tier III SDG 16 global indicators, several of those are directly relevant to the remit of the CEPA. These indicators include
    - SDG 16.1.2 on conflict related deaths
    - SDG 16.6.2 on satisfaction with public services
    - SDG 16.7.1. on diversity I representation in decision making in the public service and the judiciary;
    - 16.7.2 on responsive and inclusive decision making, in other words whether people feel they have a say in what their government does and whether they feel they are able to influence decision making in their political systems; and
    - 16.b.1 on discrimination
    - Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.

Praia City Group members were actively involved in the development of methodologies for these indicators.

Potential linkages between the work of the Praia Group on governance statistics and the CEPA initiative on principles of effective governance for sustainable development

- The principles of effective governance for sustainable development advanced by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration are linked to the work by the Praia Group on Governance Statistics.

- We agree particularly with the mentioned report the fact that principles should be action-oriented for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as other

commitments. However, I have a few general remarks we hope are useful. In the first place, the leave no-one behind principle included in the framework should be considered to be cross-cutting (the struggle for equality is essential for every domain), not of relevance on its own or belonging to a single category.

- Secondly, considering there are many overlaps in the principles of effective governance proposed by CEPA with the governance dimensions of the Praia Group governance Handbook, we think it would be useful to carefully review these to understand the overlap and differences but noting that there need not be perfect alignment between the two. This exercise and greater understanding will help in making sure that developments in the statistics of specific areas can help to strengthen the implementation and measurement of the CEPA principles.

- The Praia Group welcomes the ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the CEPA including its participation in the development of the Handbook and efforts to link the CEPA principles with work on governance indicators.

- Thank you for your attention