Urgently transforming institutions for a greener, more inclusive and more resilient world at a time of multiple crises

8 Recommendations

Contribution by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development

Louis Meuleman UN CEPA 27 March 2023





Context / Institutional Leadership in a VUCA world



1. The ability to respond quickly and effectively to crises is essential but insufficient for sustainable development

Crisis governance:

- gives unlimited power and resources
- needs legislative shortcuts for emergency measures -> no parliament, no stakeholders, no best knowledge, no long-term...

Most of the current crises are at the same time complex, (super)wicked problems

Paradox: we need at the same time

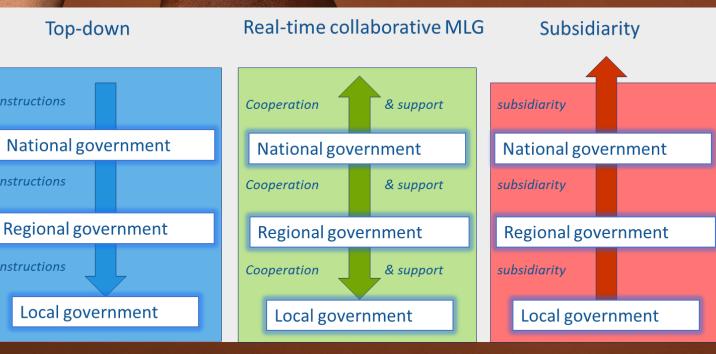
- Fast governance (crisis management, top-down)
- Slow governance (addressing wicked problems, network governance)

2. National Governments should empower subnational governments to accelerate SDG implementation



We need more collaborative multilevel governance:

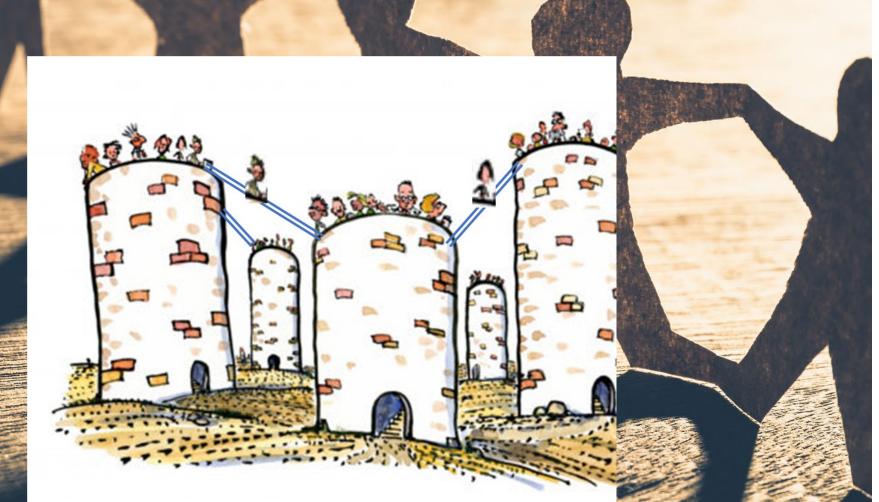




3. A functioning coordination mechanism for sustainable development across all ministries at the highest level is a must



We need good horizontal coordination and cooperation mechanisms, to connect the 'silos'



4. A rapid upgrade of risk management in government and its integration into SDG-related coordination mechanisms is necessary



5. The need to strengthen institutions for more integrated solutions to achieve the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda remains strong





6. Countries should be encouraged to integrate reflections on a vision of society in 2050 in their planning, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs





7. Countries should exercise credible, transparent and participatory budgetary decision-making in order to speed progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda

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8. To ensure that adequate attention is paid to the governance and institution building aspects of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 should be reviewed annually at the high-level political forum, alongside SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals





The CEPA recommendations for the HLPF 2023 (& the Summit):

 Combine crisis management with complexity governance
Empower subnational governments to accelerate the SDGs

- 3. Improve coordination & collaboration between ministries
- 4. Combine risk management and SDG coordination
- 5. Strengthen institutions for more integrated solutions6. Think beyond 2030, think2050
- 7. Integrate SDGs in budgeting8. Review both SDGs 16 and 17 annually at the HLPF



And this requires leadership!

