

22nd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

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Agenda item 6: Application of the UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development for the achievement of the SDGS

In order to achieve effective governance and meet Sustainable Development Goals, investing in the capacity building of top officials or bureaucracy can be a valuable approach. However, another method that can be equally effective is outsourcing specific field expertise by directly including experts who have made a significant contribution in areas such as Health, Transport, Sanitation, Poverty alleviation and more, decision-making can be greatly improved, leading to sound policymaking. This process differs from the traditional recruitment of generalist bureaucrats and recently it was initiated by the Government of India. Through such approaches, government organizations can improve their effectiveness and create sustainable development for the betterment of society. In India, the government initiated Mission Karmayogi aimed at bringing about transformational changes in the way the civil servants are trained and their performance is evaluated. And it aims to create a future-ready civil service that is equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to deliver on the government's developmental agenda. The main objective of Mission Karmayogi is to develop a comprehensive program for capacity building of civil servants at all levels of government. The program includes a digital platform for learning and development, a competency framework for civil servants, and a performance evaluation system that focuses on outcomes. Similarly, the lateral entry of private players into the Indian government is a relatively new concept, introduced in 2018 by the government of India. It is a policy that allows private sector professionals to join the Indian government at the mid-to-senior levels, based on their expertise and experience, for a fixed tenure. The main objective of the lateral entry scheme is to bring in fresh talent, domain expertise, and new perspectives into the government. The idea is to leverage the knowledge and skills of private sector professionals to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the government's functioning. This initiative will help to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors and enable the government to benefit from the expertise and innovation of the private sector. it is an important development in the Indian governance system, and one that has the potential to bring about positive change.

The implementation of an Open Government Data Platform (OGD) can be seen as a crucial step towards accelerating accountability in Government. Without data, trust in the government's decision-making process may diminish. The availability of data at every level of governance can promote transparency and accountability. This regulation can provide civil society, think tanks, and academia with the tools necessary to examine policy gaps and track the performance of officials and departments on the scale of service delivery. Accountability is critical in ensuring that decision-makers are held responsible for their actions. Many Governments had established mechanisms to hold decision-makers accountable for their actions, this includes the establishment of independent bodies to investigate and address cases of corruption or malfeasance. But availing data in a timebound manner will bring them under constant preview. Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) is an online platform launched by the Government of India in 2007 to enable citizens to register

and track their grievances with the government. The platform provides a single point of contact for citizens to raise their grievances, which can then be forwarded to the concerned authorities for resolution. It is a web-based system that enables citizens to submit their grievances online, track the status of their complaints, and receive feedback on the action taken by the concerned authorities. The system is accessible to citizens across the country, and complaints can be registered in multiple languages and covers a wide range of grievances related to various government departments and agencies, including complaints related to public services, corruption, police, health, education, and so on. The platform also enables citizens to provide feedback on the quality of service provided by the government, which can be used to improve the overall quality of public services.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become an integral part of the global development agenda. However, the need of the hour is to implement them at the micro level of governance. This requires bringing SDGs impact assessment to the lowest administrative unit of a country, which can be achieved through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Ranking Framework. The framework encourages policymakers and government officials to evaluate Goal wise performance based on the parameters of 17 SDGs and 169 targets. The governance approach should be holistic and inclusive, with a focus on Incorporating vulnerable populations into the developmental path, as inclusiveness is a key determinant of any state's progress towards achieving sustainable development goals. Providing basic amenities is an essential aspect of this approach to ensure that all individuals have equal access to resources and opportunities. Governments must move away from traditional top-down decision-making processes and instead adopt a more participatory approach that involves all stakeholders in decision-making processes. This includes engaging with civil society organizations, local communities, and marginalized groups, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are considered. The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) is a tool developed by the Government of India to assess the quality of governance in districts across the country. The index evaluates districts on a set of parameters that are critical for good governance, including health, education, agriculture and allied sectors, skill development, infrastructure, financial inclusion, environment, citizen-centric governance, and law and order. It is an important tool for assessing the quality of governance at the district level, and it provides a basis for identifying areas where improvements are needed. The index also serves as a benchmark for districts to compare their performance with that of other districts, and it helps to promote healthy competition and collaboration between districts. The district is the fundamental administrative unit in India.