



Launch of the World Public Sector Report 2023

9 November 2023, 8:00 – 9:00 EST

Concept Note

Background

The World Public Sector Report 2023, published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, examines the role that national institutional and governance innovations and changes that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic can play in advancing progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The consequences of the pandemic and its aftermath threaten to further derail progress on the 2030 Agenda and make the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more difficult to achieve in the short and medium terms. Yet the pandemic also sparked rapid innovation in government institutions and public administration that could be capitalized on; positive changes were observed in the internal workings of public institutions and in the way they interact with one another and broader society, including through public service delivery.

Against this backdrop, the report focuses on three main questions: How can Governments reshape their relationship with people and other actors to enhance trust and promote the changes required for more sustainable and peaceful societies? How can Governments assess competing priorities and address difficult policy trade-offs that have emerged since 2020? What assets and innovations can Governments mobilize to transform the public sector and achieve the SDGs?

The report addresses them in chapters composed of short overviews followed by a set of in-depth contributions (23 in total) from a wide range of experts which examine institutional changes observed in different contexts, sectors and policy processes and explore the potential of those with a positive impact on the achievement of the SDGs to be sustained beyond the pandemic. The report aims to draw attention to institutional change as a key component of the societal transformations required to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Objective

The objective of the webinar is to officially launch the report. The webinar will start with an intervention from DESA senior management (ASG for Economic Development), followed by an elaboration on the content of the report by a staff from DPIDG. The floor will then be given to two or three experts, to react on the content of the report, flag messages that they think important, and entice the audience to read and disseminate the report. In parallel with the webinar, a set of messages will be published on DESA social media.

Participants

Speakers comprise: the ASG for Economic Development of UNDESA; the coordinator of the report in UNDESA/DPIDG; and 4 experts on public administration issues.

The webinar will be freely accessible to all those who register. It will be announced through the usual UNDESA channels, as well as the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

Date

The webinar will take place on **9 November 2023 from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. (EST)**, through Zoom.

Agenda

ZOOM 8.00 AM EST (NEW YORK CITY TIME)	
8:00 AM EST	Welcome and opening by the moderator <i>Moderator: Lisa Morrison, UNDESA/SPCS</i>
8:05 AM EST	Key messages from the World Public Sector Report 2023 <i>Mr. Navid Hanif, ASG for Economic Development, UNDESA</i>
8:13 AM EST	Additional insights and content of the report <i>David Le Blanc, UNDESA/DPIDG</i>
8:20 AM EST	Reactions by experts (6 minutes each, including 1 minute for the moderator) <i>Ms. Müge Finkel, co-director, Gender Inequality research Lab, University of Pittsburgh</i> <i>Mr. Rolf Alter, Hertie School, member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration</i> <i>Ms. Alketa Peci, Brazilian School of Public and Business Administration, Getulio Vargas Foundation, member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration</i> <i>Ms. Margaret Williams, SDG16+, Associate Director, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</i>
8:45 AM EST	Questions from the audience
8:58 AM EST	Wrapping up and closing