23rd session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Written statement by Ministry of Digital Transition and reform of Administration, Kingdom of Morocco

Agenda item 6: Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

Leaving No One Behind: A Collaborative Framework for Local Governance

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a bold vision for a world free from poverty, hunger, and inequality by 2030. Central to this vision is the core principle of "Leaving No One Behind," ensuring that all individuals and groups can participate in and benefit from sustainable development efforts. Local governments, the closest level of governance to the people, are uniquely positioned to translate this vision into tangible action. However, achieving "Leaving No One Behind" requires a paradigm shift in local governance, moving from a traditional top-down approach to a collaborative framework that fosters inclusion and empowers communities. it will be opportune to give some key elements of a new collaborative framework for local governance that can effectively address the challenges of exclusion and achieve inclusive development.

- **Building a Foundation of Trust and Transparency**

A collaborative framework hinges on trust and transparency between local governments and their citizens. This requires active steps to ensure information is readily accessible and communication channels are open. Local governments can achieve this by:

- **Open Data Initiatives:** Promoting open data initiatives allows citizens to access information on budgets, service delivery metrics, and local development plans. This transparency builds trust and empowers citizens to hold local authorities accountable.

- **Multilingual Communication:** Ensuring clear and accessible communication strategies is crucial. This involves providing information in multiple languages, particularly those spoken by significant minority populations. Additionally, utilizing diverse communication channels like radio broadcasts, social media, and community forums ensures information reaches everyone.

- **Accessible Grievance Mechanisms:** Establishing accessible grievance mechanisms allows citizens to voice concerns and report instances of discrimination or exclusion. This can be achieved through designated hotlines, online platforms, or community forums, ensuring these channels are user-friendly and accessible to all.

By fostering a culture of open dialogue and information sharing, a collaborative framework builds trust and lays the foundation for meaningful collaboration with citizens.

- **Empowering Grassroots Participation by Amplifying Diverse Voices**

A collaborative framework must ensure diverse voices are heard in local decision-making. This necessitates empowering citizens from all walks of life to participate actively in shaping their communities. Here are some key strategies:

- **Participatory Budgeting:** Participatory budgeting processes allow citizens to directly allocate resources for local priorities. This empowers them to have a say in how their community develops and ensures funding is directed towards addressing the needs they experience firsthand.

- **Community Consultations:** Organizing regular community consultations on specific issues like infrastructure development or social programs ensures diverse perspectives are incorporated into local development strategies.

- **Capacity Building for Citizen Engagement:** Training programs for marginalized groups can equip them with the skills and resources to advocate for their rights. Training in areas like public speaking, leadership development, and project management empowers these groups to participate more effectively in local governance.

By amplifying diverse voices and creating space for meaningful citizen participation, the collaborative framework ensures local development strategies are inclusive and address the needs of all community members.

- **Fostering Collaborative Partnerships for Collective Action**

Achieving inclusive development requires leveraging the diverse expertise and resources of different stakeholders. A collaborative framework must promote partnerships between local

governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector. These partnerships can take various forms:

- **Joint Needs Assessments:** Collaboration between local governments and CSOs on conducting needs assessments can ensure a more comprehensive understanding of community challenges and inequalities faced by marginalized groups.

- **Co-creation of Solutions:** Jointly developing solutions through partnerships allows CSOs to contribute their knowledge of community needs, while local governments bring their policy expertise and regulatory capabilities. Private sector partners can contribute innovative technologies or financing solutions.

- **Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:** Establishing multi-stakeholder platforms provides a forum for ongoing dialogue and collaboration between local governments, CSOs, and the private sector. These platforms can work together to monitor progress towards inclusive development goals and identify areas where collaboration is needed.

By fostering collaborative partnerships, the framework creates a network of actors working collectively to achieve "Leaving No One Behind." This collective action leverages diverse expertise and resources to develop and implement more effective and inclusive solutions.

- **Continuous Learning and Improvement by Measuring Progress and Adapting Strategies**

The journey towards achieving "Leaving No One Behind" is a continuous learning process. A collaborative framework must establish mechanisms for monitoring progress, evaluating the effectiveness of strategies, and adapting approaches based on the results. Here are some key aspects:

- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Investment in local data collection and analysis tools allows local authorities and stakeholders to track progress towards inclusive development goals. This data should be disaggregated to capture inequalities and identify areas where further interventions are needed.

- **Sharing Impact Stories:** Encouraging and sharing success stories of local initiatives that have effectively addressed exclusion can inspire and motivate other communities.

- **Adapting and Innovating:** The framework should foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation, involving regular evaluations of strategies to assess their effectiveness in promoting inclusive development. Stakeholders, including local authorities, CSOs, and citizens, should be involved in these evaluations. This adaptability allows the framework to remain relevant in the face of emerging challenges and changing community needs.

In conclusion, the collaborative framework outlined here offers a roadmap for local governments to achieve the ambitious goal of "Leaving No One Behind." By fostering trust and transparency, empowering citizens, building partnerships, and continuously learning, local authorities can ensure inclusive development and address the needs of all community members. This framework is not a one-size-fits-all solution, but rather a set of principles that can be adapted to the unique context of each locality. As local governments embrace collaboration and inclusivity, they have the potential to unlock the collective power of their communities and build a more just and sustainable future for all.