

## Building inclusive, effective & resilient institutions for sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and implementation of the SDGs

20<sup>th</sup> session of the  
Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)  
12–21 April 2021 · Virtual Format



### Committee of Experts on Public Administration, 20<sup>th</sup> session Consultation with observers

Monday, 19 April 2021, 9 - 11 AM (EDT)

#### Background

The 20th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will be held between 12 and 21 April 2021 in a virtual format. The Committee will explore effective governance and public administration for the implementation of the SDGs. The Committee will also discuss key areas of public administration underpinned by the eleven principles of effective governance for sustainable development to tackle challenges faced by COVID-19 pandemic and other institutional barriers.

ECOSOC has requested the Committee to examine the theme of the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development from a governance and public administration perspective. The corresponding theme of the CEPA session is “Building inclusive, effective and resilient institutions for sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and implementation of the SDGs”.

An expert [paper](#) (E/C.16/2021/2) provides the basis for discussion. The paper suggests that building an inclusive and effective path for achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development calls for eight overarching policy measures:

1. Recommit to structures and processes for sustained and multilateral consultation, coordination and cooperation
2. Reallocate priorities, redirect resources and reconsider policies that have proved dysfunctional and counterproductive and left countries unprepared to deal with major crises like the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
3. Focus on the long-term in public policymaking
4. Recognize the quality of institutions, institutional reform and governance as a strategic policy area
5. Consider Governments as providers of first and last resort in order to restore public trust
6. Apply the 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development with government leadership buy-in and establish measurable indicators and metrics and a systematic results framework for the principles
7. Use the self-assessment tool on policy coherence for sustainable development linked to tier II indicator 17.14.1
8. Use the purchasing power of public administration to guide products and services towards sustainability.

The Committee engages broadly with relevant observers – Member States, UN system organizations, schools and institutes of public administration, non-governmental and related organizations – to reflect diverse

perspectives of observers in their work. In light of ongoing limitations on in-person meetings due to the pandemic, which has led to shorter virtual CEPA meetings - and thus limited interaction with observers – one two-hour virtual interactive dialogue with observers will be held as part of the 20th CEPA session.

Observers are invited to comment on one of the eight identified policy measures outlined above. Observers may also highlight linkages to other topics on the agenda of the session.<sup>1</sup> The inputs provided by observers during this meeting may contribute to the report of the session. In addition to the virtual consultation, observers are welcome to submit written inputs online on the different substantive issues that will be discussed by the Committee.

## Format

The virtual interactive consultation will be in the form of a moderated meeting with participation of observers and Committee experts, focusing on effective governance and public administration in the context of the theme of 2021 HLPF, while highlighting linkages to other items on the agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> CEPA session. The meeting will be conducted in **English**.

## Submit interest to speak

If you are interested in addressing the meeting, please submit your interest to speak through the [registration](#) (link: <https://bit.ly/3uVNRjf>) as early as possible and preferably by **5 April 2021** as speaking slots may begin to fill up.

Observer should address one of the eight identified policy measures outlined above. Given the limited time of the meeting, the number of speakers may be limited to ten (10) programmed interventions. Speakers will be selected taking into account geographic, institutional and gender balance, as well as relevance of proposed interventions to the theme of 2021 HLPF and the policy measures identified above. For those without programmed speaking slots, questions may also be taken from the chat box at the discretion of the Chair.

## Register to participate

Whether they have a speaking role or not, all observers are welcome to join the virtual consultation. To do so, please [register](#) from the following link: <https://bit.ly/3uVNRjf>

## Written inputs

Observers are also very much encouraged to contribute by submitting written inputs in advance on the substantive issues to be discussed by the Committee. Guidelines on written inputs can be found [here](#). Written inputs can be sent via email to [dpidg@un.org](mailto:dpidg@un.org), preferably **by 26 March 2021**.

The discussion can also be viewed through [UN WebTV](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> Decision adopted by the Economic and Social Council on the provisional agenda for the 20th session of CEPA (2020/228), available from [https://publicadministration.un.org/Portals/1/CEPA%20Intro/Decisions/Decision\\_adopted\\_by\\_ECOSOC\\_2020\\_En.pdf](https://publicadministration.un.org/Portals/1/CEPA%20Intro/Decisions/Decision_adopted_by_ECOSOC_2020_En.pdf)