

Inter-Agency Meeting (in conjunction with CEPA 5)
Minutes of Meeting

Conference Room D, United Nations Headquarters
New York, 30 March 2006, 4:30 p.m.

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Minutes:

1. Global Forum on Reinventing Government: Governance for a Better Life for All: Building Trust in Government, and Commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the GA Resumed Session on Public Administration and Development

Mr. Bertucci briefed participants on the basic themes of the Global Forum, which as of now is to take place in Vienna from 26 to 29 June 2007. The themes are: Legitimacy, Effectiveness, Openness, and Participation.

Once the sub-topics have been crystallized, DPADM will have a better idea of the workshops. In the next 2-3 weeks, a note will be sent to the Institutional Partners Group (IPG) of the Global Forum on what is expected of them. Partners can bring in substantive experience, for instance on suggesting the experts. The IPG meeting scheduled in June will formalize which organizations will organize a particular workshop. It is an open-ended Group in the sense that all can contribute monetarily or substantively.

Mr. Cheema added that the idea is to utilize the knowledge base of the system. One of the workshops is on pro-poor policies and it would be logical for ILO to make the substantive contribution in this area.

Mr. Hayford noted that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will take keen interest in the Forum and that they are willing to participate.

Ms. Subramaniam briefed the meeting on what the Regional Commissions are doing. The ECA is working on the issue of Governance in Africa, ECLAC on e-governance, ESCWA on Iraq, organizing training and capacity-building of the public administration. The issue was how to draw attention to the work of the Commissions.

Ms. Thouez observed that UNITAR is involved in a workshop on e-governance and IT.

Mr. Hayford observed that much could be learned from a comparative analysis of various experiences in the regions.

Mr. Bertucci responded by saying that DPADM is organizing regional meetings which would provide the opportunity for the Regional Commissions to cooperate and get them involved. One for Asia will take place in Seoul in September 2006; for Latin America in Brazil 26-28 November 2006; and for Europe in St. Petersburg during the last week of September 2006. There would be room for the Commissions to participate in the regional events. DPADM would send to the Commissions the parameters and they are welcome in either organizing the whole workshop or providing some speakers. The IPG meeting on 27 June will cement alliances, create teams and set in motion the process. The selected themes for the Global Forum will reflect the priorities of the IPG, and DPADM will seek the participation of IPG in organizing the regional forums.

2. 2007 World Public Sector Report on Participatory Governance

Mr. Bertucci briefed the meeting on the World Public Sector Reports. An outline is currently being developed for the 2007 WPSR, which will focus on Participatory Governance. The outline will be forwarded to the agencies for comments and inputs. In this connection, Mr. Khan introduced the WPSR, and Mr. De Vera, lead coordinator of the Report, provided some details on the outline.

Mr. Hayford singled out the gender dimension as being crucial to the issue of governance.

A representative of HABITAT observed that it would be useful to deal not only with good practices but also those that are not working.

Ms. Qian observed that ICT can be used to promote participatory governance.

3. WSIS Follow-up on C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development, and C7: ICT application: e-government

Mr. Bertucci observed that DPADM should produce a proposal and then seek the participation of the agencies. DESA has been designated as the lead agency in this exercise.

4. EC-ESA Governance and Insitution-Building Cluster

Mr. Bertucci observed that following the outcome of the World Summit, DPADM is working on delineating some priority areas within CEPA. DPADM has sought the cooperation of ESA and UNDP in organizing the Africa Governance Forum. There would also be a need to cooperate on the issues of post-conflict resolution, transparency and the fight against corruption, and on e-government. Regarding e-government, DPADM has sought the cooperation of ECLAC and is aware that ESCAP is also interested in developing a regional report on e-government readiness.