

IIAS inputs for consideration by CEPA in its deliberation and reporting to ECOSOC as part of preparation of the post-2015 development framework in the UN System

In order to meet future challenges, pressing social and economic problems, to install the elements of good governance which supports the values of democracy, freedom of speech and fundamental human rights there is a need to design a single, coherent, enduring and mutually reinforcing agenda that would integrate environmental sustainability, social inclusion and economic growth.

The worlds pressing problems, including rising unemployment, human rights issues, natural and man-made disasters, global warming and climate change, poverty and inequality and the peak of human population rising to 9-10bln by 2050 are calling for a new set of sustainable goals.

(a) *making public governance work for the post-2015 development agenda;*

Poverty Alleviation: Eradication of extreme poverty still remains a major challenge for the world international development agendas. IIAS study group on Public Administration, Democratic Governance and Poverty Alleviation headed by the President of IIAS analyzed the details on the incidence of poverty in the worlds principal regions, remarking on the extent to which this global trend had been accompanied by a spectacular surge of inequity, inequality, insecurity and injustice, as well as the attendant phenomena of corruption, arbitrariness and power abuse. There is therefore a need to revisit aid programs that had failed to yield results or came short of expectations.

Managing future risks and strategies: Since 2000 1.1mln people died due to disasters worldwide; 2.7bln people were affected; 1.3 trillion USD was wasted due to disasters. In addition to climate change, the main drivers of risk are poorly planned and managed urbanization, environmental degradation, poverty and weak governance¹. Especially fragile are the least developed countries and small islands. Disaster risk reduction, resilience building measures, preparation and early warning system would help to reduce the risk of exposure of both human and economic assets.

IIAS Policy Platform on future risks and strategies intends to provide a platform for exchanging experiences on variety of issues including coordination within public sector and cooperation of public and private enterprises during the Joint International Congress of 2013. Continuous capacity building, transfer of innovative solutions to risk management strategies, the role of ICT in managing risks and disasters are some of the important elements of disaster risk preparedness.

¹ UNISDR, 2012

(b) ***stakeholders accountability in public governance for development;***

In the process of agenda setting and its implementation it is especially important to strengthen the inputs from all stakeholders and to better coordinate in order to avoid the overlap and duplication of actions in achieving the international and national development agendas. While Millennium Development Goals have been well intentioned without doubt, the targets might have been too high for some countries. The process of consultation with wide range of stakeholders at early stages of goal setting will permit to localize the goals and make the contributors to feel ownership.

Localizing governance: Localizing the goals and ensuring political will at the local level is an important element for achieving internationally set developmental targets. Only at the local level it is possible to spot the marginalized groups and pockets of poverty. Capacity building efforts of local officials to help understand and own the targets are needed to localize the goals.

Local government and leadership lagged behind increased citizen expectations and on-going decentralization efforts of countries and this weakness could hinder the achievement of MDGs and other international and national agendas. At the same time, leaders both at the local and national levels are facing challenges of simultaneously cutting the public services while being able to maintain high levels of motivation and the ability to attract and retain top talent in their jurisdiction.

There is a growing consensus that the curricula of the institutions dealing with training and capacity building of public servants should be better aligned with the needs and expectations of the governments. UNDESA-IASIA Joint International Taskforce on strengthening public administration and leadership at local level aims to improve the fit between the needs of local governments in terms of training, education, institution building and the products (training, education, institution building consultancy) offered by Universities, school, and institutes of Administration will help better achieve MDGs and other national and international development agendas.

(c) ***creating an enabling environment for the post-2015 development agenda***

Spreading Innovation: Innovation is a necessary condition for creating a competitive economy that will have a positive effect on economic and social renewal. The philosopher's stone is the knowledge economy, where innovation leads to an economy where new knowledge, products and services can be developed². In this regard the innovation capacity of the public sector as well as its capacity to adopt new innovations is important to solve 'wicked problems' like social quality of cities, fight against crime and terrorism, aging population and other according to the IIAS publication Innovation in the public sector environments: linking capacity and leadership.

² Bekkers, 2011

The resource limitations that the planet is facing is pushing to come up with innovative solutions for the problems like better utilization of oil resources, food and increasing human population. Extremely fast growing populations add pressure on the utilization of natural resources³. Convergence between public and private sector and ‘mimicking’ the best practices⁴; and interconnectedness and interdependency of independent policy networks between state, semi-state and private sector stakeholders could provide shared innovative approach to related problems. OECD-IIAS study group on learning from innovations in public sector environment is tasked to identifying relevant barriers to social innovations, making cross national and cross sectoral comparisons and advice on the future pathways of social innovation in the public sector.

From e-government to open government and e-governance: Openness and transparency are enabling elements of good governance and essential building blocks of democracy in the 21st century. Although there is no universal blueprint majority of countries in the world have introduced one or other type of legal act to enable citizens to access information.

Connected social networks like Facebook, Twitter, smart phones made citizens more informed and who together can raise their voices. The experience of Arab countries for instance, made it evident that internet and mobile technologies are making a large impact in education of masses.

By engaging citizens in the process of governance through interaction, empowering citizens through access to knowledge and information government can become even more efficient and effective and achieve transparent citizen oriented democratic governance. This among others can create enabling environment for post 2015 agenda.

³ Tardy, 2009

⁴ Politt and Bouckaert, 2000