

Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Nineteenth Session
13-28 May 2020 – Virtual Format

Programme of work as of 12 May 2020

Items to be addressed in writing and through virtual informal consultations

Election of officers [item 1]

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters [item 2]

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda ([E/C.16/2020/1](#))

Informal reporting on intersessional activities of the Committee and its members [item 3]

Adoption of the report on the 19th session [item 12]

Item deferred to next intersessional period

Dialogue with VNR countries on SDG 16 [item 5]

Virtual meeting 1 – Wednesday, 13 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m. **Promoting effective governance and institutional reform to accelerate delivery of the SDGs** [item 4] *together with* **Government and public sector workforce of the future** [item 7]
New York time

The theme of the 2020 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and of the Council will be “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. The Committee will consider the theme from a governance and public administration perspective and formally endorse its contribution to the high-level political forum under the agenda item. The Committee will also continue its consideration of matters relating to the nature of government and the public sector workforce of the future with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery and delivery of the SDGs.

Moderator: Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair of CEPA

Introduction of the topic: Mr. Louis Meuleman and Ms. Ora-orn Poocharoen

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on promoting effective governance and institutional reform to accelerate the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/C.16/2020/2](#))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on the government and public sector workforce of the future ([E/C.16/2020/4](#))

Contribution by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration to the 2020 thematic review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development ([key messages](#))

Guiding questions

1. What lessons can be drawn with respect to building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels from the unprecedented measures taken in response to the pandemic?
2. What are the risks to implementation of SDG 16 from these measures? Is the strong government paradigm harmful to efforts to leave no one behind? Could investment in digital government serve to counter any negative effects?
3. What lessons can be drawn from the crisis in shaping the public sector workforce of the future?

Virtual meeting 2 – Friday, 15 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m.
New York time

Effective governance for sustainable development: putting principles into practice and reviewing outcomes [item 6]

At its nineteenth session, the Committee will focus its discussion on connecting the principles to regional and national actions to build strong institutions for implementation of the SDGs. Work on a benchmark study on the status of implementation of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development in Africa will be presented by the African Peer Review Mechanism. In addition, the Committee will consider the question of reviewing outcomes with reference, inter alia, to recent developments in the field of governance indicators and auditing of SDG implementation.

Moderator: Mr. Louis Meuleman, Vice-Chair of CEPA

Introduction of the topic: Mr. Geert Bouckaert and Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Presentations

Prof. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism with Mr. Pali Lehohla, former Statistician-General of South Africa and APRM Research Advisor on the CEPA principles

Ms. Tatyana Teplova, Head, Policy Coordination for the SDGs, Directorate for Public Governance, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat entitled “Effective governance for sustainable development: putting principles into practice and reviewing outcomes” ([E/C.16/2020/3](#))

Guiding questions

1. Given ongoing cooperation with the APRM and OECD and taking into account different regional needs and mechanisms, what specific opportunities are there for collaborating with regional organizations going forward?
2. What data and indicators are needed to support the Committee’s analytical work and policy advice on effective governance for sustainable development?
3. Are there any specific observations on the relevance of the strategy guidance notes to government advisers and practitioners? Do the early draft notes provide an adequate proof of concept for further work?
4. Does the COVID-19 pandemic change anything where operationalization of the principles is concerned?

Virtual meeting 3 – Monday, 18 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m. **Training and awareness-raising for the SDGs [item 10]**
New York time

This meeting will be devoted to questions relating to the training of public officials on the SDGs. At the eighteenth session of the Committee, many participants had expressed the wish to focus on the training of public officials as an essential component for the achievement of the SDGs. Here the emphasis is placed on the importance of both the initial and the ongoing training of public officials for the achievement of the Goals. Important questions arise regarding the Goals that should be the subject of such training, the target audiences, the potential content of the training, its structure and appropriate teaching methods and processes.

Moderator: Mr. Geert Bouckaert, Rapporteur of CEPA

Introduction of the topic: Mr. Abdelhak Saihi and Ms. Bridget Katsriku

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on training for public officials on the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/C.16/2020/7](#))

Training and awareness-raising for the Sustainable Development Goals: Ghana’s experience ([conference room paper](#))

Guiding questions

1. How should SDG awareness-raising and training programmes be organized? Are there good practices to follow in different regional, national and subnational contexts? What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools and institutes of public administration in terms of programme content and beyond?
2. What is the role of public administration networks in research, development and provision of SDG training programmes?
3. Who would comprise the target audience and what training methods would be needed to promote understanding of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development? What roles might there be for the UN system and public administration institutes in developing and providing such training?

Virtual meeting 4 – Thursday, 21 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m. **Building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and provide access to justice for all** [item 8]
New York time

The establishment of a viable public administration is a key part of State-building in the aftermath of conflict and of supporting long-term peacebuilding. At its seventeenth session, the Committee considered the question of stakeholder engagement in post-conflict countries. It concluded, inter alia, that re-establishing legitimacy and trust were challenges faced by post-conflict societies, where certain groups might have been systematically excluded and military, police and other institutions might be associated with repressive or corrupt practices. At its eighteenth session, the Committee expanded its consideration of the institutional aspects of SDG 16, with a discussion of the underlying issues in relation to promoting security and access to justice for all and ways to support the institution-building aims of Goal 16 in those areas.

This meeting will take the thinking forward with a discussion of the links between State-building with peacebuilding. Both require the rebuilding of trust in public institutions, which, in turn, warrants inclusionary post-conflict public administration reconstruction. The Committee will be invited to consider these questions, inter alia, from a post-pandemic context with a view to contributing to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission from a medium- to long-term perspective.

Moderator: Ms. Moni Pizani, Vice-Chair of CEPA

Introduction of the topic: Mr. Paul Jackson

Discussant: Mr. Henk-Jan Brinkman, Chief, Peacebuilding Strategy and Partnerships Branch, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on the re-establishment of credible governance and public administration institutions and systems after conflict ([E/C.16/2020/5](#))

Guiding questions

1. What is the future for State-building and peacebuilding in a post-pandemic world and how might Governments cope with disrupted aid flows?
2. How could fragile and conflict-affected countries manage public sector recovery effectively in situations where there may be contested sovereignty or weak oversight of responses to the pandemic?
3. Post-conflict countries are home to some of the most vulnerable populations in the world. How might countries adapt their approaches to institutional effectiveness and leaving no one behind given the effects of the pandemic and evolving prospects for the next decade of action?

Virtual meeting 5 – Wednesday, 27 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m.
New York time

Emerging issues in public financial management and budgeting for the SDGs
[item 9]

As government budgets significantly influence people's lives and well-being while also providing opportunities to address societies' most pressing needs, transparent, inclusive and credible budgets become key policy objectives. Moreover, the achievement of the SDGs depends on the ability of Governments to execute budgets as intended and in line with national development objectives and needs. That said, opaque budget-making practices and unbalanced budget compositions, with underspending in sectors that may be critical to sustainable development and overspending in others, continue to plague public financial management systems. Such problems are exacerbated by limited opportunities for citizens to participate in budgeting, as well as other challenges, such as the limited capacity of oversight institutions to scrutinize budgets.

Better budgeting within the context of the 2030 Agenda means explicit and measurable presentation of Goal targets in budget allocations and reports, as well as in other elements of the budget cycle. Budgeting for the Goals as a practice is still in its infancy. Several countries have announced, through voluntary national reviews, the intention to reflect the Goals in budgetary processes but few have specified why it would be relevant to do so or how the practice could be made operational. This virtual meeting will consider the most important enablers of successful budgeting for the Goals and the critical role of stakeholders in budget-making practices.

Moderator: Mr. Ali Hamsa, Vice-Chair of CEPA

Introduction of the topic: Ms. Katarina Ott, Mr. Juraj Nemeč and Ms. Linda Bilmes

Reflections on national experiences

SDG budgeting in Mongolia – Ms. Suzanna Sumkhuu, Senior Specialist, Development Policy and Planning Department National Development Agency, Mongolia

Trends and challenges in fiscal transparency and participation – Mr. Juan Pablo Guerrero, Network Director, Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on budgeting for the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/C.16/2020/6](#))

Guiding questions

To be provided

Virtual meeting 6 – plenary – Thursday, 28 May 2020

8:30-10:30 a.m. **Provisional agenda of the 20th session** [item 11]
New York time

At this final plenary meeting of the 19th session, the members will come together to consider the provisional agenda of the 20th session, to be prepared based on advance inputs, as well as working methods for the 2020-2021 intersessional period.

Moderator: Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair of CEPA

Closing remarks: Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations