



## CONCEPT NOTE

### WORKSHOP: SOUND POLICYMAKING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

16 FEBRUARY 2021; 8 a.m. -10 a.m. (EST, New York)

#### Background and context

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) adopted 11 principles of effective governance at its seventeenth session. The principles, endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2018/12, highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The principles are designed to ensure effective, accountable and inclusive government.

CEPA has developed a wide range of commonly used strategies for operationalization of the principles. One of the principles is on sound policymaking. To achieve their intended results, public policies are to be coherent with one another and founded on true or well-established grounds, in full accordance with fact, reason and good sense. CEPA noted eight commonly used strategies for addressing the principle of sound policymaking, including (i) strategic planning and oversight; (ii) regulatory impact analysis (iii) promotion of coherent policymaking (iv) strengthening national statistical systems (v) monitoring and evaluation systems (vi) the science-policy interface (vii) risk management frameworks and (viii) data sharing.

Ensuring the full success of such strategies to maintain sound policymaking remains a challenge in many countries. Deficiencies in long-term strategic planning, limited attention to policy synergies, unclear definition of roles and responsibilities, shortcomings in statistical analysis and lack of integrated mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation are some of the reasons. Achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires countries to be engaged fully with matters such as policy integration, risk management, strengthening of national statistical analysis and monitoring and evaluation as a matter of some priority.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DESA/DPIDG) has engaged experts to prepare guidance notes and provide content to the eight strategies designed to give effect to the principle of sound policymaking. The notes were crafted with global consultation with other specialised experts in the field. The notes include information on how a Government can both assess its current status and measure progress in applying the strategy to national policymaking processes. All

notes have recent case studies and good practices to advance sound policymaking with practical and illustrative guides. The notes outline the strategies, assess the extent to which they are being or have been adopted in other countries, and highlight the methods of implementation, opportunities to engage in peer-to-peer learning and research, and pursue further international development cooperation in accordance with country needs.

The notes will be made available before the workshop.

### **Virtual facilitated workshop**

Using the completed notes as a main point of reference, DESA/DPIDG plans to hold an online facilitated workshop on 16 February 2021. The workshop will attempt to share knowledge, raise awareness and provide a platform to connect participants with partners in other countries, the UN system and other organizations to take further concrete action-oriented activities on sound policymaking.

The workshop will:

- (i) provide a platform to share knowledge and guidance on how to promote sound public policymaking for sustainable development;
- (ii) increase understanding and awareness of the competencies and skills needed to apply the principle of sound policymaking with an emphasis on institutions at the national level;
- (iii) link participants with peer to peer learning opportunities and research networks in specific practice areas; and
- (iv) identify action-oriented and concrete activities and capacity building initiatives to enhance sound policymaking that can be undertaken with the support of the UN system and other organizations.

The workshop is intended to benefit policymakers in centres of Government, ministries of finance, planning and public administration of developing countries. Relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities, together with all relevant stakeholders, are invited to attend. The workshop may also be of relevance to those interested integrated national financing frameworks (INFF) which are a tool to finance national priorities, and the institutional dimension of the development of INFF.

The workshop will be held on 16 February 2021; (8 am to 10 am (EST) please check local time); for the following countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda.

An agenda will be finalised and circulated shortly.