



Opening remarks by

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delivered on behalf of
H.E. INGA RHONDA KING, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
to the Eighteenth Session of the
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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Madame Chair,
Distinguished Members of the Committee,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President of the Economic and Social Council, it is my sincere pleasure to join you today at the opening of the eighteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. ECOSOC and its Bureau highly values your leading-edge policy advice and action-oriented guidance on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

As you are aware, this is an important year in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda by the high-level political forum at both Ministerial and Summit levels. The HLPF – under the auspices of ECOSOC – will conduct an in-depth review of SDG 16 and take into account important linkages between SDG 16 and all SDGs. In addition, at the July HLPF, we will be reviewing SDG 4 on equality education, SDG8 on inclusive growth and decent work, SDG10 on inequalities and SDG 13 on climate action. Institutions and governance are key for all those SDGs. And at the HLPF Summit in September, we will review the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and focus on ways to accelerate progress towards all the SDGs.

I am pleased to see that CEPA has decided to take stock of progress on institutional aspects of SDG 16. As a body of independent technical experts, CEPA is well-positioned to examine the evidence base for progress on institution building in support of the SDGs and to bring to our attention the most salient issues and actions across a wide array of public administration domains.

In taking stock, please be concrete – but also bold and forward-looking.

The Council welcomes your insights into this year’s main theme of empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Strong institutions are enablers of all SDGs. There can be no discussion of implementation of any of the SDGs without reference to institutions and their policy processes. ECOSOC awaits your advice on how to equip institutions so that equality and inclusion are built into policymaking and public services at all levels.

CEPA made an important contribution in the past on institutions and the principle to leave no one behind.

Your principles for effective governance were also ambitious and were adopted by ECOSOC.

It is also heartening to see that you will be engaging in a conversation about inclusiveness and equality with the Committee for Development Policy. Promoting such interdisciplinary efforts among the subsidiary bodies and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development are at the core of ECOSOC's reform agenda. The Council also greatly appreciates the active collaboration of CEPA with the Praia Group of the Statistical Commission on the question of governance statistics and are confident that strengthened coherence among these bodies can only reinforce progress on the SDGs.

Later this week, you will discuss the issue of sustaining peace and a possible contribution of CEPA to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. As you may recall, the General Assembly has stressed the importance of closer cooperation between ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council looks forward to hearing of the outcome of this dialogue, and on the views of CEPA on the institutional aspects of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and providing access to justice for all.

Finally, I am intrigued to see in the programme an item entitled: "VNR dialogue with the experts." This innovative interaction and knowledge-sharing with countries on institutional successes and challenges that VNR countries themselves have highlighted will be followed with great interest.

It was my distinct pleasure to meet you, Madame Chair, at the ECOSOC Presidential Retreat this past January. I know from that exchange and others that

CEPA takes the 2030 Agenda seriously. It is also committed to fully supporting ECOSOC and continues to place implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its work. We are very grateful for it. Let us continue along this path.

I thank you for your generous intellectual contributions and wish you a productive eighteenth session.