

**Speaking remarks for Osvaldo Borges at the  
Committee of Experts on Public Administration  
Seventeenth session, 23-27 April 2018  
Tuesday, 24 April 2017 (10:00-13:00)**

*Elaborating principles of effective governance for sustainable development building on the work of the 16th session [item 4 (a)] Reflections on national and regional experiences:*

**Introduction:**

- Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at this important session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and share our work and perspectives. We thus contribute to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development in the spirit of SDG<sub>17</sub>.
  - I will do so within the context of the work of the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics whose secretariat is located in INECV and of which I head.
  - I would like to take a few minutes to share some information on Praia City group and the work that we are charged to do by the UN Statistical Commission to advance international standards of statistics in governance, human rights, peace and security.
  - I have been asked to share some thoughts on how the Praia Group's work on governance indicators and governance statistics interacts with governance principles and practices.
- 1. Terms of reference of the Praia Group (membership, overall objective including in relation to SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies)**
- The Praia Group on Governance Statistics was created by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015. This city group main objective is to address the issues of conceptualization, methodology and instruments in the domain of governance statistics.
  - Currently, Praia Group has more than 85 members worldwide (NSOs and non NSOs) and a database of 273 institutions from the world statistics community. Its steering committee is composed with 10 different members (UNDP, OHCHR, PARIS21, AfDB, NSOs – Mexico, Cabo Verde and Philippines), PRIO, IRD-DIAL and Transparency International.
  - The Praia Group will develop a Handbook on Governance Statistics for the use of National Statistics Offices. The aim is to encourage countries to produce statistics on the major dimensions of governance based on documented methodologies.

- The Praia Group also assist the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs indicators in the necessary steps to upgrade the 7 Tier III indicators under the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). During the 2nd meeting of the Praia Group in July 2016, working groups were established for each of the 7 Tier III indicators of SDG16. Chairs of the working groups for each indicator include OHCHR (16.1.2, 16.10.1 e 16.b.1), UNODC (16.5.1) and UNDP (16.2.2, 16.7.1 E 16.7.2).
- During this year, we will start the contribution process for the handbook development, which is based on working groups of each chapter made of up Praia Group members, according to the proposed dimensions for governance. The 2018 year will be focused on drafting the content for each of the chapters and the Praia Group is looking forward to the active participations and contributions from all its members. New members and willing to contribute on this process is open.

## **2. Potential linkages between the work of the Praia Group on governance statistics and the CEPA initiative on principles of effective governance for sustainable development**

- The Praia Group Handbook on Governance Statistics could contribute to the selection of related technical guidelines for development of the Principles. The Handbook will be based on chapters addressing different domains of governance, and some of these correspond closely to elements of the strategies to give effect to the Principles – such as Accountability, Govt Effectiveness, Transparency, Participation, Openness, Responsiveness, etc.
- The work of the Praia Group may also be a useful resource to ensure that institutions are able to reach the furthest behind first, and improve the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable. The efforts to develop methodologies for indicators under SDG16.6 and SDG16.7 targets in particular, will assist with measurement of effectiveness, accountability and inclusion, and the quality of participation in decision-making in practice.
- The work of the Praia Group will also provide a practical illustration of application of the Principles themselves across some of the CEPA governance layers model –for example, the collaboration across government, and relations with non-state actors. The development of the Handbook on Governance Statistics has emphasised the importance of engagement by NSOs with a range of counterparts across government, and outside government (civil society, private sector, and others) to provide robust methodologies for collection of statistics. This work is a good example of how trust can be built through collaboration between users and producers of data inside and outside government, for effective and inclusive data generation.
- In the same way, the Praia Group also shares a focus on cooperation and results for citizens. Preparation of the Handbook will build on cooperation between multiple stakeholders in support of government activity to measure progress, and to generate

results for citizens in all domains of governance – including those which also feature in the Principles.

- The Praia Group would be delighted to collaborate and share its work progress with the CEPA during the process of its Handbook elaboration.
- Thank you for your attention