

Symposium on
"Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Building Back Better and Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Aide-Memoire

16 – 18 November 2021

Via Zoom

Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)

In collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea (MOIS)

I. Event description

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) 's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) of the Government of the Republic of Korea, is organizing the 5th Regional Symposium on "*Effective Public Governance and Digital Transformation for Building Back Better*," which will be held on 16 - 18 November 2021. It is expected that over 300 participants from the Asia and Pacific region and beyond will attend the virtual event, including participants from national and local governments, international organizations, academia, schools of public administration, NGOs, and the private sector.

The Regional Symposium on “Effective Governance and Digital Transformation” is a UN DESA flagship annual event. It aims to raise awareness of critical public governance issues, examine current and future trends, and provide new approaches and methodologies to support the United Nations Member States in developing their capacities toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also promotes peer-to-peer learning by providing participants with the opportunity to share knowledge and exchange innovative practices.

The 5th Regional Symposium in 2021 will also mark the 15th Anniversary of UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG, established in June 2006. It will provide a venue for sharing its major achievements, challenges, and the way forward in supporting Member States' efforts to develop the capacities of their public institutions.

II. Objectives

The 5th Regional Symposium will offer a platform to:

- (a) Discuss challenges and share lessons learned in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- (b) Examine how to promote effective governance and build capacities to address the COVID-19 and climate change crises and build back better. Share and discuss innovative approaches to deliver effective and inclusive public services, including by leveraging digital technologies.
- (c) Enhance the understanding of new public sector mindsets and competencies needed to foster equal and resilient societies.
- (d) Provide new perspectives on promoting national to local governance that can ensure ownership of the SDGs by local authorities and engage all stakeholders in decision-making processes.
- (e) Examine innovative approaches and strategies for effective data governance for digital government transformation, and monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation.
- (f) Uncover trends and approaches in tackling risk-informed governance, leveraging innovative technologies, and partnerships for building resilience.

III. Structure and Methodology

The Symposium will feature a high-level session and five plenary thematic sessions, including keynote addresses, thematic presentations, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions. The Symposium will also provide the opportunity to introduce UN DESA/DPIDG's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, present key findings from DPIDG's analytical work, and share the outcomes and policy recommendations from other recent capacity development activities, including webinars and workshops.

The Symposium will be held virtually via the Zoom platform and live-streamed on UN DESA Facebook (*TBC*). The high-level Session and thematic sessions will be convened for three consecutive days with two sessions of 3 hours each day, with one 10-minute break between two sessions. The Symposium will be conducted in English.

The recording, presentations, and the report will be made available after the Symposium on the UNPOG website at <http://www.unpog.org/>, and on the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) website at: <http://www.unpan.un.org>.

IV. Thematic Focus

Background

The unprecedented and multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all countries, especially developing countries, including those in special situations, has posed severe threats reversing a decade of development progress and endeavors in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the climate risks has exacerbated the vulnerabilities and inequalities within and among countries and accentuated systemic weaknesses, challenges and risks. Developing countries and the most marginalized and vulnerable people, especially girls and women and the youth, have borne the brunt of the health, economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic and escalating climate change and environmental degradation. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced pre-existing obstacles to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and already had a significant impact on a number of Goals, as highlighted by the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021¹.

The 2021 High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) discussed ways to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19 and address climate change that puts us on track to realize the 2030 Agenda. Ministers and other participants explored various aspects of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. They also discussed policies and emphasized global cooperation that can control the pandemic and its consequences and put the world back on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, within the Decade of Action and delivery for sustainable development. Among 42 countries that carried out the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2021, 10 countries from Asia and the

¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/>

Pacific region participated in this important exercise, including Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, and Thailand. Most countries highlighted the SDGs' integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature for a comprehensive response plan for health and socio-economic recovery measures to control and contain COVID-19 in their SDG progress report. The 2021 HLPF Ministerial Declaration reiterated the need to develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels and ensure more responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making processes. It further affirms the importance to equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies, and trade-offs between the Goals and Targets through a whole-of-government approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development.²

The 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development on effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness of public institutions, developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018, provide practical, expert guidance to countries in a broad range of governance challenges associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The UN Secretary-General Report “Our Common Agenda” also emphasizes that it is the time to rebuild trust between Governments and their people and within societies and embrace a comprehensive vision of human rights, which include the active and equal participation of women and girls and the updated governance arrangements to deliver better public goods and usher in a new era of universal social protection, health coverage, education, skills, decent work and housing, as well as universal access to the Internet by 2030 as a basic human right.³ Achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience requires public institutions to engage all stakeholders, including vulnerable populations, based on responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making for sustainable development with a long-term strategy for effective engagement. As the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted girls and women, it is critical to take gender-responsive policy actions to address their difficulties. The youth have also been confronting enormous challenges due to the loss of education and job opportunities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective governance has been set as a strategic priority and mainstreamed in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) exercise by the UN Resident Coordinator system for building an equitable and inclusive society to leave no one behind.

Thematic Areas

The Symposium will comprise a high-level session and five thematic sessions focusing on: i) effective governance and public institutions for building back better and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs; ii) monitoring and review of the progress of SDG implementation by strengthening digital data governance and leveraging open government data; iii) innovation in public service delivery and digital transformation with innovative approaches; iv) the role of

²https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/28939Draft_HLPF_HLS_Ministerial_Declaration_14_July.pdf, Para #38

³ <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/summary.shtml>

public institutions and national to local governance in building resilience and promoting climate action, and v) changing mindsets and upskilling of civil servants.

High-level Session. At the High-level Session, statements will be delivered by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, the Minister for the Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea, and the Mayor from Incheon Metropolitan City, the 8th United Nations Secretary-General, senior government officials, and one UN Resident Coordinator. The High-level Session will also feature the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG, which will review its past 15-year history since its establishment in 2006 and highlight its way forward in helping Member States to strengthen the public governance capacities to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Thematic Sessions

Session 1. Effective governance and public institutions for building back better and accelerating the implementation of the SDGs

Effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis and building back better require effective, accountable, and inclusive public institutions that are based on collaborative leadership and a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach that mobilizes the concerted actions and resources from the whole society. In recognition of the integrated nature of the SDGs and the current challenges for the post-COVID-19 recovery, ensuring policy coherence across government institutions at the national level and between national and local levels is essential for effective SDG implementation. Policy coherence will also help prioritize policy actions for inclusiveness, effectiveness, and resilience to build back better and achieve long-term national development goals. On the contrary, continued "silo thinking" will hamper the holistic SDG implementation and hinder actions for ensuring that no one is left behind. Effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic also require governments to increase the capability to address short- and long-term challenges and improve their resilience to economic, social, and environmental shocks.

This Session will discuss how effective governance can effectively contribute to addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis and building back better. This Session will also elaborate on the importance of policy coherence through institutional coordination at the national level and between national and local levels.

Guiding Questions:

1. Why is effective governance critical to addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate risks and building back better?
2. Why should effective governance be mainstreamed in the Common Country Analysis (CCA) of the UN Resident Coordinator system as a key strategic priority for building an equitable and inclusive society to leave no one behind?
3. What measures can governments take to promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach in building back better?

4. What capacities are needed to promote effective local governance and local ownership of the SDGs by local governments to accelerate the SDG implementation?
5. What are the major lessons from the perspective of public governance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years?

Session 2. Monitoring and review of the progress of SDG implementation by strengthening digital data governance and leveraging open government data

The digital transformation for data-centric governance has put real-time and quality data at the core of effective responses to COVID-19 and climate change. At the same time, amidst the accelerated pace of digital transformation for effective responses to COVID-19 and climate change, there have been rising concerns around privacy, data security, and data sovereignty, calling for instituting robust and dynamic data governance to ensure effective data sharing, institutional coordination, and protection of personal data.

To better review and address the existing challenges of SDG implementation and prioritize policy actions, effective institutional coordination mechanisms and open government data are needed for SDG monitoring and review. Monitoring, follow-up, and review are critical for effective implementation of the SDGs by assessing progress and outcomes, enabling informed and data-driven decision making, and providing insights on the links between policy decisions and outcomes. It is also essential to enhance transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation through open government data. Strengthening SDG tracking and monitoring is particularly important for effective, agile, and inclusive COVID-19 response and building back better, as the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic on the SDG implementation are significant and pervasive across different sectors. Tracking and monitoring are also critical for understanding and addressing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the most marginalized and vulnerable groups by collecting and analyzing disaggregated data and ensuring leaving no one behind.

For strengthening SDG monitoring and review systems, *firstly*, it is critical to enhance institutional coordination across government agencies as well as between national and local governments. Effective institutional framework and coordination across government levels contribute to the engagement of sub-national governments and local governments in SDG monitoring and review. The challenges in SDG monitoring and review are often attributed to the lack of planning and results-based processes and limitations in data availability. *Secondly*, it is also essential to engage diverse stakeholders in SDG monitoring and review, as the 2030 Agenda also highlights⁴. Contributions from various stakeholders, such as civil society organizations, including youth and women groups, indigenous peoples, the private sector, national parliaments, and supreme audit institutions, will enable inclusive, people-centered, and gender-sensitive monitoring and review processes. *Thirdly*, it is imperative to strengthen data governance for digital government transformation. The effective harnessing of digital technologies, including big data analytics, can

⁴ See Para 79, A/RES/70/1, Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

facilitate such institutional arrangements and improve technical capacities in tracking and monitoring the progress in SDG implementation.

This Session will provide an overview of the SDG implementation progress in the Asia and Pacific region and discuss how to strengthen tracking and monitoring of SDG implementation progress by introducing the challenges confronted and innovative country practices in promoting effective and inclusive SDG monitoring and review. It will share the experiences and lessons learned from the Member States that have conducted the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in 2021 and those Member States that are preparing for the VNRs in 2022.

Guiding questions

1. What is the overall SDG implementation progress in the Asia and Pacific region? How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the progress in SDG implementation, and what policy implications does it provide to countries with regard to building back better?
2. What are the major challenges that government confront in tracking and monitoring the SDG implementation?
3. What is the critical role of digital data governance and open government data for effective and inclusive monitoring and review of the SDG implementation progress?
4. How can digital data governance and open government data enable the necessary institutional arrangements and coordination across government agencies and between national and local governments required for effective SDG monitoring and review?
5. How does the digital data governance facilitate engagement of diverse stakeholders in the SDG monitoring and review processes and make the process inclusive, people-centered and gender-sensitive?
6. What are the approaches, strategies and innovative practices for producing, collecting, and analyzing quality, timely and accessible data, including disaggregated data, for SDG tracking and monitoring?
7. What are the experiences and lessons learned from conducting/preparing VNRs and VLRs with regard to effective monitoring and review of SDG implementation that can be shared with other countries?

Session 3. Innovation in public service delivery and digital transformation - Innovative approaches

Driving innovation for inclusive and equitable delivery and access to public services, including essential health care, education, and social services, is critical to effective responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change and building back better. The COVID-19 pandemic has been accelerating digital transformation and promoting digital cooperation between the government and businesses and people. In particular, many mobile applications have been developed to help "track-and-trace" the pandemic's development and address the contingencies in many sectors. The youth have been playing an instrumental role in innovation and supporting government initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, Internet traffic in some

countries increased by up to 60 per cent shortly after the outbreak of the pandemic.⁵ It is urgent to address the digital divide caused by various factors including gender, language, age, disability, and migration status within and among countries as digital have or have-nots create more inequalities and the vulnerable groups could be further left behind. The UN Secretary-General Report “Our Common Agenda” also emphasizes the importance of digital inclusivity for ensuring leaving no one behind and highlights universal access to the Internet as a human right.⁶ Bridging the gender digital divide has become policy priority in many countries. Governments have realized the urgency to strengthen digital infrastructure and digital capacities for delivering public services and engaging the society.

Accelerating digital transformation requires enhancing and promoting digital capacity-building, particularly enhancing the digital skills of the whole society. It is necessary to promote the public-private-people partnership as well as digital cooperation among countries to close the digital divide and ensure digital inclusion.

This Session aims to address how to facilitate innovation and digital transformation at the individual, organizational, institutional, and societal levels and explore how to strengthen digital skills and capacities to bridge the digital divide and ensure digital inclusion. This Session will also discuss how to strengthen partnerships with businesses and people and global digital cooperation.

Guiding Questions:

1. Why is innovative, inclusive, and effective public service delivery critical to ensuring agile response and leaving no one behind during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What are the key challenges and common success factors in digital transformation?
3. What are the effective approaches and strategies to enhancing digital skills and the capacity of the whole society to bridge the digital divide?
4. What are the effective approaches and strategies to enhance the digital transformation capacities at the individual, organizational, institutional and societal levels?
5. What are the effective approaches and strategies to foster public-private-people partnership (PPPP) and promote global digital cooperation for digital transformation?

Session 4. The role of public institutions and national to local governance in building resilience and promoting climate action

Climate change is affecting every country on every continent, especially those countries in special situations. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, and weather events are becoming more extreme. It is a global problem, felt on local scales that will be around for decades and centuries to come. Climate actions involve a

⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/keeping-the-internet-up-and-running-in-times-of-crisis-4017c4c9/>

⁶ United Nations (2021). The Report of Secretary-General “Our Common Agenda” , Summary.

two-pronged approach, i.e., mitigation and adaptation.⁷ Adaptation and mitigation are complementary strategies for reducing and managing the risks of climate change. In the Report “Our Common Agenda”, the UN Secretary-General stated that all countries should commit to the goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius as the global benchmark for mitigation ambition at the twenty-sixth session of Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2021. He would also urge the Conference, in line with his call for all States to declare a climate emergency, to accelerate action on an emergency footing, including by addressing new issues quickly and evolving with the science.⁸ Weak governance and lack of political commitment to invest in mitigation and adaptation are often the most common problems in addressing climate change. Fully acknowledging the importance of governance could contribute to effective decision-making for building resilience and promoting climate action.

Risk-informed governance at the national, regional, and global levels is of great importance for the effective and efficient management of disaster risks and climate change. Clear vision, plans, competence, guidance, coordination within and across sectors, and relevant stakeholders' participation are needed. Therefore, strengthening risk-informed governance for prevention, adaptation, adaptation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation is necessary. It fosters collaboration and partnership across mechanisms and institutions at all levels for disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable development. It should be emphasized that decisions made at the community or local level can be just as consequential for people facing increasing risks as a new national policy or governing body might be. Those susceptible to disasters and the impact of climate change must be brought into governance processes in meaningful and effective ways. Moreover, it is necessary to strengthen national to local governance in disaster risk reduction strategies and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also reinforced the significant role of local governments. Local governments have been the first responders to develop and implement emergency response measures, including delivering essential services and emergency assistance, especially to vulnerable groups. Local governance, with local governments at the center, is critical for addressing COVID-19 and climate change challenges and promoting a resilient and inclusive recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. Empowering local authorities to ensure local ownership of the SDGs, particularly by citizens and local communities and organizations, and to shape and translate national development priorities into local realities is very important in local implementation of the 2030 Agenda during this challenging time. In this regard, it is essential to strengthen national to local governance for policy integration and synergy for building back better.

Transparent, accountable, and participatory public finance management is a key element of effective governance, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic when governments face

⁷ Mitigation to reduce emissions and stabilize the levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere to prevent further change. Adapting to these changes and the associated impacts that are already locked in and will continue and evolve for the foreseeable future. (<https://climate.nasa.gov/solutions/adaptation-mitigation/>)

⁸ https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf, Para #82

decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures. Extraordinary circumstances in which decisions are often made overnight demand more transparency, accountability, and participation. Therefore, building inclusive, effective, and resilient institutions with effective governance is required for a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the climate risks.

This Session will focus on the importance of risk-informed governance and the critical role of local governance, with local governments at its core, in building resilience and promoting climate action. This Session will also focus on how to strengthen national to local governance for building resilience.

Guiding Questions:

1. How does national to local governance use a systems perspective to help manage climate change mitigation and adaptation?
2. How vital is risk-informed governance to addressing multi-hazards to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and climate risks?
3. What are the strategies to strengthen governance to align global climate change goals with local contexts, values, and capabilities?
4. How do you engage a broad range of local actors, including businesses and academic institutions, in the coordination mechanisms for climate change?
5. What are the importance and challenges encountered in leveraging data and digital technologies for building resilience?
6. What could be effective approaches to fostering the implementation of ESG principles in the business sector?

Session 5. Changing mindsets and upskilling of civil servants

The SDGs cannot be realized without changing mindsets and new capacities of civil servants at all levels of public institutions to translate the Goals and Targets into locally owned policies and strategies. It is necessary to ensure that competencies and skills of the public sector are directed to enabling the mainstreaming of the Goals in the daily operations of governments. As highlighted by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) in 2021, it is essential that governments give high priority to developing the right mindsets, capacities, and skills for mainstreaming and implementing the SDGs. Civil servants need to have a people-centered and collaborative mindset so that different government institutions can work in close collaboration and ensure policy integration and coherence. Particularly, civil servants should keep gender mainstreaming at the core of the people-centered mindset. Indeed, no meaningful government transformation can happen without changing public servants' mindsets, competencies, and behaviors. The Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development also highlight areas for capacity development. The UN E-Government Survey also introduces the approaches and strategies for enhancing capacities for digital government transformation.

In addition, promoting effective governance and digital transformation for effective, sustainable, and resilient recovery and building back better requires civil servants to be equipped with new

and upgraded competencies and skills. In addition to the transformative and holistic nature of the SDGs, which requires strengthening capacities and skills of civil servants at all levels, addressing the unprecedented and pervasive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and compounded risks it poses to economic, social, and environmental development also calls for upskilling of civil servants. Specifically, civil servants need to break silos thinking, develop a collaborative mindset for better institutional coordination and policy coherence and be equipped with systemic and designing thinking skills for integrated and holistic decision-making and problem-solving.

Furthermore, preparing for the "New Normal" in the post-COVID-19 era, with an exponential demand for digital services and so-called "non-contact industries," necessitates new mindsets, capacities, and skills for accelerating digital transformation transformative and innovative mindsets and digital skills. At the same time, civil servants need to be equipped with inclusive mindsets and empathy for better understanding and addressing the special vulnerabilities of the marginalized and vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. More importantly, changing mindsets and upskilling of civil servants can pave the way to developing the relevant mindsets and capacities at the societal level and establishing an enabling ecosystem for the whole society for fostering an effective, innovative and inclusive approach to building back better.

This Session will discuss the new mindsets, behaviors, competencies and skills that civil servants are required to be equipped with for building back better and various strategies and approaches to develop such capacities and skills at individual, organizational and institutional levels. The Session will introduce different country experiences and innovative practices in fostering mindset change and upskilling of civil servants, including upgrading the competency frameworks.

Guiding questions

- What are the new mindsets, behaviors, competencies and skills necessary for building back better and preparing for the post-COVID-19 era as well as responding to climate change?
- What are the strategies and approaches to effectively develop such necessary competencies of civil servants at individual, organizational and institutional levels?
- What are the major challenges in changing mindsets and developing competencies and skills of civil servants? What are the efforts and innovative practices to overcome those challenges?

V. Expected Outcomes

It is expected that by the end of the Symposium, participants will have:

- Enhanced understanding of the importance of effective governance and digital transformation in response to COVID-19 and climate crises and for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Increased understanding about the regional progress and imbalances as well as main challenges and good practices in SDG implementation and building back better;
- Further understanding about the importance of innovation and digital government for effective, efficient, and inclusive public service delivery and the urgency to develop data governance framework;
- Enhanced understanding and exchange of strategies and methodologies in building risk-informed governance and strengthen national to local governance for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- In-depth understanding of the urgency of changing mindsets and upskilling and capacity development of civil servants for SDG implementation and building back better;
- Enhanced transfer and adoption of innovative cases and good practices among participating countries in designing, delivering, and implementing policies and public service delivery for sustainable and resilient recovery;
- Strengthened partnerships facilitated among diverse stakeholders across sectors from the region; and
- Better understanding of the mission and mandates of DPIDG/UNPOG in providing public administration capacity development support to developing Member States in the region and beyond.

The Symposium is also expected to contribute to the 2022 HLPF, which will review in-depth the Goals 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (building global partnership). The overarching theme of the 2022 HLPF is "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

A report documenting the key discussions and outcomes of the proceedings will be produced and shared online with Symposium participants, stakeholders, and the wider public.

An evaluation will be carried out following the co-organizers' monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The evaluation will help determine the impact that participating in such an event had on the participants' knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

IV. Target Audience and Beneficiaries

The Symposium will primarily bring together participants from countries in Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Africa regions.

Participants will be composed of government officials from the target counties, in particular SDG focal points, ministries or other entities in charge of public administration and/or overseeing public service management, and ministries and agencies in charge of ICT and innovation. The Symposium will also bring together government officials, and other relevant stakeholders who are responsible for risk-informed development, public administration schools and training institutes, the private sector, civil society organizations, and academia.

The ultimate beneficiaries are the citizens in those countries who will benefit from a more sustainable and resilient recovery process and acceleration of the SDG implementation.

VI. Follow-up Actions

Commitments to further promote and integrate key lessons and outcomes of the Symposium into national policies and programmes to build sustainable and resilient societies with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in mind will be followed up via:

- Expression of commitment to integrating strategies and methodologies into policies, programmes, and legislative/ institutional frameworks;
- Increased number of domestic capacity development training activities, policy initiatives and actions induced by the Symposium to support the sustainable and resilient recovery and SDG implementation; and
- Number of partnerships between participating countries through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation.

VII. Co-organizers

The Symposium will be co-organized by the UN DESA and the Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)⁹

Rooted in the United Nations Charter and guided by the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) upholds the development pillar of the United Nations.

UN DESA brings the global community together to work towards common solutions to the world's most pressing problems. It helps countries translate their global commitments into national action in the economic, social, and environmental spheres.

⁹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, About UN DESA, Who we are
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/about/who-we-are.html>

UN DESA is a pioneer of sustainable development and the home of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where each goal finds its space and where all stakeholders can do their part to leave no one behind. We are a leading analytical voice for promoting inclusion, reducing inequalities, and eradicating poverty, and a champion for tearing down the barriers that keep people in poverty.

UN DESA helps countries make informed decisions by providing a wealth of information through our publications and databases and our support for international deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Commissions, Forums, and other bodies.

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety of the Government of the Republic of Korea

The Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) is responsible for general affairs of the State Council, the promulgation of Acts and subordinate statutes and treaties, government organization and a prescribed number of public officials, awards and decorations, government innovation, administrative efficiency, e-government, personal information protection, management of government buildings and support for elections and referendums.

Furthermore, MOIS actively promotes local autonomy and decentralization by supporting local governments' business, finance, and taxation and mediating disputes among local governments. In addition, MOIS takes charge of establishing, supervising, and adjusting policies related to safety and disaster management, such as emergency countermeasures, civil defense, and disaster prevention.

IX. Contact Information

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