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# **Philippine Mayors Forum on Innovation, Digital Governance, and Resilience Building towards Accelerated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Philippines**

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**Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development and Decentralization to Create an Enabling Environment for Accelerating and Implementing the 2030 Agenda**

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# Decentralization

- Decentralization is defined as the transfer of political, administrative and fiscal responsibilities and authority to subnational (regional or local) levels of government (Falleti, 2005).
- Decentralization gives subnational levels of government more responsibility in public policy delivery including its planning, implementation and, depending on the cases, financing.
- Strong and effective institutions are crucial for decentralization and the achievement of the SDGs.



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# What Does Dec. Mean for LRGs?: Localizing the SDGs

- The participation of subnational governments is essential to reduce inequality gaps, to "leave no one behind" and to implement public policies that not only manage to adequately respond to the difficulties of the territories, but also take advantage of and maximize their resources.
- Local governments are the administrative body closest to the citizenry; therefore, it is in an ideal position to approach the objectives and goals of the 2030 Agenda in a pragmatic way, integrating them in its particular context.
- By localizing the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda becomes not only a reference for the work of local authorities, but also a working tool. It becomes a roadmap.
- Subnational levels of government face several challenges in this regard (politically, administratively, and financially).
- Their work should be guided by the Principles of Effective Governance.



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## What are the Principles for Effective Governance for Sustainable Development?

- Institutions play a critical role in the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.
- However, public sector reforms needed to implement the SDGs continue to be a major and vexing challenge in many countries.
- Developed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA).
- The essential purpose of these voluntary principles is to provide practical, expert guidance in a broad range of governance challenges associated with implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- They highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to reach the SDGs.
- Accompanied by Strategic Guidance notes.





## Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

### Effectiveness

- » Competence
- » Sound policymaking
- » Collaboration

### Accountability

- » Integrity
- » Transparency
- » Independent oversight

### Inclusiveness

- » Leaving no one behind
- » Non-discrimination
- » Participation
- » Subsidiarity
- » Intergenerational equity



## Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

### What are they for?

- » Building strong institutions at all levels
- » Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
- » Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

### Where do they come from?

- » Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
- » Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
- » Based on United Nations agreements

### How can countries benefit from them?

- » As an analytical framework in policy formulation
- » As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
- » As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives



### » Committee of Experts on Public Administration

CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.



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## A New Approach to Governance is Needed

- A "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach is needed for SDGs implementation.
- What does it mean?
  - Using the Principles of Effective Governance to guide policy-making & capacity dev.
  - Collaboration, coordination, integration, and dialogue across all levels of government
  - Governance is based on networks
  - Multistakeholders partnerships are essential

➡ We aim to avoid working in silos and move to a holistic vision of governance.

➡ It requires constant collaboration, coordination AND communication.



# Conclusions

- Decentralization is a long-term process that requires leadership commitment at all levels.
- Localizing does not mean a radical change from what LRGs did before, but rather an opportunity to re-orient local priorities and policies and demonstrate the role of subnational governments in reducing inequalities and in achieving the SDGs at the national and global levels.
- LRGs can demonstrate their leadership role in promoting a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach by applying the Principles for Effective Governance to:
  - Promote transparency, participation and accountability.
  - Guide their legislative and executive activities incorporating the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.
  - Ensure the effective and efficient use of resources.
  - Support and collaborate in the strengthening of multilevel relations.
  - Promote collaboration and cooperation with citizens, the private sector and organized civil society.



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**THANK YOU**

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