Online Training Workshop on
Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation

Organized by

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)/ Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)/ United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)

Concept Note & Agenda

23 and 30 March 2021
14:00-16:30 KST

Via Zoom

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), is organizing an Online Training Workshop on "Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation" to pilot the Training Toolkit on the same topic, which is part of the UN DESA/DPIDG's Curriculum on Governance for SDGs. Some selected Modules from the Toolkit will be covered during the 2-day Training Workshop.

The Training Workshop intends to develop capacities of government officials and other stakeholders responsible for SDG localization by introducing approaches, strategies, and tools

for enhancing national to local public governance for SDG implementation. The Training will include thematic presentations, innovative practices, and group discussions, which will help participants transform in-depth learning into practice. The audience will have a chance to interact with the speakers during the discussion session.

I. Thematic Focus

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/327 emphasizes the growing need to strengthen public institutions and public services to support sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to strengthen government institutions, including at the local level. The SDG 16 aims to achieve "peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels," and the SDG 11 aims to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Furthermore, the Principles for Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN CEPA) in its resolution 2018/12 and endorsed in 2019 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), highlight the need for ongoing pragmatic improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements.[1]

The UN Summit on SDGs in September 2019, which resulted in the adoption of the Political Declaration, "Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development", calls for strengthening institutions for more integrated solutions and specifically the need to equip domestic institutions to better address interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs between the Goals and targets through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that can bring about transformative change in governance and public policy and ensure policy coherence for sustainable development.[2] Moreover, the UN General Assembly Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations reaffirms the importance of concerted political and development cooperation efforts to advance the implementation of SDG at the local level.[3]

Implementing the 2030 Agenda will depend on how the SDGs are coordinated and implemented through national to local governance. The UN CEPA calls for elaborating local 2030 Agendas, which could link global goals to the local action, and raise awareness of sustainable development.[4] The relationship between national and local governments should be based on effective collaboration and coordination, and the resources of local governments should be commensurate with their responsibilities. According to the World Public Sector Report 2018, these resources depend on national decentralization policies related to fiscal,

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[1] See Principles of effective governance for sustainable development. E/2018/44-E/C.16/2018/8

[2] United Nations General Assembly (2019). Political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly. A/RES/74/4. https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/4

[3] United Nations General Assembly (2020). Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. A/RES/75/1. https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/1

[4] CEPA 15th session, 2016. Challenges for institutions in ensuring that no one is left behind. Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10196Cmtt%20of%20Experts%20on%20Public%20Admin%20contribution%20to%20HLPF%20recd%202016-May-5.pdf

administrative and political areas - where some countries have increased political decentralization, but not fiscal decentralization.[5] Capacity development of local government must account for national decentralization contexts, noting that some local governments are limited by the absence of effective national to local governance policies.

Local authorities are in a unique position to engage all stakeholders in designing policies and development strategies. However, they sometimes lack access to information and resources as that of the central government and the capacity to implement the SDGs. The local government's role is critical for achieving the SDGs and ensuring leaving no one behind, given their proximity to and understanding their communities' challenges and the mandate to deliver essential public services effectively, such as education, health, housing, energy, water, and sanitation. Local governments require increased knowledge and skills on the SDGs to ensure institutional effectiveness locally.

II. Learning Objectives

By the end of the Online Training, participants will be able to:

- ➢ Improve the understanding of the whole-of-government approach and its importance for SDG implementation
- ➢ Identify the main strengths and challenges of different governance structures and common features in the government structure
- ➢ Acquire knowledge of innovative approaches and tools for local governance and local partnership for the SDGs attainment
- ➢ Learn the strategies and approaches to strengthening stakeholder participation
- ➢ Learn to strengthen emergency preparedness to ensure a timely, efficient and effective response during public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic
- ➢ Learn about applying digital government tools to address challenges of public health emergencies
- ➢ Strengthen capacities in innovative financing for implementing SDG at the local level

III. Structure & Session Themes

Session 1: Effective Institutions and Whole-of-Government Approach for Localization

Localizing is the process of taking into account local contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.[6] Localization relates both to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up and to how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.[7] All of the

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[5] UN DESA (2018). World Public Sector Report 2018. https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/world-public-sector-report-2018.html

[6] https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/e-library/localizing-sdgs-strategies-and-plans

[7] Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/commitments/818_11195_commitment_ROADMAP%20LOCALIZING%20SDGS.pdf

SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, particularly to their role in delivering basic services. That is why local and regional government institutions play a critical role in achieving all the SDGs and targets. But public sector reforms needed to implement the SDGs continue to be a major and vexing challenge in many countries. To address this challenge concretely, a set of Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development has been developed. Institutions enabled by effective governance will be critical for providing and expanding the social and economic safety nets and social assistance to those furthest left behind. As governments have been on the front line in combating the COVID-19, the role of effective public institutions in delivering essential services and providing social and economic safety nets has never been so important as it is today.

A whole-of-government approach is a way to ensure policy coherence that responds to the needs of better coordination between national and local institutions. This approach entails moving away from fragmented and silo-based sector strategies to a holistic approach where vertical and horizontal collaboration helps build synergies between the SDGs. The Session will highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities via a whole-of-government approach to reach the SDGs.

Session 2: National to Local Governance for Effective Public Health Emergency Management

Efforts by governments to fight the spread of the COVID-19 have highlighted the critical role of effective and inclusive governance. While there have been some rapid and effective responses by governments, in many respects, the pandemic has exposed some shortfalls in national resilience to the crisis, particularly in the way the Member State relates to its people in realizing the values and principles of effective governance. This Session will focus on strengthening governance capacities in the full process of preparedness, prevention, response, and post-recovery to respond to health emergencies.

Session 3: Whole-of-Society Approach for SDG Localization

A whole-of-society approach to SDG implementation requires an enabling environment that promotes partnership and contributions by a wide range of stakeholders to collective impact. The integrated nature of the SDGs demands collaboration and cooperation across sectors and in partnership with local communities that understand best how to address local sustainable development challenges. Effective coordination is also key to avoid duplication of efforts and promote synergies. Partnerships can be harnessed to foster innovation, integrated approaches, solidarity and inclusivity, and actions to leave no one behind. Governments facilitate enabling environments for partnership, including through supportive policy frameworks, mapping of efforts by stakeholders from across society and sharing of information, ongoing multi-stakeholder engagement, and initiatives that promote collective contributions towards sustainable development. This Session will focus on strengthening stakeholder engagement to implement and review the progress of achieving the 2030 Agenda at the local level. It will also showcase concrete aspects, principles, and constituencies related

to meaningful stakeholder engagement and participation provisions, including leaving no one behind.

Session 4: Financing for SDG Localization

As recognized by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, in more and more countries, "expenditures and investments in sustainable development are being devolved to the subnational level, which often lacks adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support".[8] One of the biggest hurdles facing local governments today is the mismatch between their increasing responsibilities and static revenues. Many local governments are unable to fund rising demands for investments in infrastructure and public services. Many local governments have weaker fiscal bases, creditworthiness, and limited access to long-term funding. Local governments that steer the course of SDG localization need to mobilize innovative financing mechanisms and incorporate financial planning as an integral aspect of all action plans. This Session will focus on designing and implementing innovative financing frameworks. Participants will learn about the action areas for local financing and fostering sustainable access to long-term finance.

IV. Format

The two-day Online Training Workshop will be composed of four sessions (2.5 hours each day). Each Session will include thematic presentations and Q&A discussion. Session 1 and Session 3 will also include Breakout group discussion. The Training will be conducted in English through the online platform Zoom.

Participants are also invited to join the Online Discussion Board to continue discussions and exchange ideas and practices among participants. Training documents, including presentations, reference materials, etc., will also be shared with the participants via the Online Discussion Board.

V. Targeted Audience

The target audience of the Online Training Workshop will be mainly government officials from both national and local government agencies; schools of public administration and institutes of public management; and young professionals from developing countries currently enrolled in Seoul National University (SNU) International Technology Professional Program (ITPP) who are mid-career government officials.

VI. Registration

Apply online by **22 March 2021** at https://bit.ly/3qTWVSu

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[8] https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

VII. Agenda

Time	Day 1: 23 March 2021
14:00-14:02	**Opening** • **Mr. Bokyun Shim,** Head of UN Project Office on Governance, DPIDG/UN DESA
14:02-14:05	**Remarks** • **Professor Junseok Hwang, Director,** Seoul National University Global R&DB Center
14:05-15:00	**Session 1: Effective Institutions and Whole of Government Approach for Localization**
14:05-14:35	**Presentations** • **Mr. Bokyun Shim,** Head of UN Project Office on Governance, DPIDG/UN DESA *(15 mins)* • **Mr. Prabin Maharjan**, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA *(15 mins)*
14:35-15:00	**Breakout Session**
15:00-15:05	**Reporting to the Plenary**
15:05-15:25	**Q&A**
15:25-15:30	**Wrap up & Next Session**
15:30-16:30	**Session 2: National to Local Governance for Effective Public Health Emergency Management**
15:30-16:00	**Presentations** • **Mr. Prabin Maharjan**, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA *(15 mins)* • **Ana Thorlund,** Programme Management Officer, UNDRR *(15 mins)*
16:00-16:25	**Q&A**
16:25-16:30	**Wrap up & Closing**

Time	Day 2: 30 March 2021
14:00-15:30	**Session 3: Whole-of-Society Approach for SDG Localization**
14:00-14:30	**Presentations** • **Mr. Prabin Maharjan**, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA *(15 mins)* • **Dr. Alex Brillantes,** Professor, National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) of the University of the Philippine**s** *(15 mins)*
14:30-15:00	**Breakout Session**
15:00-15:05	**Reporting to the Plenary**

15:05-15:25	**Q&A**
15:25-15:30	**Wrap up & Next Session**
15:30-16:30	**Session 4: Financing for SDG Localization**
15:30-16:00	**Presentations** • **Mr. Prabin Maharjan**, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA *(15 mins)* • **Lennart Fleck,** Municipal Finance and Local Economic Development Expert, UN-HABITAT *(15 mins)*
16:00-16:28	**Q&A**
16:28-16:30	**Wrap-up & Closing** • **UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG**

VIII. Review of Training Toolkit

Participants are requested to review and provide comments on the Training Toolkit on "Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation."

Link to access the Toolkit: http://bit.ly/2OlrZh1

Please submit your responses through this link: http://bit.ly/38Eg04T

IX. Contact Information

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