Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions (Goal 16.6)

- Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Institutions cover a wide-range of areas, which range from the administration of all executive, legislative and judicial organs, the security and justice sectors, to independent constitutional bodies and State corporations.

- Institutional arrangements are central to all public functions. Building strong institutions for implementation of the SDGs are crucial.

- One of the first and most important steps governments take to implement the 2030 Agenda is to shape different institutional arrangements for driving the achievement of the sustainable development goals and for reviewing progress.

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

CEPA » **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.

DESA | Public Institutions

They are intended to:

- Help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build **effective, accountable and inclusive** institutions at all levels
- Support countries in operationalizing the institutional aspects of SDG 16 through **concrete strategies**
- Promote **mainstreaming of effective governance in SDG implementation** and development plans and programmes at all levels
- Bring together **proven standards and operational guidelines** in all areas of public sector institution-building relevant to SDG implementation
- Provide a **baseline for policymaking** while strengthening evidence-based and action-oriented implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda
- The principles are given depth and made operational through a selection of **commonly used strategies and related practices,** which are an integral and evolving part of this work.

EFFECTIVENESS

COMPETENCE
--Promotion of a professional public sector workforce
--Strategic human resources management
--Leadership development, training of civil servants
--Performance management
--Results-based management
--Financial management and control
--Efficient and fair revenue administration
--Investment in e-government

SOUND POLICY-MAKING
--Strategic planning and foresight
--Regulatory impact analysis
--Promotion of coherent policymaking
--Strengthening national statistical systems
--Monitoring & evaluation systems
--Science-policy interface
--Risk management frameworks
--Data sharing

COLLABORATION
--Centre of government coordination under Head of State / Government
--Collaboration, coordination, Integration, dialogue across levels of government, functional areas
--Raising awareness on SDGs
--Network-based governance
--Multi-stakeholder partnerships

ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY
--Promotion of anti-corruption policies, practices and bodies
--Codes of conduct for public officials
--Competitive public procurement
--Elimination of bribery, influence trading
--Conflict of interest policies
--Whistle-blower protection
--Provision of adequate remuneration and equitable pay scales for public servants

TRANSPARENCY
--Proactive disclosure of information
--Budget transparency
--Open government data
--Registries of beneficial ownership
--Lobby registries

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT
--Promotion of the independence of regulatory agencies
--Arrangements for review of administrative decisions by courts or other bodies
--Independent audit
--Respect for legality

INCLUSIVENESS

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
--Promotion of equitable fiscal and monetary policy
--Promotion of social equity
--Data disaggregation
--Systematic follow-up and review

NON-DISCRIMINATION
--Promotion of public sector workforce diversity
--Prohibition of discrimination in public service delivery
--Multilingual service delivery
--Accessibility standards
--Cultural audit of institutions
--Universal birth registration
--Gender-responsive budgeting

PARTICIPATION
--Free and fair elections
--Regulatory process of public consultation
--Multi-stakeholder forums
--Participatory budgeting
--Community-driven development

SUBSIDIARITY
--Fiscal federalism
--Strengthening urban governance
--Strengthening municipal finance and local finance systems
--Enhancement of local capacity for prevention, adaptation and mitigation of external shocks

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY
--Multilevel governance
--Sustainable development impact assessment
--Long-term public debt management
--Long-term territorial planning and spatial development
--Ecosystem management

Accountability

3 principles:

- Integrity: To serve in the public interest, civil servants are to discharge their official duties honestly, fairly and in a manner consistent with soundness of moral principle (7 strategies)

- Transparency: To ensure accountability and enable public scrutiny, institutions are to be open and candid in the execution of their functions and promote access to information, subject only to the specific and limited exceptions as are provided by law (5 strategies)

Accountability (contd)

Independent oversight: To retain trust in government, oversight agencies are to act according to strictly professional considerations and apart from and unaffected by others (4 strategies)

Accountability Strategies

- Promotion of anti-corruption policies, practices and bodies • Codes of conduct for public officials • Competitive public procurement • Elimination of bribery and trading in influence • Conflict of interest policies • Whistle-blower protection • Provision of adequate remuneration and equitable pay scales for public servants • Proactive disclosure of information • Budget transparency • Open government data • Registries of beneficial ownership • Lobby registries • Promotion of the independence of regulatory agencies • Arrangements for review of administrative decisions by courts or other bodies • Independent audit • Respect for legality.

DESA strategy guidance notes

- DESA/DPIDG led the development of strategy guidance notes and held two workshops on sound policymaking and one on intergenerational equity. Strategy guidance notes on leaving no one behind are forthcoming. Presently preparing strategy guidance notes on subsidiarity.

- For more information please see: https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Intergovernmental-Support/CEPA/Principles-of-Effective-Governance