



2016 Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity
Asia's New Order and Cooperative Leadership

Joint Sessions on
“Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals
through Institutional Coordination, Policy
Integration and Government Innovation at
National and Local levels”

Organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social
Affairs, Division for Public Administration and Development Management,
through the United Nations Project Office on Governance

in collaboration with the Korea Institute of Public Administration

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Jeju, Republic of Korea

25 – 26 May 2016

1. SPONSORSHIP AND PURPOSE

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Division for Public Administration and Development Management, is organizing two thematic sessions within the framework of the 2016 Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity. This is done through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), and in collaboration with the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)¹.

The Jeju Forum will focus on “*Asia’s New Order and Cooperative Leadership*”. It will be held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 25 to 27 May 2016. The event is organized by the Jeju Peace Institute and other hosts, including the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, the International Peace Institute, and the East Asia Foundation.

The purpose of organizing two thematic sessions on “Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through Institutional Coordination, Policy Integration and Government innovation at national and Local levels is to provide a platform for discussion on policy integration among national and local governments for vertical coherence and government innovation through collaboration and open government. The thematic session on policy integration among all levels of government will look at how national-local institutional and governance structures can be strengthened to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including through the use of ICT and e-government as useful policy tools. The other session on government innovation will focus on collaborative governance and open government as a means to enhance accountability, transparency and citizen engagement.

It is expected that around 50 participants will attend these two sessions, including senior government officials from national and local levels, experts from academia, civil society and international organizations.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

¹ UNPOG is a DPADM’s office devoted to the promotion of effective, inclusive, participatory and innovative public administration in the Asia and Pacific region whereas KIPA is a Korean research institute seeking to advance national administration by continuing to produce excellent research findings in the areas of public administration and policy.

2.1 Background

We are at a critical time in history as we are witnessing complex and inter-dependent social, economic and environmental challenges, which are posing great risks to the sustainability of our planet. “These problems are not accidents of nature or the results of phenomena beyond our control. They result from actions and omissions of people – public institutions, the private sector, and others charged with protecting human rights and upholding human dignity.”²

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, a common transformative vision based on solidarity, accountability and shared responsibility will guide governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote a better world for all. The SDGs will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in the area of People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity, and Partnership. The 2030 Agenda envisages a world in which “democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at the national and international levels, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger” (A/RES/70/1, para. 9). The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions” (A/RES/70/1, para. 35). Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda specifically calls for effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/327, adopted in September 2015, further emphasizes the growing need to strengthen public institutions and public services in support of sustainable development and reaffirms the importance of freedom, human rights, good governance, the rule of law and effective accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels as central to enable inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development.

As we transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are universal and highly inter-dependent,

² Synthesis Report, 2014, para. 12,

governments need to adopt innovative approaches and develop capacities to promote policy change and integration, institutional coordination, participatory decision-making processes, and effective, responsive, inclusive and accountable service delivery. In fact, sustainable development emphasizes a holistic, equitable and far-sighted approach in decision-making at all levels. The implementation of the 2030 development agenda and the SDGs therefore call for an unprecedented level of policy integration and institutional coordination. In addition, the complex challenges of sustainable development and ever-increasing citizen demands for speedy and efficient government services all require for government innovation, as traditional models of public administration may not always be able to effectively deal with multi-faceted development issues, such as environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction and crisis management.

Taking advantage of the potential of ICT as an enabler of effective and inclusive public services, many governments in both developing and developed countries have embraced innovation. They have also started to move towards a model of open government, which rests on the full collaboration of people from all groups in society. This is seen as an important strategy to advance social inclusion, pursue long-term economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability

2.2 Context

The main theme of 2016 Jeju Forum is *Cooperative Leadership*, which is essential to strengthen horizontal and vertical policy coherence, as well as institutional coordination among national and local governments in support of sustainable development. Horizontal and vertical institutional coordination, which requires, among other things, re-examining the respective responsibilities of all levels of government, is also a key ingredient to ensure implementation of the SDGs. In fact, since the SDGs and targets are a network of goals whereby each goal covers multiple domains of sustainable development, an integrated cross-sectoral and vertical coherent approach to implementation is required. The UN Secretary General's 2014 Synthesis Report states that “many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities.”³ Localization of the SDGs has been a

³ SG Report, Para. 94

subject of active discussion among Member States, especially the principles and mechanisms of sharing responsibilities and resources between national and local governments, and how to support a decision making process that is fair, responsive, inclusive, participatory and accountable. The effective localization of the SDGs is also dependent on the capacity of governments to promote vertical policy coherence by strengthening the institutional capacity of local authorities.

Government innovation is essential to achieve the SDGs, and innovation is an enabling ecosystem that encourages citizen engagement, empowers individuals and acts as a holistic process to promote citizen and business engagement for government transformation. A number of countries around the globe are designing and implementing innovations in public administration with a focus on open government and collaborative governance.

The role of collecting and managing data will also become increasingly important to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals, which must be informed and supported by the best available sound technologies. In this regard, ICTs are already having profound impact on the pace and scale of development.⁴ Government innovations, which are data driven, can be grouped around five main areas:: 1) collaborative governance - government-private co-creating public value and government as a platform; 2) open government data for transparency, accountability and citizen engagement; 3) cloud computing for information sharing and collaboration; 4) data analytics for anticipatory governance and improving government performance; 5) crowdsourcing and crowdfunding for innovative financing for sustainable development; and 6) renewed importance of geographic information systems (GIS) to improve service delivery.

Capacity building can become the key to achieving government innovation and public accountability, improve skills, boost professionalism and mobilize citizens to become involved, thus generating a positive effect on democracy and development alike.⁵

Promoting government innovation to ensure advancement of the sustainable

⁴ Opening Remarks on 2015 DPADM Expert Group Meeting “Advancing a Sustainable Information Society for All” by Mr. Lenni Montiel, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations, 8 June 2015

⁵“ Strengthening national and local capacities for sustainable development management”, Committee of Experts on Public Administration Thirteenth session, 7-11 April 2014, Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda, E/C.16/2014/2

development goals lies in building and developing governance and public administration institutions that are equipped to support sustainable development. This requires capacity to promote partnerships, collaboration, change, transparency and accountability, as well as the rule of law, peace and security, and human rights. The use of modern information and communications technologies in government can be an important enabler to engage citizens, improve transparency and accountability, as well as streamline processes in order to make public administration more effective. It can also help in reaching out to vulnerable groups provided that that people are equipped with access to the Internet and have adequate capacities to utilize online services.

Innovation should not only be seen as a single practice, but as a process to transform government to better respond to citizens' needs and aspirations crystallized in the national development strategies and policies that reflect the ambitions of the SDGs. Although there are no “one-size fits all” recipes to innovation, there are mechanisms and tools that can help build endogenous capacity in this area sometimes inspired by experiences of innovations from elsewhere.

3. THEMES

In light of the above, two thematic sessions will be organized within the context of the Jeju Forum. Session I will focus on “Policy integration and institutional coordination: localizing the SDGs at national and local levels”. Session II will focus on “Government innovation: collaborative Governance and Open Government in support of sustainable development”.

Session I. Government innovation: collaborative governance and open government.

The integrated nature of the SDGs and the complexity in implementing the SDGs require rethinking “business-as-usual” practices.

This session will provide a platform to discuss new innovative approaches in public service delivery. In particular, it will focus on collaborative governance and how people are being engaged to support the

implementation of the SDGs. Moreover, this session will touch upon legal and regulatory changes that are needed to promote innovation in governments at all levels.

Session II. Policy integration and institutional coordination: localizing SDGs at national and local levels

This session will provide an opportunity to discuss how to develop institutional frameworks, mechanisms and governance structures that enable national and local governments to share responsibilities and resources. . It will also look at the pivotal roles that local authorities may play to localize and implement the SDGs. Bringing local governments into the picture of SDGs implementation is vital not only to foster coherence and harmonization across levels of administration, but also to improve efficiency in service delivery.

4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Joint Sessions will provide the opportunity to promote capacity development and exchange knowledge about policies, strategies, innovative practices and lessons learned on how to localize the Sustainable Development Goals through institutional coordination, policy integration and Government innovation at national and local levels. In particular, it is expected that participants will be able to:

- Share knowledge about policy integration and institutional coordination among all levels of government for localizing SDGs and the significant role of local governance in facilitating this vertical coherence;
- Increase understanding of the importance of government innovation for supporting SDG implementation. It will also draw lessons learned on the main characteristics of government innovation, focusing in particular on collaboration and open government.
- Foster networking with government officials, experts, academics and practitioners, both national and international, and peer-to-peer knowledge transfer during and beyond the event.

6. DATE AND VENUE

- Date: 25 – 26 May 2016
- Venue: Jeju, Republic of Korea

7. LANGUAGE

The thematic sessions will be conducted in English.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

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