

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS FOR SDGs

10 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Strong public institutions are critical for achieving the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind. UN DESA continues to raise awareness of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions while also helping countries build the capacity of their public institutions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve the goals.

UN DESA...

- Raised awareness of SDG 16 and of its critical importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Built governance capacities of public institutions through over 100 capacity-development activities, including a Webinar Series on “Leveraging Public Governance and Spearheading Innovative Solutions to Address COVID-19” in various regions of the world.
- Paid homage to public servants and the lifesaving work that they have undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic during the United Nations Public Service Day event.
- Supported Member States in addressing governance issues relating to COVID-19.
- Brought together 23 world renowned experts to examine how to promote effective governance and institutional reform to accelerate delivery of the SDGs with particular reference to the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery at the 19th session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration.

*Scene at UN Headquarters During 74th Session of General Assembly
- Photo Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elias*

Strengthening institutions for SDGs

UN DESA is working to strengthen the capacities of public institutions and public servants to deliver good quality public services to everyone. Never has the need for effective and accountable institutions, inclusive public service delivery and the critical role of public servants been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Participants in the 19th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration – Photo Credit: UN DESA/Mimi Wang

Supporting implementation of SDG 16

At the 19th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on 13-28 May 2020, experts considered ways to promote effective governance and institutional reform to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs. The context of the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery was a key focus. The Committee put forward key messages and recommendations for accelerating progress and moving onto transformative pathways for realizing the

Decade of Action through promoting effective governance and institutional reform. The Committee noted that the 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, adopted by ECOSOC, had been put to the test in the pandemic and proven useful. It also underscored the ability of governments to take steps in response to the pandemic, underlining their renewed commitment to achieve the SDGs by the year 2030. The Committee further stressed the importance of strengthening the

capacity of State institutions and re-establishing credible governance and public administration institutions in countries affected by conflict. It also stressed the important role of sub-national and local governments in delivering the SDGs and drew attention to the negative impact of unbalanced budgeting on delivery of the SDGs.

The Department further updated its **Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for the Implementation of the SDGs**, documenting institutional arrangements for the 47 countries that presented Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF on sustainable development in 2019.

Building capacity for effective governance

In 2019, UN DESA facilitated more than 100 capacity building activities, training a total of 10,677 government officials, in the areas of transformational leadership and equipping public servants with the capacities to implement the SDGs; governance and institutions; innovation for public service delivery; digital government, and public accountability in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America. Participants from 161 countries took part in these events. UN DESA undertook its activities in close collaboration with regional commissions, resident coordinators, schools of public administration and relevant regional organizations working in the field of governance and institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical role of responsive and effective institutions and public service delivery and the critical role of public servants. To rapidly address some needs of the Member States, UN DESA launched a capacity development webinar series on leveraging public governance and innovative solutions to address COVID-19. The first webinar, held in May 2020, welcomed more than 400 participants from 82 countries via WebEx and garnered over 3,800 views on Facebook Live, reaching 12,500 Facebook users. One of the outcomes of the webinar series will be a governance checklist of actionable measures for addressing COVID-19 through effective governance.

The Department's COVID-19 policy brief series also addressed issues of digital governance, the importance of transparency, accountability and participation at the national level in response to COVID-19, the role of public servants in the crisis, and the critical need for an effective state-people relationship for managing a nation-wide crisis.

IN FOCUS



Just days after the release of the UN DESA Covid-19 Policy Brief on Digital Governance, the University of Buenos Aires used its analysis and recommendations to organize a webinar with the city of Buenos Aires, the Council of the Judiciary of the City of Buenos Aires and the Office of the Public Prosecutor. More than 200 civil servants and judges attended the webinar.

Training the trainers

The Department delivered capacity-development support to 57 institutes and schools of public administration from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Latin America through the Global initiative on Building Capacities of Public Servants for SDGs Implementation. This contributed to equipping public servants with knowledge to implement the SDGs.

UN DESA is also developing a Curriculum on Governance for Implementing the SDGs. The curriculum focuses on providing public servants with knowledge and skills related to the 2030 Agenda and helps them respond to the needs of transforming institutions and public service delivery. It is being co-created with schools of public administration from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Middle East.

Strengthening and supporting supreme audit institutions

UN DESA continued to support the work of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) worldwide to audit the

implementation of the SDGs. The Department contributed to the development of an SDG audit model by the Development Initiative of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (IDI). The model (ISAM) was issued in March 2020. More than 40 SAIs from several regions will use ISAM to examine government efforts in building strong and resilient national public health systems (SDG target 3.D). The model will also be used by 14 SAIs to audit sustainable public procurement practices in Latin America (SDG target 12.1), as well as by SAIs in the Pacific to audit implementation of target 5.2 on violence against women.

Building knowledge networks for strengthening public institutions

In 2020, the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN) website was revamped to allow for easier information sharing and coordination of its work. UNPAN is a global network that connects international, regional, sub-regional and national institutions and experts working on governance and effective, inclusive and accountable public institutions for sustainable development.

Participants at the Symposium on “Strengthening Capacities of Public Institutions for Transformational Leadership, Innovation and Inclusion to Realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 in East Africa” – Photo Credit: Kenya School of Government

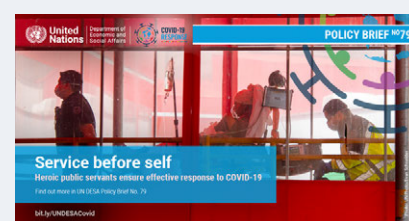


UN DESA's UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) continued to strengthen its role as a knowledge hub and platform for policy dialogue among Member States to exchange innovative practices in strengthening public administration for achieving the 2030 Agenda. UNPOG was active in organizing webinars, study visits and workshops aimed at advancing implementation of the SDGs. It conducted 70 activities with participation of over 6,100 people from more than 130 countries in 2019, including organization of the Regional Symposium on Leveraging Public Governance to Accelerate the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals—Transformation, Innovation and Inclusion, in November.

Celebrating public servants during a pandemic

Since 2003, UN DESA has been rewarding innovation and excellence in public service with the United Nations Public Service Awards, conferred at the annual United Nations Public Service Forum (UNPSF). The UNPSF offers an opportunity for public servants from different countries to come together and share challenges and strategies for better delivery of public services. The Forum took place for the first time in a virtual format on the UN Public Service Day, 23 June 2020. This event celebrated the critical role of public services and public servants during a pandemic. It paid homage to public servants and the lifesaving work they have undertaken during the pandemic. It also examined the approaches countries have taken, while looking at what measures they are undertaking to better mitigate such challenges going forward, including through enhancing public service provision in health care, social welfare provision and education, and the role of technology and e-government.

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UN Public Service Day, paying tribute to frontline public servants, resulted in 1,200 media mentions, 16,000 social media posts, and close to 60,000 engagements.