



DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: November 2011

1. Seminar on “Challenges and Opportunities of Participatory Governance in North African countries: Engaging Citizens and their Organizations in Public Development Affairs through Adequate Institutions”

A two tier approach to address the strong demand for technical assistance and capacity building from governments and non-government organizations in the North African region consisting of i) enhancing democracy and electoral processes; and ii) fostering reforms in the public administration to increase transparency and accountability to citizens, to counter corruption and to serve citizens in inclusive and equitable ways (particularly with regard to the youth and women) was the conclusion of a seminar held on 20-21 October in Rabat. The seminar was organized by DPADM/DESA in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), with the support of the Kingdom of Morocco, to analyze the institutional needs to better engage citizens in development management and to enhance participatory governance.

Additionally, representatives from DPADM, ECA and ESCWA agreed to pursue capacity building activities related to participatory governance, citizen engagement and development management, with UN-HABITAT expressing a strong interest to join them within the next two years. Furthermore, representatives from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe also expressed in principle to come together with the DPADM, ECA and ESCWA to contribute on matters of democracy, elections and related institutions.

2. Workshop on “Engaging Citizens to Counter Corruption for Better Public Service Delivery and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals”

At the workshop on "Engaging Citizens to Counter Corruption for Better Public Service Delivery and Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals", DPADM and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) agreed to pursue cooperation for anti-corruption capacity building in governments and civil society. UNDP also expressed interest to explore cooperation opportunities. The workshop, which was held on 26-27 October in Marrakesh, in cooperation with UNODC was a side event to the 4th Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). DPADM, on invitation from UNODC delivered a statement to the Conference on behalf of all participants at the workshop, emphasizing that effective anti-corruption strategies can not be pursued by specialized anti-corruption agencies alone, but need ample buy-in from the entire public administration and citizens, including organizations in civil society and the private sector.

3. Possible Collaboration with the Swedish National Audit Office

Haiyan Qian met with a delegation led by Mr. Anders Hjertstrand, Director of International Development Cooperation, Swedish National Audit Office (NAO) in an exploratory mission to explore possible ways of collaborating with DPADM to help combat corruption. Haiyan Qian appraised them on the Division's work highlighting its work in promoting good governance and



combating corruption through citizen engagement, e-government, and human resource development and institution building, for which they showed great interest owing to the fact that it related to their mission. She further informed them about United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS), explaining its importance as a tool that will enable the consolidation and sharing of knowledge and best practices/ lessons learned with the aim of providing increased knowledge to Member States. She expressed that the Division is ready to collaborate with Swedish NAO to showcase their experiences in building capacities of supreme audit institutions, which she felt would be of great value especially to Member States with less developed supreme audit institutions. They agreed to consider sharing their experiences in building capacities of supreme audit institutions with DPADM for showcasing as part of UNPACS. The Swedish NAO which is a member of INTOSAI, is working towards building capacities of supreme audit institutions and have signed agreements with 15 African countries including having a presence across 23 countries in Africa. They are also working with Eastern European countries and moving towards working with Latin American and Asian countries.

4. Collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea

DPADM and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Republic of Korea will collaborate in translating United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN) into the Korean language and also create web content for promotion of United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) for the User Created Content (UCC), the Korean equivalent of YouTube. These were part of the outcomes of a meeting held between Haiyan Qian and a Korean delegation led by Mr. Bon Suk Kong, Information Technology and Statistics Officer Director, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on 1 November 2011. The delegation enquired about the possibility of having the public services provided through the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism assessed in the UN e- Government Survey and about UNPSA. In response, Haiyan Qian gave them an overview of the Division's work mentioning that the UN e- Government Survey measures the seamlessness with which citizens engage with their governments especially through the government's web portal. She advised the ministry to consider linking their web portal to the Korean Government's portal. In response to their enquiry about UNPSA, Haiyan Qian informed them that DPADM was the custodian of the UNPSA, an event recognized the world over and which is used to recognize excellence in innovative public service delivery. She explained the nomination process to them, encouraging them to submit an application before 31 December which is the deadline. Haiyan Qian noted that even though DPADM does not deal directly with culture, she recognized it as an important tool in effectively promoting the noble causes such as the IADGs including MDGs and SDGs that the UN strives to achieve.

5. UNPSA Team Meets with Vice Minister of Public Administration of Mexico

The United Nations Public Service Award (UNPSA) team was invited to meet with Mr. Uriel Márquez Carrasco, Vice Minister of Public Administration of Mexico, at the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations on 17 October 2011. Mr. Carrasco expressed appreciation to DPADM for effectively managing the UNPSA programme and for organizing a successful forum in Tanzania. He expressed that the award won by Mexico's Ministry of Public Administration at the June 2011 UNPSA produced a positive impact in terms of raising the image of the public sector, as well as promoting further innovation at local, national and regional



levels through knowledge sharing and replication leading to replication and adoption of the initiative in three local governments in Mexico. He further indicated that a number of countries in Latin America had expressed interest in adopting the initiative and that international and regional organizations, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and Latin American Centre of Administration for Development (CLAD), had shown interest in learning more about this good practice and as a result, he had been invited to make presentations on the same. He further pointed out that he had been nominated Vice Minister as a result of winning the award.

Also at the meeting, Ms. Sara Luna of ECOSOC's Second Committee mentioned that the Mexican Mission would be interested in sponsoring and co-organizing with DPADM a side event to showcase best practices drawn from the UNPSA winning initiatives during the upcoming ECOSOC session.

6. DPADM/DESA and UNODC Partnership Acknowledge by Member States

The Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (CoSP) at its fourth session, held in Marrakech from 24 - 28 October 2011, adopted Resolution 4/3 entitled "Marrakech declaration on the prevention of corruption" requesting, among other things, that the collaboration between DESA through DPADM and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) be further strengthened through the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA). Paragraph 21: ***“Notes with appreciation the cooperation between the Secretariat and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat on the prevention of corruption in the public sector, and requests the Secretariat to continue such cooperation, particularly with regard to the United Nations Public Service Awards, as well as through other initiatives, including activities that enhance public service delivery and prevent corruption”.***

This acknowledgement was the result of DPADM's collaboration with to establish a category on preventing corruption in the public sector as part of the UNPSA. UNODC recently complemented DPADM's outreach campaign by disseminating information about 2012 UNPSA to delegates and participants at the Second Intercessional Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Prevention (Vienna, Austria, 22-24 August 2011), and the fourth session of the CoSP (Marrakech, 24-28 October 2011).

Additionally, DPADM's UNPSA team provided information in Spanish and responded to queries about the UNPSA process during a UNPSA 2012 Information Day organized by the National Institute of Public Administration of Spain (INAP) on 3 November 2011. The event was attended by a high number of officials from the national, regional and local levels of public administration.

7. Possible Collaboration with Boston University School of Management

On 8 November, a delegation from the Boston University School of Management met with DPADM staff to explore further opportunities for collaboration to assist UN Member States in building Chief Information Officer (CIO) capacity. They also gave a presentation on the current trends in the area of Public Sector CIOs. DPADM has been working closely with Boston



University in capacity-building for e-government, with specific reference to CIOs. As a result, Boston University, through DPADM/DESA, has implemented four courses for CIOs: two in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one in the State of Qatar and another in Brunei Darussalam. These courses are designed to strengthen the knowledge of e-government decision makers on the roles of CIOs, as well as to help them identify the strengths and weaknesses of each country's e-government strategy.

8. The Pre-Eighth African Governance Forum on “Gender Equality, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa”

At the Pre-Eighth African Governance Forum (AGF-VIII) multi-stakeholder Policy Dialogue on “Gender Equality, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa” held in Kigali, Rwanda on 1 - 2 November 2011, participants unanimously agreed that political systems need to be transformed towards a more democratic and inclusive value-base. While noting the remarkable progress made so far in the empowerment of women in electoral processes, decision-making and political participation in Africa, the meeting noted the central role of institutional architecture and culture of political parties in achieving gender equality in elections and electoral processes in Africa and identified specific policy interventions at the national, regional and continental levels as: i) constitutional and Institutional frameworks; ii) gender equality in decision-making structures; iii) financing gender equality and women’s empowerment; iv) electoral systems and gender equality; and v) managing diversity.

DPADM’s Inter Regional Adviser (IRA), Mr. Alphonse Mekolo facilitated the introductory session on “Partners’ Statements” and participated in the second meeting of the AGF-VIII Steering Committee organized by the Government of Rwanda, African Union Commission (AUC), UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

9. DPADM to Collaborate with China’s Tsinghua University

Collaboration in the areas of: i) providing scholarships for the English Masters Programme in Public Administration in International Development (MID) to the United Nations Public Service Awards winners, ii) inviting world-renowned experts on public administration to DPADM’s meetings, and iii) selecting top quality international students for the internship programme at the UN were the agreed outcomes of a meeting between Haiyan Qian, Director, DPADM and Prof. Lan Xue, Dean of School of Public Policy and Management (SPPM) of Tsinghua University on 11 November, 2011. At the meeting Prof. Xue informed Haiyan Qian about the school’s academic programmes and research work suggesting a number of areas for collaboration with DESA through DPADM. Haiyan Qian gave Prof. Xue an overview of DPADM’s areas of work in public administration, institution building, citizen engagement and e-government. Prof. Xue suggested that DPADM collaborate with China’s State Commission for Public Sector Reform, whose functions include making policy on administrative reform, central reorganization plans, personnel establishment, quotas and wages, and administrative regulations for State institutions. Haiyan Qian promised to follow up with them as part of the Division’s research towards United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS).



10. Republic of Korea Shares with DPADM its Government Initiative.

At a meeting with Haiyan Qian and DPADM branch representatives on 14 November, a delegation from the Ministry of Strategy and Finance of the Republic of Korea shared its Digital Budget and Accounting System (DBAS), which is an Integrated National Fiscal Information System. DBAS enables the Government to evaluate the performance of all ministries, as well as complaints filed by citizens. The system integrates the financial management workflow of all ministries, from local to central government enabling the Ministry of Strategy and Finance to provide daily, monthly and yearly information to the public on financial performance, including local and national status on revenue, expenditure, national asset, national credit and debt. As an incentive, citizens who speak out to help the government avoid unnecessary expenditures are rewarded with a percentage of the investment that is saved. Haiyan Qian discussed with the delegation on how such experience and expertise can be shared with other developing countries in need through UNPOG.

10. EU encouraged to include other UN Member States in the development of e-government services

Haiyan Qian was invited to attend and present at the 6th European Ministerial eGovernment Conference – ‘Borderless eGovernment Services for Europeans,’ which was held in Poznan, Poland from 17-18 October 2011. As one of three international VIP speakers (the other two were from the World Bank and the OECD), Haiyan Qian took the opportunity to promote the importance of e-governance beyond Europe, and shared with delegates the initial findings of the research undertaken by DESA, through DPADM, on open government development across the 193 UN Member States, particularly the management of open government data. Delegates were particularly appreciative of the UN’s unique global perspective and Haiyan Qian’s message that the EU should build on what it has already achieved to-date with reference to e-government, connect with the rest of UN Member States, and then to grow together globally. She provided the following concrete recommendation for the consideration of EU Ministers responsible for e-governance:

To improve the implementation process of the internationally agreed development goals including MDGs, the European Union, as the leading region in the world for advancing e-government for sustainable development, should take a lead in promoting open government at the United Nations through its Social and Economic Council and the General Assembly, which is one of the key prerequisites for more effective public governance.

The conference was attended by 200 participants including ministers from EU Member States, officials from national, regional and local administrations, industry representatives, civil society and experts, as well as international organizations.

11. DPADM attends the Asia E -Procurement Conference

The development of a “Knowledge Guide on E-Procurement” was one of the outcomes of an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on e-procurement organized by DPADM and attended by various Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and national governments such as the Republic of Korea, Italy and the USA. Acknowledging the importance of this issue given that public



purchases typically account for 20 per cent of a country's GDP, the MDBs pledged their cooperation to populate DPADM's Knowledge Guide on E-Procurement. In addition, the African Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development proposed a partnership to develop e-government and e-procurement in African countries and expressed interest in partnering with DPADM to disseminate the Knowledge Guide and the UN E-Government Survey to Russian speaking countries respectively.

Following the above mentioned EGM, Asia Development Bank invited DESA, through DPADM. Its positive outcomes are an acknowledgment by the international community that DESA, through DPADM, has developed a cohesive conceptual framework to handle e-procurement issues, combined with objective indicators for e-government development, to enhance transparency and efficiency of public service delivery while combating corruption. The conference, which was held in Bali, Indonesia, 21 – 25 November 2011, was attended by representatives from all Asia and Pacific countries.

13. DPADM supports Post-Conflict Iraq in Building its E-Governance Policy

DESA, through DPADM, and in partnership with UNDP, has been invited to visit Iraq after April 2012 to assist in its e-government policy development and implementation through a capacity development project for e-governance. This request arose as a result of a five day training on e-governance that was organized by DPADM, in partnership with UNDP, for 30 senior Iraqi ministry officials from finance, education, health, defence, foreign affairs, statistics and communication, led by the Minister for Science and Technology and Head of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for E-Governance Development in Iraq. The training covered the overall public administration framework, as well as specific issues on e-government and e-governance, such as the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Government Readiness (METER), which was developed by DPADM. It also exposed the officials to new approaches such as cloud computing and open government and presented opportunities for discussion about the foundations for implementing an e-government strategy for the country.

14. UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) awareness campaign moves steadily across all regions of the world

Ms. Thuli Radebe, Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) in South Africa promoted the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) during her interview on the Good Morning Africa television programme as part of the outreach and communication campaign of UNPSA. In the interview Ms. Radebe encouraged Africans to nominate innovative public service initiatives to enhance visibility and the sharing of knowledge through best practices. This is one of the outcomes of the outreach effort made by DPADM's UNPSA team to encourage public servants from all regions to nominate innovative public service initiatives. Other positive outcomes include collaboration between DESA and the University of Florida in reaching out to governments in Latin America through the regional and national institutions where over 8,000 officials of local governments were informed about the programme; and collaboration with UN WOMEN in giving three Briefings to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations where Permanent Missions from Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Congo, Cuba, Finland, Greece, Italy, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore,



Switzerland and South Africa were briefed about UNPSA.

Additionally DESA's December feature story sheds light on Mr. Uriel Marquez Carrasco, Vice Minister of Public Administration of Mexico and 2011 UNPSA 1st place winner for the Latin America and Caribbean region in two categories. In his interview with DPADM's UNPSA team, he shared his insights about the 2011 UN Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum on the importance and impact of winning this prestigious Award, saying that: "Societies face similar problems around the world, and it was inspiring to listen to other government officials from other countries, to learn from them, and to have the opportunity to share with others the energy and desire to constantly do better for the benefit of their citizens. It was indeed a great honour to be there."

15 Workshop for Ministers of Local Governments in Africa

Ministers responsible for local governments in Africa agreed to establish the standards by which the effectiveness of public administration in local governments should be assessed at a workshop facilitated by Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief, DPADM/PACB. Development partners, including DESA, were requested to provide support towards this goal as well as in supporting the strengthening of public administration at local level in general. The workshop was held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 14 to 18 November 2011, in the context of the Annual Roundtable conference of the African Association for Public Administration and management (AAPAM).

During the same AAPAM Roundtable, experts attending an EGM held on 'How to attract and retain the best talent in local governments,' recommended that as part of strengthening public administration for effective delivery of services at the local level, governments need to work with their development partners, including DESA, to strengthen the human resource capacities of local governments.

16. Request for DPADM/DESA advisory services by the Republic of South Sudan

During discussions held at a retreat for the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the Republic of South Sudan on "Laying a Foundation for a People Focused Development", the Ministers appealed to DESA through DPADM to provide support to reconstructing governance and public administration after conflict. The retreat which was held on 21 November 2011 and facilitated by Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief, DPADM/PACB, resolved that DPADM will need to field a mission to further discuss with the Government of South Sudan in order to determine their specific needs.