

UNITED NATIONS



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**Video Message from  
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MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**7th UNPAN Capacity Building Workshop**

**Next Stage in Open Government Data: Using Data for Transparency,  
Accountability and Collaboration**

**Cape Town, South Africa, 10-12 October 2012**

Minister Sisulu, Ministry of Public Service and Administration, South Africa,  
Deputy Minister Ayanda Dlodlo, Ministry of Public Service and Administration, South Africa,  
Distinguished Experts and Guests,  
Partners of the United Nations Public Administration Network - UNPAN,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deeply regret that I cannot be with you today but thanks to technology, I am able to send you this message and personally welcome you to the 2012 UNPAN Capacity Building Workshop on "Next Stage in Open Government Data: Using Data for Transparency, Accountability and Collaboration," co-organized by my Division and the Ministry of Public Service and Administration of the Republic of South Africa.

First I would like to express my great appreciation to the Honourable Minister Ms. Lindiwe Sisulu and her Ministry. This workshop would not have been possible without their co-sponsorship and strong support.

I would also like to sincerely thank the dedicated and hard-working team of the Centre for Public Service Innovation, CPSI, under the leadership of its Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Thuli Radabe, for their outstanding organizational work and coordination of this event.

This is the 7th UNPAN Capacity Building Workshop. Since 2000, UNPAN partners from around the world have been regularly meeting on various capacity building topics with a common goal, that is the advancement of UNPAN for the improvement of public service delivery at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

Today, I am very pleased to report that our collective hard work and dedication as the UNPAN family have paid off.

For the first half of 2012, UNPAN was the most visited website of the United Nations Economic and Social Affairs, with the majority of visits coming from those most in need, especially the developing and the least developed countries.

The success and impact of UNPAN has not only dramatically increased the number of its users, but also the quality and quantity of its content. Over the past 10 months, UNPAN has received an average of over 15,000 visits daily, generating more than 115,000 page views per day, and the number of registered users has now reached 16,000.

In addition, since the upgrade of the UNPAN Online Training Centre in November 2010, there has been an increase in the course completion rate by 65%, five new courses launched, and the UNPAN E-Learning Blog created.

Once again, 'thank you' to all members of the UNPAN family for your significant contributions.

The capacity building theme of this workshop comes at a time when citizens are demanding more from their Governments in terms of access to information. Indeed, Open Government Data will be among the many topics that will be discussed during the workshop. However, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to also address the following important question during this workshop.

What does UNPAN need to do differently to stay current and relevant to policy makers, experts and practitioners, particularly at this juncture when the United Nations is process of deliberating on the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

In closing, again I welcome you all and thank you in advance for your contributions and participation. I hope that the next three days will be a good learning experience and I invite you to take full ownership of this workshop. My staff is ready to listen to your needs and provide you with the necessary support.

I wish a productive three day workshop.