

## **DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: January 2013**

### **1. 2013 United Nations Public Service Awards Update**

The nomination call for 2013 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) ended on 31 December 2012. DPADM received 601 nominations, a 28% increase from the 470 received during the 2012 Public Service Awards. The nominations came from 82 Member States, up from the 73 participants last year. We have 11 Member States participating for the first time, including Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Iran, Lesotho, Namibia, Sri Lanka and Yemen. The Category on Improving the Delivery of Public Services had the highest of all nominations at 52%. Asia and the Pacific continue to lead the regions in nominations at 35%. However, other regions have seen significant growth, with Western Asia having 24% followed by Africa with 18%, Europe and North America and Latin America and the Caribbean represent 12% and 11% of the nominations respectively.

The close of nomination ushered in the commencement of evaluation of the initiatives on 11 January 2013. Of the 601 received, 458 have been selected and evaluated as at the closing date of 30 January 2013. 53% of these were under the category of Improving the Delivery of Public Services while 16% were on Promoting Whole-of-Government Approaches in the Information Age. The Categories of Preventing Corruption and Combating Corruption in the Public Service, Fostering Participation in Policy-Making Decisions through Innovative Mechanisms and Promoting Gender Responsive Delivery of Public Services represent 14%, 11% and 6% of the initiatives under evaluation respectively. Institutions selected for the second round of evaluation are required to submit additional documents for the next stage of evaluation from 1 to 28 February 2013, culminating in a third and final evaluation to be conducted by a sub-committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) in April 2013. Announcement of award winners will take place in May 2013 and the awards ceremony will be held in the Kingdom of Bahrain on 27 June, upon celebration of the designated United Nations Public Service Day on 23 June.

### **2. Adoption of Resolution on Information and Communications Technologies for Development**

The Second Committee of the 67 Session of the General Assembly recently adopted resolution A/67/195 on “Information and communications technologies for development”, which acknowledges the positive trends in global ICT and new services and applications, including e-government. In addition, it also stresses the important role of Governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communications technologies, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts. It also acknowledges the importance of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, including public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance and its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders, including through national and regional initiatives. The resolution adopted the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF and requested the Secretary-General to submit, as part of his annual reporting on the



progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, particularly enhancing participation from developing countries.

### **3. Blog Discussions to Enhance Collaboration amongst the Heads of ECESA-GIB**

In an effort to strengthen collaboration amongst the heads of the United Nations entities that make up Executive Committee of Economic and Social Affairs - Governance and Institution Building (ECESA-GIB) membership, DPADM is initiating blog discussions through the PACONnect, UNPAN's online community website, where public administration enthusiasts and development practitioners are connected. This is a new element aimed to enable online information exchange amongst cluster members, starting with specific thematic interest in the imperative of participatory governance, including citizen engagement, in defining the Post-2015 development framework. Cluster members will be encouraged to actively participate by initiating and responding to the blog under the Division's moderation. The GIB is one of the ten clusters through which the ECESA operates and aims to explore synergies and cooperation possibilities among United Nations entities in the field of governance and institution building. DPADM/DESA and UNDP serve as the Chair and co-Chair of this cluster respectively.

More details can be seen at <http://paconnect.unpan.org>

### **5. DPADM Strengthening Partnerships with UNPAN Partners**

On 16 January 2013, DPADM's Unpan Management Unit (UMU/DPADM) and the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) of the South African Ministry of Public Service and Administration held a meeting via Skype video call as part of the Division's initiative to strengthen partnerships with UNPAN partners. The meeting resulted in: i) CPSI, working with Southern African Development Community (SADC) partners agreeing to verify content collected for the region for the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) in the area of Open Government Data (OGD), ii) CPSI agreeing to assist DPADM in the collection and verification of OGD initiatives in Africa for inclusion in the upcoming OGD Compendium being produced by the Division. The Compendium will be a collection of applications (aka apps) which use government data and are used by citizens.

### **6. Progress on the Citizen Engagement Self-assessment Questionnaire (CESAQ)**

DPADM is developing the Citizen Engagement Self-assessment Questionnaire (CESAQ) to enable governments striving to achieve an inclusive, responsive and sustainable development agenda to examine their institutional frameworks and practices for better engaging citizens, so as to align themselves with Rio+20 commitments. The CESAQ design was endorsed by over 30 regional and international experts at an Expert Group Meeting and Capacity Development Workshop held in Lebanon in December 2012 and ESCWA is currently collaborating with DPADM to customize it to the needs of the Arab region. DPADM is also holding consultations with ESCAP and exploring with other organizations active in the Asia and Pacific region, to adapt CESAQ as a tool to assist governments in the region to assess the existence of institutional arrangements linking citizens more directly into the national decision-making processes.



## **7. Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan**

As a follow-up to the recently held 7th Internet Governance Forum, Ms. Husniyya Mammadova, Deputy Head of the Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Azerbaijan paid a visit to DPADM and DSD jointly on 29 January 2013 and had a follow up meeting with DPADM on 31 January 2013, to seek advice on how to launch the Eurasian Connectivity Alliance as proposed in the GA resolution A/C.2/67/L.35 and Rev. 1 of A/67/434. The proposed Alliance will encourage the international community to support improved global telecommunications connectivity for all potential economic and social benefits especially in the post 2015 era. DPADM will hold some internal consultations on the same with a view to providing advice to Ms. Mammadova.