

5th Global Forum on Re-inventing Government

Innovation and Quality in the Government of the 21st Century

Mexico City, 3-7 November 2003

Sponsorship

The Fifth Global Forum on Re-inventing Government will be organized by the Government of Mexico, with the support of the United Nations, to be held in Mexico City from 3-7 November 2003. The Forum will focus on “Innovation and Quality in the Government of the 21st Century”.

The Fifth Global Forum will include seven parallel capacity development workshops – those on Public Sector Capacity for Good Government, Innovations and Quality in Government, Access to Services for Poverty Reduction, E-Government, Decentralization and Local Governance, and Accountability and Transparency of Government, and Fiscal Transparency. The workshops will be organized by the entities of the UN system in cooperation with global and regional institutions, and with the support of the Government of Italy, to be held in Mexico City from 3-4 November 2003.

Background

The First Global Forum was organized by the Government of the United States in 1999. Since then, it has emerged as one of the most significant global events dealing with re-inventing government. The subsequent forums were organized by the Government of Brazil, Italy and Morocco, respectively. Since 1999, each Forum has focused on different themes to re-invent government i.e. democratic institutions in Brazil, e-government in Italy, and partnerships for democracy and development in Morocco.

During the Third Global Forum, the Government of Italy provided financial support to organize high level capacity development workshops before the Forum to provide opportunities for high level training and sharing of good practices among senior officials from developing countries. This was continued in 2002 in Morocco where eleven UN entities and institutions outside the UN system organized parallel workshops.

During the Fourth Global Forum held in Marrakech, Morocco in December 2002, the President of Mexico, through his video message, invited the participants to the Fifth Global Forum to be held in Mexico City in 2003. The participants endorsed the recommendation of the Government of Morocco to accept the kind invitation of the Government of Mexico.

In view of the significance of the Global Forum for ministers, senior government officials, civil society organizations and the private sector, the Secretary General of the

United Nations, in his 2002 report to the General Assembly, endorsed continued support, if requested, to any Member State organizing the Forum ([GA Resolution A/RES/57/277](#)). The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs takes the lead in the UN system to provide support for organizing the Forum.

Themes of the Fifth Global Forum

Globalization is a dominant force in the 21st century – shaping a new era of interaction and interdependence among nations, and people. It is providing new opportunities to countries around the world through economic liberalization, foreign investment and capital flows, technological change, and information flows. Yet, rapid globalization has not led to equitable benefits for millions of people around the world.

While the reasons for inequitable distribution of the benefits of globalization vary from region to region and from one country to another, one factor is constant – state capacity is a necessary condition to make use of opportunities provided by globalization and to protect and promote the interests of vulnerable groups in the society. The state plays the most critical role in alleviating poverty, protecting the environment, promoting human rights and human security and ensuring gender equity.

In view of the above, the need to improve governance and public administration systems and processes and to enhance the state capacity for its changing role is widely recognized at the global, regional and national levels. The United Nations Millennium Summit Declaration calls for the respect for human rights, the promotion of democracy and good governance including efficient and effective public administration. Good governance is a necessary condition to achieve each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of universal primary education, the promotion of gender equality, the reduction of child mortality, the improvement of maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and the promotion of global partnership for development. Governments in developing countries and international development partners have, therefore, significantly increased their financial support to strengthen governance that is transparent and accountable, deregulated, professional, digital, decentralized, and cost efficient.

The themes chosen for the Fifth Global Forum are based on the Government of Mexico's Presidential Agenda for Good Government – i.e. Government that costs less; Quality Government; Professional Government; Digital Government; Deregulated Government; and Honest and transparent Government.

More specifically, the themes of the Fifth Global Forum and the preceding parallel capacity development workshops will be as follows:

- **Management Innovations and Public Sector Capacity for Good Government** – capacity to manage change; vertical innovations at micro, meso

and organizational levels; horizontal innovations; processes of innovation including creativity, strategy and application, leadership, environmental factors and sustainability; innovations and international competitiveness; performance measurement, monitoring and evaluation; core public service values; innovations at sectoral and systemic levels; diagnostic and strategic capacity for programme design and evaluation; stress on merit system; international links as means towards the improvement of professional image and performance of the public service; simplification of procedures; labor and capital mobility; good practices and lessons learned

- **Access to Services for All** – access to urban and rural shelter and services for all; cost and affordability; government and private sector roles in service delivery; community organization to enhance access; urban development strategies; participatory urban governance and cities without slums; urban projects of shared success; urban innovations and good practices and lessons learned
- **E-Government** – policy framework for e-government including the creation of new policies and legislation and the inclusion of more actors; organizational arrangements and national and local e-government readiness; e-government and service delivery and access; the role of e-government in enhancing participatory democracy; e-administration and back office components including transitioning to electronic delivery of services and quantifying cost effectiveness of electronic service delivery; e-learning to build talent and improve performance; good practices and lessons learned
- **Decentralization and Local Governance** – legal framework for decentralized governance; transfer of authority and resources to local governments; checks and balances between central and local governments; role of community based organizations; decentralization and citizen participation; the role of decentralized governance in poverty eradication; decentralization and service delivery; innovations in decentralized governance; good practices and lessons learned
- **Accountability and Transparency of Government** – the role of ethics in public service; sensitivity towards and respect for citizens' needs including right to information; tools to enhance integrity in governance; anti-corruption commissions/bodies and their effectiveness; cross-border corruption and the role of multinational organizations; innovations to improve integrity and transparency in the public sector; good practices and lessons learned

Objectives of the Forum

The Fifth Global Forum will provide an opportunity to the participants to:

- discuss key issues regarding innovation and quality in the government of the 21st century to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

- share experiences and best practices in promoting partnerships and dialogue to promote innovation and quality in the government;
- promote cooperation among government, the private sector and civil society organizations to improve the quality of governance at national and local levels; and
- identify potential areas of South-South and North-South cooperation and action at the local, national and international levels to enhance the capacity of countries to cope with globalization.

The seven parallel workshops will be organized by the following entities in the UN system and institutions outside the UN system:

- (1) Workshop on the Public Sector Capacity and Management Innovations for Good Government – to be organized by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- (2) Workshop on Innovations and Quality to be organized by the Institute for Government Innovation, Harvard University and the American Society of Quality
- (3) Workshop on Access to Services for Poverty Reduction– to be organized by United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UN/HABITAT) in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (4) Workshop on E-Government – to be organized by UNDESA
- (5) Workshop on Decentralized Governance for Human Development – to be organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with UNCDF and the World Bank Institute
- (6) Workshop on Accountability and Transparency of Government – to be organized by the World Bank in collaboration with Transparency International.
- (7) Workshop on Fiscal Transparency to be organized by International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Participants

The participants will include Heads of State, ministers, senior government officials, parliamentarians, mayors and other local government officials, and representatives of the private sector, civil society organizations and the United Nations.

Organization and Management

The official languages of the Forum will be English, Spanish and French. Electronic communication will be utilized to encourage wide and representative participation in discussion. All documents of the Forum will be posted on the website of the Fifth Global Forum and on the United Nations Public Administration Network – UNPAN (<http://www.unpan.org>)

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