



DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: April 2013

1. 7th eGov Africa Forum

The Government of Uganda hosted the 7th Annual eGov Africa Forum 2013, which was organized by the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO) from 25 to 27 March 2013. DESA through DPADM organized a United Nations High Level Panel on eGovernment Readiness and Institutional Frameworks in Africa including a keynote presentation by Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief, e-Government Branch on the United Nations e-Government Survey 2012 and a feature presentation by Ms. Elida Reci, Governance and Public Administration Officer, eGovernment Branch, on institutional frameworks, models, trends and challenges in Africa. During meetings with several key e-government officials from Zimbabwe, Kenya, Gabon, Sierra Leone and Tanzania at the Forum, DPADM's work on the United Nations e-Government Survey 2012 and e-government institutional frameworks was lauded and requests made for increased DESA support for e-government in Africa through in country technical cooperation missions as well as further dissemination of DPADM/DESA publications and research work. Additionally, Mr. Aquaro met Prof. Tim Unwin, Secretary General, CTO to discuss continued cooperation to build on the successes both parties have had working together.

2. 10th National Leadership Retreat

As part of a mission to advise the government of Rwanda on the on-going public service reform, Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, OIC and Chief, DPADM/DESA, also participated as a resource person in the 10th National Leadership Retreat from 28 to 30 March 2013. He made a presentation on "Managing the Public Service: Developing Public Service Capacities for the Future Rwanda Wants" emphasizing that:

- (i) the Public Service is an indispensable instrument for the action of the State whose capacity must always be strengthened to ensure sustained effectiveness in the delivery of public services and achievement of national, regional and global development agenda;
- (ii) in order to keep abreast with the effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness of the public service, a performance measure to monitor and evaluate the system based on clear indicators and criteria has to be agreed upon, designed and implemented in the country;
- (iii) citizens who are the users of the public service have to be associated with and engaged in the design and implementation of the performance measuring, monitoring and evaluation system;
- (iv) in the context of Rwanda's Public Service, the management of the human resources and development of HR Managers in the Public Service have to be prioritised to ensure internal capacities to sustain reforms, capacity development, and performance improvement.
- (v) to further sustain and improve Rwanda's good standing in the fight against corruption, the public service has to institute strategies for developing capacities for professionalism, integrity, and ethics; and
- (vi) the public service has to strengthen its capacities in using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to improve its performance.



DPADM/DESA's IRA, Mr. Alphonse Mekolo, who accompanied Mr. Kauzya on the advisory mission, remained in Rwanda to continue providing advice on public service reforms.

3. DPADM Divisional Meeting

DPADM held a divisional meeting this week at which updates were provided on organizational matters for the Division's two major annual up-coming events (i) the twelfth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, which will take place 15 -19 April 2013 at UNHQ, and (ii) the United Nations Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum, which will be hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain from 24 - 27 June 2013. The meeting included Branch updates on their progress in the development of the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS), with particular reference to progress made since the substantive training session that was held in December 2012, which facilitated further refinement of the planning and organization of data and the development of concrete research methodologies. It was also noted that a flagship publication of the Division, the World Public Sector Report, will be based on UNPACS data.

4. DPADM's Mission to Support the Public Service Reforms in Rwanda

In response to a request from Rwanda's Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA), DPADM undertook a mission from 22 March to 13 April 2013 to provide technical support towards the re-structuring of the public sector institution with the aim of improving performance management and responsiveness to service delivery. The mission included in-depth discussions with the Minister, Permanent Secretary and Senior Ministry officials as well as capacity development for the top management to ensure compliance with the previously adopted methodology and principles. This capacity development was conducted for the parliament, including the senate and chamber of deputies and several ministries including Justice, Education, Local government and decentralization and Agriculture and agencies under their supervision. The restructuring process is led by MIFOTRA officials after having been empowered through the capacity building and will continue until the validation stage which is set for mid-June 2013.

5. 12th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

The 12th session of the CEPA was held at the United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 April 2013. The main theme for the 12th session was "The role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda", including (a) making public governance work for the post-2015 development agenda; (b) accountability of stakeholders in public governance for development; and (c) creating an enabling environment for the post-2015 development agenda. The Committee reviewed the United Nations Programme on Public Administration and had a discussion on the role of public governance in the deliberations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In addition, CEPA's sub-committee on United Nations Public Service Awards' (UNPSA) conducted the final evaluation of the nominees and prepared a report recommending winners, who will be validated by the Secretariat, DESA/DPADM, UN Women, UNODC and other partners before official announcement.



The Committee reaffirmed and recognized that democracy, good and effective governance, the rule of law and an enabling environment at local, subnational, national and international levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development¹. They also noted with appreciation the involvement of the United Nations system in the work of CEPA. They encouraged DESA and others to continue to strengthen inter-agency cooperation in addressing the multi-dimensional nature of governance and promoting a holistic, transformative approach to governance, public administration and institutional development at national and local level with a view to strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable development.

The committee encouraged Member States:

- (a) To promote effective leadership, high standards of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector at the national and local levels, inter alia through the use of ICTs;
- (b) To promote public trust and accountability through providing access to information, fostering the use of open government data in public institutions and publicly funded organizations and optimizing citizen engagement, and requested the Secretary-General to take steps to support governments in this regard in cooperation between the DESA with other UN system agencies, as appropriate;
- (c) To continue to support capacity-building in public governance and institution-building at all levels, inter alia, by encouraging innovation in the public service, fully harnessing the potential of ICTs in all areas of government, engaging citizens and encouraging public participation in managing development;
- (d) To promote effective management of diversity and inclusion in public services and enhance equity in accessibility to services by all, especially people with disabilities, women, children, the youth and other disadvantaged groups.

They requested the Secretariat to continue:

- (a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration, and in particular to further develop its public administration country studies and increase the scope and depth of its capacity development activities;
- (b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance to achieve sustainable development through the United Nations Public Service Day, United Nations Public Service Awards, United Nations Public Administration Network, by developing capacity-building tools and approaches, including self-assessment tools, and by providing advisory services in the field as appropriate;
- (c) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data, the use of information and communication technologies in parliaments and the Internet Governance Forum.

¹ The future we want (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex)



The Committee further reviewed its mandate as part of its deliberations on reform of the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the need for authoritative and insightful global advice on governance and public administration in its various dimensions as a foundation of sustainable development in the period after 2015, as well as the need for further harmonization of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, in the interim, they encouraged the Committee to remain involved in the relevant intergovernmental and expert processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda and Rio+20 follow-up, as appropriate.

For the next year's 13th session of the CEPA from 2014, the Committee agreed on the main theme of "Transforming Public Administration for Sustainable Development", including:

- (a) Strengthening National and Local Capacities for Sustainable Development Management;
- (b) Promoting Leadership, Innovation and Risk Management for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Invigorating Professionalism and Morale of the Public Service.