

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: March 2013

1. Open Consultation on the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS +10) and the meeting of United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

UNESCO hosted the first multi-stakeholder review event of the WSIS Action Lines' achievements and analysis of recent developments including input to the post-2015 Development Agenda process in Paris from 24 to 27 February 2013. This was followed by the ninth meeting of the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) on 25 February and 28 February 2013. Both meetings provided an opportunity to advance the Group's objectives of coordinating substantive and policy issues facing the UN System in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Particular focus was directed towards the development of the UNGIS Work Plan for 2013-2015 and DESA was reelected as the Vice Chair for the period of 2013-2014 in recognition of its ongoing effort.

2. 8th Internet Governance Forum: Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting

Open consultations of all stakeholders and a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting to discuss the upcoming eighth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) took place on 28 February and 1 March 2013 respectively at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The meetings agreed that the 2013 Forum, which will be hosted by the Government of Indonesia in Bali from 22 to 25 October 2013, will focus on enhanced cooperation; human rights and freedom of expression; internet governance principles and legal frameworks; cyber-crime (spam, cyber-security, etc.) and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation; and the Internet as an engine for growth and advancement. Both meetings were chaired by Dr. Ashwin Sasongko, Director General of ICT Application, Ministry of CIT, Indonesia and moderated by Mr. Markus Kummer, newly appointed interim chair of the MAG, with the support of DESA through DPADM.

3. DPADM releases Open Government Data for Citizen Engagement in Managing Development Guidance Toolkit (OGDCE Toolkit)

The Open Government Data for Citizen Engagement in Managing Development Toolkit (OGDCE toolkit) is a practical, easy-to-understand and easy-to-use set of guidelines for government decision makers to implement, evaluate and sustain open government data initiatives for citizen engagement. The Toolkit introduces the concept of open government data, strategies for designing open data programs, steps for implementing, monitoring and evaluating the related programs, and ideas for sustaining the open data ecosystem. The Toolkit also provides checklists for assessing open government data readiness, options for open data platforms and information on open data formats.

Since open government data is a fast moving field, the Division welcomes contributions to the Toolkit from stakeholders and has released a working version on 27 February 2013



alongside the first edition. More information about the Toolkit can be found at:

<http://bit.ly/WGwZp7>

4. Preparatory Meeting for the Online Assessment of the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey

On 5 March 2013, DPADM organized a preparatory meeting for the online assessment to provide a team of researchers from Columbia University, NYU and St. Francis College. The meeting provided participants with background information on the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey, introduce the platform for the survey assessment, the timeline for research and expected deliverables. A total of 36 researchers from these institutions will conduct online assessment across the 193 UN Member States. The meeting was called and chaired by Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, OIC of DPADM as part of preparation work for the 2014 version of the Survey and was attended by 24 researchers and DPADM staff who are members of the Data Team. Five follow up meetings will be organized to train the researchers for this important task. The 2014 UN e-Government Survey is expected to be released in early 2014.

5. In-House Seminar on “10 Years of Benchmarking e-Government in Europe - Lessons learned and future developments”

On 6 March 2013 DPADM's e-Government Branch organized an in-house seminar on the European Commission's e-Government Benchmarking featuring a presentation on "10 Years of Benchmarking e-Government in Europe - Lessons learned and future developments" by Mr. Dinand Tinholt, Vice-President - Global Account Director of the European Union at Capgemini in the Netherlands. Mr. Tinholt shared insights on the overall approach and focused on the outcomes of the recent 2012 eGovernment Benchmark report which is aligned with the four political priorities of the current eGovernment Action Plan of the European Union. The priorities are: a) user empowerment; b) digital single market; c) efficiency and effectiveness; and d) ICT pre-conditions and key enablers.

Following the seminar, Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, OIC, DPADM's and colleagues met with Mr. Tinholt to discuss further avenues of collaboration, including collaboration in upcoming DPADM events and networking opportunities to further exchange knowledge.

6. The 22nd UN/INTOSAI Symposium

Participants at the just concluded 22nd UN/ International Organization of Supreme Audit Institution (INTOSAI) Symposium concluded that by using advisory approaches in addition to traditional government audits, SAIs can contribute to the effective and efficient achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and influence the post-2015 Development Agenda. They further recommended that INTOSAI, through a working group, should monitor measures to mitigate the risks of waste and loss of public funds in order to give technical advice to the International Community. They encouraged UN Member States and relevant UN Agencies to implement A/RES/66/209 on “*Promoting the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening Supreme Audit Institutions*”.



The Symposium was organized by DESA, through DPADM in collaboration with INTOSAI in Vienna, Austria from 5 to 7 March and featured an opening statement on citizen engagement in public accountability in the post-2015 UN development framework by Mr. Wu, USG, DESA.

7. Global Thematic Consultation on Governance

DESA through DPADM participated at the final UNDG-sponsored global thematic consultation meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa from 28 February to 1 March 2013. The meeting which was co-led by UNDP and OHCHR, sought views on “what” and “how” to integrate global, regional, national and sub-national governance and accountability in the post-2015 development agenda. Echoing preceding regional and online dialogues, participants were of the opinion that promoting democracy, combating corruption, ensuring the rule of law, expanding access to information and strengthening institutional capacity for effective government should appear as key elements of a future governance goal. While recognizing the relevance of governance to all public sector functions, participants felt that in addition to mainstreaming it as a cross-cutting concern it should also appear as a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 agenda so as to give a full picture of what was wanted.

The report of the consultation is expected in advance of the fourth meeting of the High Level Panel to be held in Bali from 25 to 27 March and will be made available to the April 2013 session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), which has as its main theme as “the role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the MDGs and post-2015 development agenda”. Some 200 participants drawn from civil society, academia, parliaments, national governments and international organizations attended the meeting. DESA through DPADM is a member of an inter-agency reference group organizing the consultation and supporting the discussion.

8. Collaboration Between DPADM and ESCAP

At a meeting held on 19 March 2013, Mr. Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief, eGB/DPADM/DESA and Ms. Shamika Sirimanne, Director, Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP, agreed to partner through the involvement of ESCAP in some of DPADM's upcoming flagship activities, including the United Nations Public Service Forum, Day and Awards Ceremony and the e-Government Global Forum. Citing that the work of ESCAP complements the work done by DPADM through UNPOG in the region, they further discussed the possibility of jointly producing a publication on e-government development in small island developing countries of the Asia and Pacific region, as well as in developing other activities on innovation and e-government. Ms. Sirimanne expressed great appreciation for the opportunity to exchange ideas about how to strengthen collaboration between ESCAP and DESA, and expressed willingness to pursue further activities with DESA through DPADM.

9. Advisory Mission to Qatar

The Government of Qatar through the Supreme Council of Information & Communication Technology (ICTQatar) requested DESA through DPADM to undertake an advisory mission



from 9 to 14 March 2013 to support the e-government activities within the country. Mr. Richard Kerby, IRA/DPADM/DESA worked with the Government of Qatar to enhance its citizen-centric strategy and develop greater synergy with its stakeholders. The mission included visits to key line ministries that are the major providers of e-services and web content, with a focus on open government. As a result, ICTQatar agreed to sign off on a new project document that will provide DPADM/DESA with research on CIOs in the country.

10. Mission to Tunisia

Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, Chief, PACB/DPADM and Mr. Flavio Zeni, Chief Technical Advisor, DPADM/DESA, met officials from the Africa Development Bank (ADB), in Tunisia on 11 and 12 March 2013, to discuss the possibility of funding two projects, namely: i) Africa-I-Parliamentary System and (ii) Centre of Excellence for Open Source Software and Open Norms and Standards. These two, are projects that DPADM has initiated with African Parliaments and the Conference of African Ministers of Public Service respectively. ADB will study the two project documents in order to arrive at a conclusion on how the projects can be funded and implemented.

11. Briefing by the Newly Appointed Interim Chair of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

On 18 March 2013, Mr. Markus Kummer, the newly appointed Interim Chair of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), briefed Mr. Juwang Zhu, Chief, OUSG on the IGF Open Consultation Session and the MAG meeting, which took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 28 February and 1 March 2013 respectively. Mr. Kummer explained that the objective of both sessions was to discuss the upcoming eighth IGF scheduled to be held in Bali, Indonesia from 22 to 25 October 2013. He further confirmed that substantive preparations for the 2013 meeting are progressing according to plan and spoke about the ongoing preparations of Government of Indonesia to address the financial and human resource needs of the IGF.

12. United Nations E-Government Survey 2012 Translated into Arabic

The Government of the United Arab Emirates recently translated DPADM's flagship publication, United Nations E-Government Survey 2012, into Arabic at no cost to for the Division. This was done in close liaison with DPADM to ensure accuracy and compliance with United Nations rules and regulations. Making this content available in Arabic will enable countries in the region to further build their capacities as well as raise their awareness about emerging issues and trends in the area of e-government development. The Arabic version will soon be made available on the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN).

13. Possible Collaboration with the Center for Public and Corporate Governance, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico

On 27 March 2013, Ms. Elia Yi Armstrong, Officer-in-Charge, DPADM, and Ms. Almaz Atnafu, Officer-in-Charge, PACB/DPADM, met with Dr. Eneida Torres de Durand,



Executive Director, Center for Public and Corporate Governance, Universidad del Turabo, Puerto Rico, to explore collaboration possibilities on research and capacity development initiatives. This resulted in Dr. Durand undertaking to consult with her Center's Advisory Board about the various options of collaboration discussed.

The Center's mission is "to promote research opportunities and the sharing of knowledge and best practices on good governance, visionary leadership, transparency, accountability and anti-corruption practices". The Center asserts that the lack of transparency and accountability distorts the capability of citizens to fully assess the performance of the political leadership and government program outcomes. Transparency and accountability reforms are crucial to challenging those political, legislative and public administration processes that are driven by lobbyist and financial resources and not by public benefit outcomes.