UN Public Administration Programme

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

DPADM Monthly Update to CEPA Members: January 2014

1. 2013 World Public Sector Report (WPSR) on "Responsive and Accountable Governance for the Post-2015 Development Agenda"

On 31 December 2013, DPADM's Development Management Branch (DMB) completed the draft of the 2013 World Public Sector Report (WPSR) on "Responsive and Accountable Governance for the Post-2015 Development Agenda". The publication which is based on the outcome of the 12th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) on the same theme and preliminary findings of the United Nations Public Administration Country Studies (UNPACS) will now be circulated to CEPA members who contributed to its contents and within DPADM for comments. The Publication concludes that responsiveness and accountability are two traits of good governance that can move governments from mere reforms to transformation so as to overcome the challenges of implementing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. It also notes that social and technical innovations are providing an opportunity for the "social contract" between the State and the citizenry enabling the shift towards more collaborative governance.

2. 2014 Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Chief of DMB, Ms. Elia Armstrong, together with Messrs. Vyacheslav Cherakasov and Deniz Susar, Senior and Governance and Public Administration Officers respectively, met with Turkish Government officials Mr. Tayfun Acarer, Chairman of the Information Technologies and Communications Authority and Mr. Ihsan Durdu, Advisor to Minister of Transport and Communications, on 27 December 2013. The meeting discussed the upcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Annual Meeting which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 2 to 5 September 2014, covering details of the host country agreement, a planning mission scheduled for January 2014 and the budget for the 2014 IGF. DESA's Capacity Development Office (CDO) was also on hand to provide guidance on financial issues.

3. International Administrative Development Center Director visited UNPOG

Mr. Sun-gu Yun, Director of International Administrative Development Center of the Ministry of Security and Public Administration (MOSPA) visited DPADMS's affiliate, the United Nations Programme Office on Governance (UNPOG) on 8 January 2014. During the visit, Mr. Yun and Mr. Jae-hong Lim, Head of UNPOG, discussed the partnership projects between UNPOG and The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Security and Public Admininstration (MOSPA) planned for 2014. Other major topics of the meeting included preparations for the 2014 UN Public Service Forum, Award Ceremony and Day and the renewal of UNPOG's existing technical cooperation agreement to maintain the operation of the project office beyond 2016.

4. United Nations Public Service Awards 2014 Nominations and First Round of Evaluations

The 2014 United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA) call for nominations closed on 30 December 2013. A total of 704 nominations were received from 80 Member States across four categories, representing an increase compared to last year's 601 nominations. This year's categories are: 1) improving the delivery of public services; 2) fostering participation in policy-making decisions through innovative mechanisms; 3) promoting whole-of-government approaches in the information

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age; and 4) promoting gender responsive delivery of public services. Category 1 continues to receive the largest number of nominations, with 63% of the total for this year.

The Western Asia region received 42% of the nominations, followed by the Asia and Pacific region with 34%. Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Europe and North America received 11%, 7% and 6% respectively.

A total of 463 nominated initiatives met the program's eligibility criteria and are currently going through the first of a three-stage evaluation process, which will be completed on the 31st January 2014. The results will be released on 5 February 2014. The second round of evaluation is scheduled to run from 6 to 21 February 2014 after which a sub-committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) will conduct the third and final evaluation in April. Announcement of award winners will take place in May 2014 and the awards ceremony will be held on 26 June in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

5. Colombia Confirms New Funding of US$ 820,000 for the Centre for Innovation on e-Government Development

As a result of the positive outcome of the E-xperience Conference held in Bogota, in November 2013, the Government of Colombia, through the Ministry for Information and Communication Technologies (MINTIC), confirmed its intention to provide additional funding of approximately US$ 820,000 to fund the Centre for Innovation on e-Government Development's activities until December 2014. DESA, through DPADM, UNDP and MINTIC partnered to launch the Centre in October 2013 and held its first major activity, the E-xperience Conference which brought together more than 300 senior representatives from Latin America to discuss state modernization and e-government development. The Centre's agenda for 2014 includes consolidating its knowledge management architecture and devising a methodology for the institutionalization of a culture of innovation in e-Government in Colombia, the Latin America region and around the world.

6. Collaboration with University of Southern California (USC)

A group of students led by Prof. Frank Zerunyan of the University of Southern California (USC) visited DPADM from 9 to 10 January 2014 to learn more about the efforts of the United Nations towards fostering good governance and sound administration as well as the achievement of MDGs in general. The visit was organized in the context of a collaboration agreement between DPADM's Public Administration Capacity Branch (PACB) and USC to facilitate a comparative analysis of three major urban centers of: 1) Los Angeles, USA; 2) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and 3) Mumbai, India, with specific attention to public policies that facilitate the implementation of environmental practices, while highlighting those practices that have the potential to eradicate poverty. With the deadline for the MDGs drawing near, it is important to understand how major urban centers have fared in developing environmental sustainability practices, focusing on how their specific responses differ and whether successful practices are transferable to other urban centers.

7. On-line Training Course on Open Government Data (OGD) for Citizen Engagement

DPADM has recently launched an on-line training course on Open Government Data (OGD) for Citizen Engagement on the UNPAN's On-line Training Centre. The course focuses on how to open

government data and how information technology (IT) can be useful for decision-makers to design, implement, evaluate, and sustain OGD initiatives for citizen engagement. The course provides an easy-to-use reference guide that introduces policy guidelines and best practice recommendations, developed by international reviewers. In addition, it explains the limitations and potential risks of OGD, such as data privacy, national security constraints, conflicts between rights and access to data, and problems of big data, among other issues. For more information about the course and for registration, please visit: http://www.unpan.org/elearning

8. Preparation for the 2014 Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

In preparation for the 9th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Mr. Deniz Susar, Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPADM, and Mr. Chengetai Masango, from the IGF Secretariat conducted a planning mission in Istanbul, Turkey from 13 to 16 January 2014. They were accompanied by Mr. Christopher Looms, Security Officer, from the Department of Safety and Security in New York for security planning, Mr. Daniel Dufour, Conference Coordinator from Geneva for logistics planning and Mr. Eduardo Frias, Chief, Client and Conference Services Section (ICTS) from the United Nations Office in Nairobi for ICT related planning. Issues clarified during the planning mission included: room arrangements for opening and closing sessions as well as conference facilities for approximately ten parallel meetings, security issues such as registration area and security perimeters for the Turkish National Police and UN Security, ICT requirements including network topology, webcasting arrangements and remote participation, etc. Subsequently, the Government of Turkey requested for a change of dates for the Forum which was scheduled to take place in early September 2014. DPADM is consulting on the request.

9. DPADM held its first divisional meeting of the biennium 2014-15

DPADM held its first divisional meeting of the biennium on Thursday 16 January, 2014 to provide strategic framework for 2014-15 and update staff on the future activities. Each branch presented the goals and focus areas for the next 2 years, with more detailed updates on divisional activities including, the Committee of Experts in Public Administration (CEPA); United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA); the 2014 United Nations E-Government Survey; and the World Public Sector Report.

10. Sensitization Workshop on Bungeni to the Parliament of Haiti

Upon request from the Parliament of Haiti, Messrs. Alphonse Mekolo and Gerald Kandulu, IRA and Governance and Public Administration Officer respectively, conducted a sensitization workshop to demonstrate Bungeni, an information management system that supports parliamentary work processes. As a result the Parliament of Haiti indicated: (i) interest in using the system in modernizing their parliamentary workflow; and (ii) intention to send a formal request to DESA for assistance towards its implementation. In addition, USAID and Development alternatives Incorporated (DAI) expressed an interest to further collaborate with DESA, through DPADM in formulating a project that will embrace the implementation of Bungeni in Haitian parliament.

The workshop was organized by DPADM in partnership with USAID, DAI and the Government of Haiti. It was attended by the parliamentary staff from the two houses, the senate and chamber of deputies. Bungeni is a product of DPADM's recently concluded technical cooperation project on Africa i-Parliaments. More information on Bungeni and Africa i-Parliaments can be found at: http://www.bungeni.org and http://www.parliaments.info/

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11. Possible Cooperation with the Government of Azerbaijan

Mr. John-Mary Kauzya, OIC, DPADM met with Azerbaijan's Deputy Head of Economic Cooperation and Development Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of International and Public Relations Division of the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations on 29 January 2014 to pursue possible areas of technical co-operation. The officials highlighted the country's favorable economic growth, which has enabled public service reforms in recent years. They also expressed a need for technical advice from DESA, through DPADM, to assess the progress made and recommend areas of improvement to enable further improvement in their public administration. They pointed out their commitment to sharing their practices as well as benefitting from strategies and lessons learned in addressing public administration challenges from countries in the region and globally.

12. Brown Bag Lunch (BBL): Learning Series on Advancing Public Participation in Audit Process – Trends, Good Practices and Tools

On 28 January 2014, at the invitation of the Social Accountability Practice of the World Bank Institute, DPADM's Mses. Elia Armstrong and Angela Capati-Caruso, Chief and Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer of the Development Management Branch (DMB) made presentations at an event which is part of a Brown Bag Lunch (BBL) Learning Series on Advancing Public Participation in Audit Process – Trends, Good Practices and Tools. In this first BBL of the series, DESA's recently published compendium on Citizen Engagement Practices by Supreme Audit Institutions for Public Accountability, an initiative led by the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and DPADM, was presented. DPADM provided the conceptual framework and analyzed the status of SAI-citizen interactions based on a survey that INTOSAI undertook of its membership in preparations for the 2011 UN/INTOSAI Symposium and shared the compendium, which provides an overview of successful examples of ground-breaking citizen engagement from countries around the world (innovative models of practices). The purpose of the learning event was to demonstrate the potential of supporting SAI-citizen engagement for development results to managers and staff of various Bank field activities.

Mr. Amitabh Mikhopadhyay, the expert engaged as co-author of the compendium, Mr. Les Kojima, a senior financial management specialist based in the New Delhi CO of the Bank, and Mr. Robert Sattler, Director of the General Secretariat of INTOSAI, also presented and served as discussants.