**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: July 2013

**1. Approval of DPADM's 8th Tranche Development Account Project Titled "Developing Capacity for e-Participation: Engaging citizens in development policy and decision-making processes through ICTs"**

DPADM's 8th tranche development account project entitled "Developing Capacity for e-Participation: Engaging citizens in development policy and decision-making processes through ICTs" has now been approved by the review group. The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to apply Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for engaging citizens through e-participation for development results. A self-assessment guide, the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Participation Readiness (METEP) will be produced as one of the outcomes to enable stakeholders assess their e-participation readiness.

For more information about the project, please visit:
http://www.un.org/esa/devaccount/projects/2012/1213AO.html

**2. Proposed Cooperation with Panama on e-Government Development**

The Government of Panama proposed a technical cooperation and capacity development project with DESA, through DPADM to assist them in: 1) adapting and applying the principles and indicators of the United Nations e-Government Survey for their e-government development needs; 2) developing a platform to enhance cooperation through e-government practices in Panama; and 3) implementing an Excellence Centre in e-Government which will work with Central America and Caribbean countries. These were the results of a technical cooperation mission undertaken at the invitation of Minister Eduardo Jaen, Administrator of the Authority for Governmental Innovation (AIG) of Panama from 25-28 June 2013. The mission included a workshop on the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-government Readiness (METER) as well as meetings with key representatives from the public and private sectors.

**3. Support from the Government of Bahrain towards the Development of DPADM's E-government Self-Assessment Tool-Kit**

The Government of Bahrain has offered to provide funding and in-kind contributions for the development of DPADM's e-government self-assessment tool-kit that will assist Member States to engage citizens in setting the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This is a follow-up to DPADM's Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "The Transformative Power of e-Government: Innovative Ideas and Practical Tools for the Post-2015 Development Agenda" held during the 2013 United Nations Public Service Day, Awards Ceremony and Forum. The offer was made after DPADM's IRA Mr. Richard Kerby developed a draft project document linking the tool-kit and the United Nations E-government Survey. The tool-kit will make it possible for Member States to develop their respective e-government self-assessments.

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**4. Capacity Development Workshop on "Fostering Participation in the Context of the post-2015 Development Agenda"**

Following the capacity development workshop in Bahrain from 25 to 26 June 2013, experts called for an assessment of each of the three building blocks of government-citizen relations, namely: a) provision and access to public information; b) engagement in consultation; and c) active participation of citizens in decision-making processes, to align them with the five transformative shifts proposed by the Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. With respect to the renewed emphasis on good governance as part of the agenda, fostering public participation was considered critical, with the experts agreeing on the importance of undertaking self assessment of the existing measures and institutional arrangements that link citizens to national decision-making processes. They discussed institutional and regulatory architecture as well as the effective channels and modalities set up by the governments to interact with their citizens. The experts also learned from good practices and tools adopted by Member States in Asia, Latin America and the Arab region to engage citizens in managing development in their respective countries.

**5. 13th Regional Seminar of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups**

About 150 delegates and observers from member states of the development cooperation between the European Union and the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP-EU) discussed recent proposals for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and their Sustainable Development Goals. The discussions were held at the 13th Regional Seminar of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups from 3 to 5 July 2013, in Dakar, Senegal. DESA, through DPADM's IRA Mr. Ulrich Graute demonstrated the achievements already made by the High Level Panel (HLP) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network on the Post-2015 Development Agenda through the reports recently submitted to the SG. Participants expressed their support and underscored the need for capacity building as part of the preparation for implementation of the agenda.

In addition, at a meeting between Mr. Graute and UNICEF's West and Central Africa Regional Office (UNICEF WCARO) in Dakar, UNICEF WCARO recognised the need for increased involvement of stakeholders from government and civil society to ensure sustainability of its projects. Following the advice provided by Mr. Graute, UNICEF WCARO will draft a guidance tool on governance for its country offices and explore joint capacity building activities with DESA.

**6. Expert Group Meeting on Governance, Public Administration & ICTs for Post 2015 Development Agenda**

DESA, through DPADM and in partnership with the Centre for Electronic Governance at United Nations University IIST (UNU) held an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on "Governance, Public Administration and Information & Communication Technologies for Post-2015 Development Agenda" from 3 to 5 July 2013. The meeting was held during the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High Level Segment Meetings from 1 to 4 July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. In addition to presenting state-of-the-art approaches, experts reviewed paradigms and assessed conceptual and methodological approaches to governance and public administration in a bid to better understand the key dimensions of governance for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

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**7. Capacity-Building support to the Middle East and North African (MENA) Region on Open Data**

At the request of the Emirates Identity Authority (EIDA), DPADM/eGB staff undertook a mission to the United Arab Emirates to discuss a project on e-government support and support towards the same through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DESA and EIDA from 12 to 17 July 2013. The mission resulted in a proposal for several projects to be undertaken through a DESA Trust fund. The proposed projects include: (a) strengthening capacity in the MENA region by publishing two books on e-government and smart government; (b) hosting an international forum on open data for the MENA region; (c) providing support to EIDA to prepare a social media strategy; (d) providing support to the EIDA to prepare an Open Data Strategy; and (e) preparing a marketing plan for the EIDA.

**8. Collaboration with the World Bank on e-Government and Poverty**

DPADM/eGB staff met World Bank's ICT Sector team on 23 July 2013 in Washington DC, to share some of their respective e-government projects and activities and look for areas of possible collaboration. Some of the areas identified for collaboration include: (a) using each other's expertise in the area of e-government in cases of comparative advantage; (b) working together to prepare a white

paper or report on ICT and poverty; (c) announcing a partnership in developing a smart government template at the International Conference of Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGov) meeting in Korea in October 2013; (d) working together in the United Arab Emirates to implement an open data assessment of the country; (e) working together in African countries, namely Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda to improve each country's e-government capacity; (f) participating at the World Bank African Region ICT for Development meeting in Rwanda in October 2013; and (g) meeting a Russian delegation coming to the World Bank in November to present DESA's e-government programmes. Both teams will follow up on the various specific areas in the coming months as part of the collaboration

**9. Seminar on "E-Participation: Empowering People through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)"**

DPADM organized a capacity development workshop on E-participation, funded by a Development Account Project, in parallel with DSPD which organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Empowering People through ICT's.  Based on some shared sessions, the meetings made up a joint seminar on *E-Participation: Empowering People through Information Communication Technologies* (ICTs) from 24 to 26 July 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The seminar took place during the general segment of the 2013 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) four week substantive session. The objective of the capacity development workshop was to bring together relevant policy makers and practitioners from targeted developing countries of the project, with the purpose of enhancing their knowledge on e-participation by benefitting from the expertise of the EGM and contributing, through discussions and sharing of experiences, to the development of an online e-participation self-assessment tool, METEP (Measurement and Evaluation Tool for E-Participation Readiness). During the workshop, participants reviewed the concept note and first version of the METEP and provided input and guidance for moving forward. A voluntary working group for METEP was also established with the mandate of reviewing and providing guidance on the development of the METEP. More information about the milestones of METEP development process and about the workshop can be found at: http://goo.gl/kK2g9n and http://goo.gl/1iZ0P

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**10. DPADM Presentations on e-Government and Sustainable Development at the Empowering Sustainability Network Annual Meeting**

At the invitation of the Empowering Sustainability (ES) Network of the University of California, DPADM made presentations on e-Government, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development Goals at their annual meeting held from 21-24 July 2013. The University acknowledged the contribution made by DPADM to capacity development and extended an invitation to join their Network and support their vision, which is to facilitate the cross-generational sharing of mutual experiences and promoting intense collaborative networking among emerging leaders. Currently, the efforts of the ES group revolve around five main objectives: i) capacity building; ii) project implementation; iii) collaborative management; iv) knowledge sharing; and v) internal institutional development. Through these, the Fellows from over twenty-five countries are contributing to ES's vision by establishing knowledge sharing networks within their own countries and across boundaries through the use of social media, peer exchanges and an electronic journal.