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Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Eighteenth session

8–12 April 2019

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration.
4. Governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century.
5. Relating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to practices and results.
6. Building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all.
7. Strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels.
8. Stocktaking of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16.
9. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Committee.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighteenth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for the eighteenth session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period that follows the eighteenth session in preparation for the nineteenth session.



2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The Committee is invited to adopt the agenda of the eighteenth session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2018/237.

The Committee is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 8 to 12 April 2019. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda ([E/C.16/2019/1](#))

3. Enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration

At its seventeenth session, the Committee discussed the challenges of building the awareness, competencies and skills of civil servants at the national and local levels and readying institutions and policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Committee observed, inter alia, that efforts to rally civil servants and the broader public sector workforce around the Sustainable Development Goals and instil a sense of commitment could be strengthened, along with new ways of working on the basis of participation and engagement. The Committee also observed that new policy and technical skills would be required in the public sector, given the high rate of scientific and technological advancement and the service delivery and policy complexities associated with the Goals.

The Committee will continue its consideration of matters relating to enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration at the eighteenth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on enhancing the capacity of the public sector in a fast-changing world for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/C.16/2019/2](#))

Conference room paper on enhancing the capacity of the public sector in core functional areas of administration from an African perspective

4. Governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century

The theme of the 2019 session of the Council will be “One world for all: empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies”. The 2019 theme of the high-level political forum on sustainable development will be “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, to which the theme of the Council is closely related.

The Committee will consider the governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century and adopt its contribution to the 2019 thematic review of the high-level political forum under the agenda item.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on governance and public administration aspects of empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies for the twenty-first century ([E/C.16/2019/3](#))

Conference room paper on the use of tax records for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

5. Relating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to practices and results

At its seventeenth session, the Committee agreed on a set of 11 principles of effective governance for sustainable development, building on the conceptual framework presented at the sixteenth session with the essential elements of Goal 16 (namely, effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness) at its core.

The principles, endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2018/12, highlight the need for pragmatic and ongoing improvements in national and local governance capabilities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the principles are linked to a variety of commonly used strategies for operationalizing responsive and effective governance, many of which have been recognized and endorsed over the years in various United Nations forums, resolutions and treaties.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee will continue to identify and review technical guidelines to operationalize the principles, including from sectoral perspectives, and consider further ways to engage the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities in this regard. The Committee will also consider linking the principles with related work on indicators to help interested Governments gauge the extent of effective governance for sustainable development at the national and subnational levels and compare strategies undertaken in pursuit of governance objectives with others.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on relating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to practices and results ([E/C.16/2019/4](#))

6. Building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all

At its seventeenth session, the Committee considered the question of stakeholder engagement in post-conflict countries. It concluded, inter alia, that re-establishing legitimacy and trust were important challenges faced by post-conflict societies, where certain groups might have been systematically excluded and military, police and other institutions might be associated with repressive or corrupt practices.

At its eighteenth session, the Committee will expand its consideration of the institutional aspects of the security and justice sectors with a discussion of the underlying issues in promoting security and access to justice for all and ways to support the institution-building aims of Goal 16 in these areas.

In its resolution [70/262](#) on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the General Assembly stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, including through enhanced dialogue in support of promoting coherence and complementarity between the United Nations peace and security efforts and its development. The Assembly encouraged the Peacebuilding Commission to draw on the expertise of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council, as appropriate. The Committee is invited to reflect on how it could contribute, through the Council and in accordance with its mandate, to the work of the Peacebuilding Commission from a medium- to long-term perspective.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on building institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all ([E/C.16/2019/5](#))

7. Strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels

At its seventeenth session, the Committee discussed issues related to effectively mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources and observed that building competent public fiscal management capacity at the national and local levels, together with adequate oversight capacity, remained a major challenge.

The Committee recommended that the Goals be mainstreamed into national finance strategies to bridge the gap between policy priorities and actual government spending and, in the least developed countries, to ensure that the achievement of sustainable development did not depend on aid alone. The timely and regular production, publication and wide dissemination of executive budget proposals, enacted budgets and other budget reports should be considered, along with budget guides for citizens that were simple to understand and accessible. Effective participatory budgeting and the formulation of indicators to monitor progress were also important.

The Committee will continue its consideration of strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels at the eighteenth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on strengthening fiscal management at the national and subnational levels ([E/C.16/2019/6](#))

8. Stocktaking of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 16

The 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be convened under the auspices of the Council, will include an in-depth review of Goal 16. The Committee decided that, at its eighteenth session in the lead-up to the 2019 forum, it would take stock of progress on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, identify and assess emerging challenges and recommend further policy actions as a main contribution to the global review.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on stocktaking of progress on institutional aspects of Sustainable Development Goal 16 ([E/C.16/2019/7](#))

9. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session of the Committee

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), the Committee should adopt a theme for its nineteenth session that was aligned with the main theme of the 2020 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Council, while continuing to address issues necessary to discharge its other functions. The Committee may wish to consider the draft provisional agenda for the nineteenth session in this light.

The Committee may also wish to consider engaging in further reflection on a provisional programme of work for the period from April 2019 to July 2021 and on the related draft terms of reference of its informal working groups. Members could consider whether doing so would help to organize their work and enhance the profile of the Committee within the United Nations system through the forward-looking

study of critical issues in governance and public administration relevant to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its eighteenth session

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Council on the work of its eighteenth session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), the work of the Committee should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Sustainable Development Goals, build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [68/1](#), the Committee should include in its report an executive summary, and the report should be concise and clearly identify the conclusions and recommendations and issues that might require attention and/or action by the Council.
