



# Economic and Social Council

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## 2024 session

27 July 2023–24 July 2024

Agenda item 18 (f)

### Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Robert Rae (Canada), on the basis of informal consultations**

### Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-third session

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions [2022/9](#) of 8 June 2022, [2023/28](#) of 25 July 2023 and other related resolutions on public administration and development, in which it affirmed that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration and that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include effective, transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Reaffirming also* General Assembly resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Reaffirming further* the outcome document, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution [69/327](#) of 14 September 2015, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of freedom, human rights, national sovereignty, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security, combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels as central to enabling inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development,

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [71/256](#), annex.



*Referring* to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,<sup>2</sup> which entered into force on 14 December 2005,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 78/132 of 19 December 2023, in which the Assembly recognized the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome digital divides, and stressing that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 69/228 of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions, in which the Assembly emphasized that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 77/182 of 14 December 2022 on human resources development,

*Bearing in mind* the political declaration adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023,<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* the Sendai Declaration<sup>4</sup> and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,<sup>5</sup>

*Recognizing* the role of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration, and the relevance of the work of the Committee to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twenty-third session,<sup>6</sup> and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Committee on new governance insights to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicate poverty while promoting the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in alignment with the 2024 theme of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

2. *Invites* the Committee to continue to place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>7</sup> at the centre of its work and to continue to advise the Council on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Committee to the high-level political forum, and reaffirms that the principle of leaving no one behind should be a core principle of public administration;

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 78/1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution 69/283, annex I.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, annex II.

<sup>6</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 24 (E/2024/44)*.

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.

## **New governance insights to advance the Sustainable Development Goals and eradicate poverty**

4. *Recognizes* that achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience at a time of multiple crises require both a short-term and a long-term perspective in public policymaking, together with institution-building at all levels, based on effective governance for sustainable development, as well as a steadfast commitment to promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and encourages Governments to integrate reflections of a long-term vision of society into their planning, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and into their voluntary national reviews of progress towards 2030;

5. *Encourages* Governments to address the complex problems underlying crises in a holistic manner, ensuring that crisis management does not hinder the continuous implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

6. *Urges* Governments to reinforce action on commitments to the 2030 Agenda and promote the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions, inter alia, by systematically incorporating assessments of the social, environmental and economic impacts of public policy in all areas of decision-making, strengthening multilevel governance strategies and actions in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals as a matter of priority, and redoubling efforts to promote awareness of the Goals within the context of national sustainable development plans across the whole of government and the whole of society;

7. *Recognizes* that accelerating the delivery of the 2030 Agenda at all levels calls for more integrated solutions to achieve the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda as well as a capable State at all levels, and encourages countries to design and implement integrated national institution-building strategies that address important capability gaps across the whole of government;

8. *Expresses concern* at the limited capacity to foresee and build resilience against the diverse challenges originating from multiple shocks in many countries, and calls for a rapid upgrade of the risk management function in government and its integration into Sustainable Development Goal-related coordination mechanisms at the highest level;

9. *Calls for* increased efforts to support national and international peer exchanges and peer learning on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and effective governance for sustainable development, including through cooperation with existing international networks;

10. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and encourages Governments to accelerate efforts to build inclusive institutions at all levels through holistic, people-centred policies and interventions that empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all segments of society, reduce inequalities and address the needs of those furthest behind first;

11. *Encourages* governments at all levels to enhance efforts to promote the meaningful participation of stakeholders in matters that directly affect them, including the poorest and most vulnerable, and to implement models of participation based on whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that leave no one behind;

12. *Reaffirms* the need for pragmatic ongoing improvements in national and subnational governance capabilities to achieve the 2030 Agenda and other international agreements, and encourages governments at all levels to apply the

principles of effective governance for sustainable development,<sup>8</sup> endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2018/12 of 2 July 2018, to all public institutions and in support of the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account different governance structures, national and subnational realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities;

13. *Encourages* the Committee to continue to identify and review related technical guidelines and experiences to operationalize the principles at the national and subnational levels, including from sectoral perspectives, and to further engage the relevant United Nations organizations, regional organizations and professional and academic communities in this regard, in an inclusive manner, together with all relevant stakeholders;

14. *Welcomes* the ongoing initiative of the African Peer Review Mechanism of the African Union to promote the application of the principles among its member States in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and encourages other regional mechanisms, such as those associated with the United Nations regional commissions, to develop and implement similar initiatives in alignment with their own mandates and processes;

15. *Notes* the increasing demands for assistance with operationalization of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development and the Committee's emphasis on the need to strengthen the secretariat of the Committee to enable it to respond effectively;

16. *Reiterates* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has both accelerated the digital transition and revealed technological weaknesses of public administrations while exacerbating inequalities caused by digital divides, and encourages Governments to manage digitalization of public services in an inclusive, fair, ethical and people-centred manner, while accelerating efforts to bridge digital divides, inter alia, through hybrid models of public service delivery;

17. *Recognizes* that Governments play a central role in ensuring equal access to the benefits of digital technology and preventing harm, and underscores the need for Governments, in collaboration with the relevant entities and forums of the United Nations system, to identify guiding principles and policy priorities for the regulation and use of artificial intelligence by the public sector so that the diffusion of the technology reinforces implementation of the 2030 Agenda and leaves no one behind;

18. *Encourages* Governments, especially in view of stronger budget pressures, to accelerate action to increase transparency and equal participation in and oversight of the budgeting process, establish transparent and sustainable public procurement frameworks as a strategic tool to reinforce sustainable development and curb corrupt practices, and to strengthen budget credibility;

19. *Also encourages* Governments to embed commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals in budgetary and financial processes at the national and subnational levels by adopting practices to monitor, report on and evaluate the use of public financial resources in support of the Goals, such as reorganizing budgets, based on programmes and activities, and mapping and tracking budgetary contributions to each Goal;

20. *Recognizes* that building resilient institutions calls for more creative, flexible and integrated ways of working that are focused on the needs of people, as well as an adequate stock of competencies, capabilities and resources at all levels, and encourages Governments to further promote professionalization and diversity of

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<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 24 (E/2018/44)*, chap. III, sect. B, para. 31.

the public sector workforce, invest in digital skills, update competency frameworks for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, address inequalities that exist within the public sector workforce, and take steps to address social inequities in the design and delivery of public services;

21. *Also recognizes* that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development, reaffirms the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions, and recalls that factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the 2030 Agenda;

### **Follow-up**

22. *Requests* the Committee, at its twenty-fourth session, to be held from 7 to 11 April 2025, to examine and make recommendations on the theme of the 2025 session of the Council and the 2025 high-level political forum and to contribute to the review of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, giving particular attention to the cross-cutting nature of all the Goals;

23. *Invites* the Committee to continue to advise on approaches and practices related to the institutions, policies and arrangements to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind that the specific contexts and situations of countries differ widely, as well as to advise on making institutions effective, accountable and inclusive;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the present resolution fully into account in the work of the Organization, inter alia, in addressing gaps in research and analysis and in responding to the capacity-development needs of Member States for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels in pursuit of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and support innovation and excellence in public services for sustainable development through the United Nations Public Service Awards;

26. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution through the established working methods of the Committee.