



American Model United Nations

**Committee of Experts on Public
Administration**

**Report to the Committee of Experts on Public
Administration on Promoting accountable
institutions, ethical leadership and integrity to
enhance confidence in efforts to deliver
sustainable development**

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1 Executive Summary

2 The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) is pleased to present to the Economic and
3 Social Council (ECOSOC) its final report on the topic of "Promoting Accountable Institutions, Ethical Leadership
4 and Integrity to Enhance Confidence in Efforts to Deliver Sustainable Development." The following report discusses
5 the deliberations, resolutions, and actions taken by the four formal subcommittees. These four subcommittees are
6 divided into the topics of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the
7 United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), Relationship between Citizens and Government, and Best
8 Government Practices.

9 The second chapter of this report includes four draft resolutions, which the Committee is submitting and
10 proposing to ECOSOC for consideration and adoption. The first draft resolution, entitled CEPA I/1, reminds
11 the Body that the current iteration of the UNCAC does not include the perspectives of NGOs and CSOs to be
12 active members in the fight against corruption. Therefore, this resolution proposes that NGOs and CSOs become
13 subsidiary partners in a with the UN when addressing corruption. The second resolution, entitled CEPA I/2, gives
14 recommendations for implementing ethics-based education on the efforts internationally through the development
15 of long, medium, and short-term goals. This resolution aims to encourage the use of ethical and service-oriented
16 education efforts by educating government officials, and citizens at all levels of public education on the importance
17 of accountable government.

18 The third resolution, entitled CEPA I/3, considers the efforts made by previous UN bodies and individual
19 Member-States to address corruption and provides recommendations for specific measures to prevent corruption
20 related to both governments and their involvement with corporations. Finally, draft resolution CEPA I/4 encourages
21 the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) to include non-governmental and civil society organi-
22 zations in the Internal Review Mechanism (IRM) as civil society actors bring new ideas and skills to better cultivate
23 transparency at local, regional, and national levels.

24 Chapter three recounts the deliberations and proceedings of the Committee that produced this report. It
25 includes a summary of the relevant and significant debate on this topic as well as voting records for the draft
26 resolutions included with chapter two.

27 Finally, chapter four denotes that this report was adopted.

28 **2 Matters calling for action**

29 **2.1 CEPA I/1**

30 *Recalling* the work completed by the United Nations at the Conference against Corruption (UNCAC) in
31 2003, and its effective date in December of 2005,

32 *Recognizing* that each government in this body is different in their level of development and degrees of
33 corruption,

34 *Approving* of the work that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) do to help with combating corruption
35 at international and domestic levels,

36 *Keeping* in mind that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) focus primarily on the "third sector", which can
37 be categorized as the family and the private sphere,

38 *Aware* of the role that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) play and their influence on development at the
39 local level,

40 *Having examined* the work of Transparency International, specifically focusing on combating corruption with
41 the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind,

42 *Reaffirming* the legally binding nature of the UNCAC and its mandate,

43 1. Recommends that Economic and Social Council reform the UNCAC to include the voices of NGOs and
44 CSOs in their fight against corruption;

45 2. Recommends that UNCAC expands their purview to allow for relationships with international non-
46 governmental organizations and civil society organizations:

47 (a) Advises the development of a relationship so that the United Nations has assistance towards
48 achieving the goals the body shares with NGOs and CSOs, specifically to facilitate development at the local level;

49 3. Specifying the cooperative nature of the relationship between UNCAC, NGOs, and CSOs;

50 4. Provides oversight to ensure that there is no corruption in individual missions;

51 5. Endorses the individual missions of NGOs and CSOs while providing oversight to ensure that there is no
52 corruption in the individual missions;

53 6. Recommends the legally binding protection of the UNCAC to be extended to the CSOs and NGOs
54 recognized by the body in order to facilitate a more focused fight against corruption.

55 **2.2 CEPA I/2**

56 *Noting* with deep concern the corruption that arises from human rights violations and vice versa,

57 *Guided* by the work of the United Nations Ethics Committee and their emphasis on the importance of
58 maintaining governments based upon candor, transparency, and accountability,

59 *Expressing* appreciation for the precedence set by some Member States who have put ethical education at
60 the forefront of their government,

61 *Taking* into consideration that corruption is a multi-faceted problem that takes time and varied approaches,

62 1. *Promotes* ethics-based service-learning classes in primary and secondary education to blend meaningful
63 community service, civic duties, and overall academia to prevent future corruption;

64 2. *Encourages* states to release statements against corruption;

65 3. *Recommends* price limits on gifts given to any person or organization receiving pay or working for
66 government entities to prevent the influence of corrupt nature;

67 4. *Recommends* the implementation of ethics training for public officials and the education of government
68 employees on how to maintain upstanding ethical values;

- 69 5. *Supports* effective implementation of post-secondary education internship opportunities within local,
70 federal, and international government systems;
- 71 6. *Encourages* the hiring and long-term placement of those involved in the aforementioned internship pro-
72 grams into leadership positions within local, federal, and international government systems in the spirit of renewing
73 the sense of accountability of government.

74 **2.3 CEPA I/3**

75 *Believing* that the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) is a landmark document in the
76 fight against corruption and the promotion of government ethics,

77 *Recognizing* the wide diversity of anti-corruption efforts undertaken, which promote ethical leadership and
78 accountable government institutions,

79 *Emphasizing* that all United Nations Member-States have a responsibility to promote integrity in government
80 and business with respect to the sovereignty of member-states,

81 *Affirming* that combating corruption requires sustainable, long term, and effective information exchange
82 mechanisms,

83 *Acknowledging* both the failures and successes of anti-corruption efforts taken by the international community
84 and by the national governments of member-states,

85 1. Reiterates that Member-States should act in accordance with the provisions of UNCAC and any existing
86 international treaty relating to accountable government;

87 2. Recommends that member-states work cooperatively through the United Nations and non-governmental
88 organizations (NGOs), for the purpose of identifying and addressing issues of corruption;

89 3. Calls upon the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) to request that all member-states promote
90 integrity in government and business by:

91 (a) encouraging Member-States to establish independent commissions against corruption within their
92 judiciaries;

93 (b) ensuring that government contracts with businesses are awarded through lawful means, and are
94 open to public scrutiny and review;

95 (c) taking action pertaining to the coordination of efforts by establishing a new yearly report pub-
96 lished by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and by ECOSOC;

97 (d) describing efforts taken voluntarily to tackle corruption within member states derived from
98 reports given to CEPA and ECOSOC by member-states;

99 4. Endorses the development, and ratification, of new bilateral and multilateral treaties between nations
100 who have applicable transborder circumstances to monitor and combat corruption by:

101 (a) ensuring, through the binding national law of the legislature or executive of Member-States,
102 that countries are committed to promoting, facilitating and regulating cooperation between these states against
103 corruption;

104 5. Reminds that the drafting or reform of existing or new conventions between Member-States can be
105 accomplished between Member-States through bilateral and multilateral methods, but can, if requested, be moderated
106 by the United Nations.

107 **2.4 CEPA I/4**

108 *Confident* in the process of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) Implementation
109 Review Mechanism (IRM),

110 *Recognizing* Articles 7-10 of the UNCAC report (A/RES/58/4),

111 *Taking into consideration* the influence of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Or-
112 ganizations (CSOs) on civil society,

113 *Affirming* our belief in accountable institutions and quality governance,

114 *Recognizing* the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and responsibilities to all Member-States of the
115 community of nations,

116 *Bearing in mind* Chapter 1 Article 1 of the UNCAC,

117 1. *Encourages* the UNCAC to include NGOs and CSOs in the IRM;

118 2. *Supports* action from Member-States to provide their citizens with proper reports when the need arises;

119 3. *Calls upon* nations of the world to condemn the practice of corruption in governmental institutions;

120 4. *Emphasizes* the need to protect political integrity by improving transparency;

121 5. *Affirms* Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which
122 provides for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive institutions for sustainable development in an effort to cultivate
123 peaceful and inclusive societies.

124 **3 Consideration of Promoting Accountable Institutions, Ethical Lead-**
125 **ership and Integrity to Enhance Confidence in Efforts to Deliver**
126 **Sustainable Development**

127 Report to the Economic and Social Council on Promoting Accountable Institutions, Ethical Leadership and
128 Integrity to Enhance Confidence in Efforts to Deliver Sustainable Development

129 1. Deliberations.....

130 In the first subcommittee, Member-States of The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)
131 discussed the efforts for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to play a
132 larger role in the fight against corruption. Certain Committee members believe strongly that CSOs and NGOs have
133 the ability to establish anti-corruption institutions that give the public the ability to hold governments accountable.
134 Numerous States expressed appreciation regarding the vast diversity of NGOs and CSOs at the local, state, national,
135 and global level. Furthermore, multiple members of the Body highlighted the voluntary, independent, and non-self-
136 serving nature of CSOs and NGOs. The Committee believes that partnering with organizations such as Transparency
137 International, Corruption Watch, and Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption will achieve
138 ethical and accountable governance throughout the world. However, certain Member-States expressed concerns
139 regarding the possibility of NGOs and CSOs acting in bad-faith and exploiting their resources and capacity to
140 negatively impact the Committee. Further, multiple States expressed dismay at NGOs and CSOs whose mission is
141 to elect political candidates, instigate regime change, and espouse countercultural values. However, a large majority
142 of the Committee agreed that NGOs and CSOs should aim towards increasing local capacities, targeting citizens who
143 are often among the most disadvantaged, seeking sustainable solutions, and involving citizens in the development
144 process. The Committee acknowledges that CSOs and NGOs should be provided a level of protection to ensure that
145 the CSOs and NGOs can do their job as effectively and as efficiently as possible. A majority of the Committee
146 believes that CSOs and NGOs ought to be protected under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well
147 as domestic legislation promulgated and implemented by Member-States. On this score, many members of CEPA
148 recognize The World Movement for Democracy as a potential protection for NGOs and CSOs and agree with the
149 principles that they uphold, such as freedom of speech, association, and organization. However, other States were
150 more reticent regarding democratically-inspired protections for CSOs and NGOs. Moving forward, CEPA is eager
151 to form cooperation and collaboration with CSOs and NGOs to meaningfully combat the scourge of corruption.

152 The second Sub-Committee, on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), also met
153 to discuss the best ways to improve the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism (IRM) in a way that better
154 accommodates civil society actors to best aid States-Parties. These States wished to stress the importance of allowing
155 the voices of civil society actors, such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations
156 (CSOs), as these actors have a plethora of expertise, resources, and experiences in terms of helping governments
157 at the domestic level. The States highlighted the fact that in its most simple form, the UNCAC represents the
158 commitments of States-Parties to ensure that the public, private and community sectors collaborate to ensure that
159 ordinary people have access to efficient public services and facilities, free from the threat of bribery and extortion.
160 For that reason, it is imperative that the voices of civil society actors be allowed to provide input to the IRM as
161 these actors are at the forefront of the fight against corruption.

162 Additionally, the States who were in the Sub-Committee on the UNCAC wished to reaffirm their strong
163 commitment to the UNCAC overall. The subcommittee felt that upholding the recommendations the IRM makes to
164 States-Parties is of the utmost importance. The IRM works diligently to combat corruption in all of its forms and
165 the continued support by States-Parties to the UNCAC is critical to its success.

166 CEPA members who were particularly vested in government and citizen relations joined together to share past
167 initiatives and potential solutions for the Body's third Sub-Committee. The most important priority unanimously
168 agreed upon by these Committee members was the respect to national sovereignty. Through the solutions presented
169 by States, a large portion of the discussion was based on adaptability of strategies to be as cohesive as possible among
170 the differing types of government and cultural norms within the broad range of regions members of CEPA had come
171 from. The Body also agreed upon education as the primary channel by which to combat corruption and unethical
172 leadership. Through education, the Committee determined five main strategies in short, medium, and long-term
173 capacities.

174 First, the Committee discussed making internships and exchange programs available to secondary and post-

175 secondary students with an interest in public administration, governance, and international relations. Member-States
176 understood that these goals would be realistic as medium-term, but the ultimate hiring and hopeful placement would
177 be a long-term goal.

178 Second, prior to these potential employees gaining a place in the local or federal government, it was recog-
179 nized to be crucial that States educate potential employees about ethical civic behavior before taking any official
180 bureaucratic or public office position. Through primary and secondary education in regards to ethics, government
181 employees would be trained in how to interact with citizens and with one another to better support anti-corruption
182 efforts. While a medium-term goal, the positive effects would be seen long-term in continued replacement and train-
183 ing of individuals. Certain States specifically mentioned police and military personnel as having different types of
184 interactions with citizens through some blackmailing techniques, which would be at the forefront of a joint effort to
185 establish ethical training classes in the short-term for current individuals and organizations that currently receive a
186 paycheck from the government. Alongside the ethical education, there would be a strong emphasis on responsible
187 finance management for citizens and how to interact with government officials appropriately without the possibility
188 of bribery or blackmail.

189 Third, there was discussion regarding States having the choice to either provide more opportunities to
190 participate in or make it required for primary and secondary students with service-learning experiences. Some
191 Committee members expressed negative feelings towards a requirement, but would support the language as long as
192 it included specific references to respecting sovereignty. While long-term in its effects and making it a social and
193 cultural norm to give back to an individual's community, the short-term would be the creation of greater opportunities
194 specifically directed at students within primary education systems to make it, again, a social and cultural norm as
195 they continue to act as an engaged citizen.

196 The fourth point of discussion in the subcommittee regarded an encouragement of diversity for students about
197 to enter post-secondary educational institutions. While business and economics has been a great focus in many
198 developing countries, States within the Sub-Committee expressed interest in extending opportunities for political
199 science, public administration, law, and international affairs. Short-term goals would be in response to encouraging
200 private institutions to make these departments and disciplines an active part of their university. Long-term would
201 be an overall increase in enrollment and participation within government systems.

202 Finally, the fifth point is an immediate recommendation that States release statements regarding its current
203 efforts to work against corruption and its continued support of international organizations and overall attitude
204 towards the cause of maintaining ethical leadership and civic engagement.

205 CEPA expressed optimism regarding the elimination of corruption specifically due to its comprehensive and
206 flexible approach. They will have a wide variety of potential solutions to combat corruption in ways that are most
207 relative to their means by which they could realistically carry them out. While many of these solutions work in some
208 situations, other may choose to pursue something else. The Committee did condone exercising national sovereignty
209 as each Member-State clearly understands their particular country far better than anyone else. States will reconvene
210 in the future at a currently undetermined date to share progress on the new initiatives and perhaps alter solutions
211 that were brought to the table here depending on technology changes in the world.

212 Member States of CEPA within the Best Government Practices formal Sub-Committee discussed the previous
213 actions taken by States and the success of those actions. Evidence and examples were analyzed to see how and why
214 they occurred. This analysis served the purpose of creating better understanding for endeavors to fight corruption.
215 The actions explored included those taken by governments, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil
216 Society Organizations (CSOs).

217 In addition, unsuccessful actions were also discussed with the purpose of expanding on and reviewing possible
218 spots of weakness. The Sub-Committee referenced the continued issues in Latin American countries, specifically the
219 trend towards the reduction in power of national judiciaries alongside the centralization of power in the executive
220 branch. Another trend noted was the tendency of resource-rich, democratizing countries towards regional conflict,
221 which typically resulted in a much larger degree of corruption. The United Nations Convention Against Corruption
222 (UNCAC) was also mentioned, however it was used less as an example and more as an aspirational goal. The Body
223 primarily focused on the necessity that Member States uphold the tenets of the UNCAC and embrace any new policy
224 developed by the UNCAC.

225 The formal Sub-Committee on Best Government Practices also discussed the characteristics of good gov-
226 ernment. In this discussion, organizations that address issues of governance and public service were referenced.
227 Specifically, the Committee regarded the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

228 document "What is Good Governance" as a framework for the Committee to consider when reviewing their own
229 governmental practices. Moreover, the Committee looked towards specific descriptors stratified by the UN Eco-
230 nomic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, such as participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent,
231 responsive, effective, efficient, equitable, inclusive and subject to the rule of law. Furthermore, the Economic and
232 Social Commission for Asia also mentioned the need for minimal corruption and a platform for the voices of minority
233 groups. This document served as a pillar of discussion for the Sub-Committee concerning this topic. The formal
234 Sub-Committee on Best Government Practices deliberated on ethics and the relationship between government and
235 businesses. The Sub-Committee first worked through ways to incentivise individuals and groups to report corrupt
236 practices to institutions that fight corruption. Furthermore, the Committee explored ways to financially sanction
237 groups or individuals who are identified as corrupt by a United Nations body, but the legality and ability of CEPA to
238 design and implement this concept was deemed untenable by the Sub-Committee and abandoned. A similar process
239 occurred when the Sub-Committee looked into methods to tackle tax-havens, which was seen as too complex an issue
240 to address in this committee, as well as outside of the purview of CEPA. Next, the Sub-Committee examined the
241 Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) actions taken against bribery in government
242 and the Committee agreed that measures taken by OECD are effective. Moreover, the Sub-Committee agreed that
243 their recommendations would be looked into further when drafting the resolution and later these recommendations
244 were incorporated into the resolution. Finally, the last deliberation that occurred on government and business was
245 the relationship between governments and businesses in government contracts awarded to businesses. The Sub-
246 Committee focused on the aspect of contracts and the Body determined that contracts should be awarded fairly and
247 competitively, provided these contracts are examined with scrutiny and open to public review. Finally, this sentiment
248 regarding business contracts was added into the resolution.

249 Certain States of CEPA wished to underscore the importance of improving public service delivery at the
250 domestic level. These States highlighted two important aspects of public service delivery: emphasizing the need
251 for education on e-solutions and working to bolster governmental development. First, on the topic of education,
252 these States commented on how vital it is to promote education on Information Communication Technology (ICT)
253 capabilities for both government officials and citizens. Within the context of improving public service delivery through
254 educating government officials, certain States restated that government officials ought to receive proper training in
255 how to best utilize E-Solutions in order to deliver effective public service to its citizens. Moreover, the Body suggested
256 that to facilitate the sharing of best practices, CEPA should consider contributing to the United Nations Public
257 Administration Network (UNPAN). Overseen by the Development Management of the Department of Economic and
258 Social Affairs of the United Nations, UNPAN is a global network that promotes international, national, regional,
259 and sub-regional institutions worldwide for the promotion of better public administration. These States believed it
260 to be beneficial for domestic governments to contribute to this program. Second, on promoting education to CEPA
261 citizens, these States discussed the importance of educational programs about government processes in order to
262 ensure citizens are better informed. Additionally, the Committee mentioned how crucial it was for governments to
263 instruct their citizens on how to use ICT-based government services and provide citizens access to said services.

264 Further, these Sub-Committees discussed how to bolster governmental development when it comes to ef-
265 fectively delivering public service. Certain States encouraged governments to develop intuitive E-Solutions for bu-
266 reaucratic administration and civic engagement. Second, the Committee wanted to stress the growing need for
267 governments to implement e-Solutions whenever possible as the world is becoming a more connected place and
268 citizens ought to have access to their government in every capacity.

269 2. Action taken by the Committee.....

270 At the 2017 session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, the Body approved for recom-
271 mendation for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) four different draft resolutions.

272 The first draft resolution, CEPA I/1, was sponsored by Kenya, Turkey, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, and
273 Indonesia. The draft resolution was debated and adopted with a placard vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5
274 abstentions.

275 Second, draft resolution was CEPA/I/2, was sponsored by China, Brazil, Kenya, the Russian Federation,
276 Lesotho, Spain, and Italy. The final draft resolution was adopted with a placard vote of 15 in favor, 1 opposed, and
277 0 abstentions.

278 The third draft resolution the Body debated and adopted, CEPA/I/3, was sponsored by Argentina, Kenya,
279 Nicaragua, the Philippines, Spain, Turkey, Italy and Morocco. The final draft resolution was adopted with a placard
280 vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

281 The final draft resolution CEPA adopted was CEPA/I/4 sponsored by the United States, Indonesia, Morocco,
282 Argentina, Australia, Nicaragua, China, and Kenya. The final draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

283 **4 Adoption of the Report**

284 At the 28th AMUN Conference, on 21 November 2017, the draft report of the Committee was made available
285 for consideration. The Committee considered the report, and with one amendment, adopted the report by consensus
286 with Bangladesh abstaining.

Passed by consensus, with 1 abstentions