Report to the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on Effective governance for sustainable development: putting principles into practice and reviewing outcomes

Contents

1   Executive Summary

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) presents its final report on effective governance for sustainable development to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Commission. The following report covers many different aspects of sustainable development including technology, education, accountability and transparency.

The first chapter of the report consists of two draft resolutions. The first draft outlines a new committee that comes from a collaboration between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. This committee would follow the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of participating member states. Many member states are not properly reporting their progress on the SDGs, and a committee to follow the progress of the SDGs would ensure that the progress is properly reported. The committee would not interfere with the progress of the SDGs or try to guide the countries in any way; they would only monitor the progress and ensure consistency in the reports with the countries' own reporting. The report also recommends the creation of regional bodies to monitor the progress of fellow states in reaching SDGs, with regional workshops and peer review systems as important aspects of sustainable development across the different regions of the world.

The second resolution is over education throughout member states. It calls for multi-level educational workshops that would help provide education to many rural communities without internet access. The goal to bridge the digital divide gap is one that is of utmost importance. The final SDG says "No country left behind" and we fully believe that sentiment. It makes sure to remember that sovereignty is important but the right to education is also a necessity.

This committee also created a third resolution over technology and the digital divide. The countries of Kazakhstan and Morocco collaborated together on this resolution and found many important topics that needed to be discussed. However the committee found it better placed in the second resolution as an amendment. Technology is important to make every country equal and the committee wanted to be sure that it was represented across our resolutions.

The committee recommends that the Commission implements these resolutions to encourage the achievement of SDGs as well as to make sure the funding is going to the correct things.

Chapter two covers the deliberations of CEPA in this committee's meetings on 19 and 20 November 2022. This body discussed a wide range of topics on effective governance.

The last chapter details the acceptance of this report for the Council's consideration.

2 Matters calling for action

2.1 CEPA I/1

Keeping in mind the necessity for all member states to reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030,

Acknowledging the importance of ensuring the effective and appropriate allocation of funds and reliable reporting of country level data,

Reaffirming of the importance of upholding and acting with full respect for state sovereignty throughout all processes,

Emphasizing the need for global equity through utilizing regional bodies for accountability,

Recognizing the importance of strong educational groundwork amongst the international community,

Recalling the 2018 Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) principles of effective governance and indicators,

Remembering the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its necessity in forming anti-corruption measures,

Underlining the importance of fully utilizing the various United Nations committees, commissions and offices as well as the importance of collaboration between them,

Takes note of the varied and substantive collection of research and data previously and currently done though CEPA,

Understanding the importance of fostering transparency and accountability in order to combat corruption and encourage effective governance throughout all member states,

1. *Calls* for a creation of a committee for allocation and assessment of funds, henceforth titled the Monetary Aid, Allocations, and Assessment of Truth Committee, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to further the development of sustainable and effective government institutions with respect to fulfillment of the SDGs and the previously determined 11 principles of effective governance:

    (a) *Recalls* the funding requirements for United Nations monetary support and suggests that these be used in determination of funding countries and recipient countries;

    (b) *Emphasizes* the necessity of the use of the Human Development Index and the Global Climate Risk Index in determining recipient countries, especially amongst previously colonized nations;

    (c) *Advocates* for the creation of a commission within the United Nations Statistics Division in collaboration with the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, called the Data Review Collective, that assesses the realities of the impacts of CEPA funding and compares them to the nation's self-reported statistics to ensure the truthful reporting of funding impacts. The commission would be formatted as such;

        (i) The commission shall be composed of ten unbiased members, acting independent of their own interests, from ten separate regions of the world;

        (ii) There shall be one unbiased member who is appointed by the nation that is being observed for the sake of transparency and cooperation;

        (iii) This commission is not in place to evaluate the effectiveness of practices, provide insight on the nation or to revoke funding, the commission serves as a form of checks and balances to ensure the truthful self-reporting of funding uses and related statistics;

        (iv) Reiterating that national sovereignty must be fully respected by the commission at all times and therefore requires it to work in tandem with the nation it is analyzing;

        (v) With intent to review and analyze the use of funds on a seven year cycling basis, with case-by-case exceptions allowed when mismanagement of funds is identified outside of that cycle;

        A. If the offending government is proven to have mismanaged allocated funds then a strike will be issued against them and report sent to the funding committee;

74 B. If the accused government is found to have failed to report truthfully the use of funds and actions
75 taken therewith, a strike will be issued and a report sent to the funding committee;

76 C. If the accused government wishes to petition to have the case reviewed by the funding committee,
77 they may do so;

78 (d) *Recommends* that the two strike evaluation system is considered for implementation within the
79 funding committee;

80 (i) Clarifying the system as follows;

81 A. If the Data Review Collective concludes a failure to truthfully report the use of funds and actions
82 taken with them or fails to cooperate during the first evaluation, then the evaluated state is required
83 to make a plan to address the issues that caused that failure and to readdress their planned goals
84 towards effective governance;

85 B. If the state fails to pass the second evaluation, then funding will be paused until further reapproval
86 by the committee;

87 C. Further reapproval will require a exhaustive plan to coordinate where funding will be allocated
88 in order to be considered to return to receiving funding;

89 (e) *Notes* that should a recipient country wish to deny funding, in general or from a specific source,
90 they may do so;

91 (f) *Affirms* that should a funding country wish to withdraw funding from a nation without the strike
92 system being used that they must have provided at a minimum five years of funding or a to be later determined
93 amount of funding to said nation;

94 (g) *Celebrates* the commitment to provide funding made by the United States of America, the United
95 Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Germany, China and the Russian Federation plus other willing delegations;

96 2. *Reaffirms* the need for accountability and collaborative forums:

97 (a) *Recommends* on a local level, invites citizens to participate in forums to voice any concerns they
98 may have on the public expenditure data;

99 (i) In the case that citizens recognizes that funding is being allocated to areas of development the
100 community has not designated as important, they bring this up to their local government to be
101 taken into consideration;

102 (ii) In the case that citizens find themselves dismissed by the forum that they report the suspected
103 misuse of funds to be analyzed by the next level regional body forum and have it brought up for
104 discussion in order to analyze the validity of the concern and/or effectiveness of monetary allocations;

105 (b) *Suggests* Member States on the national level create national high level coordinating bodies
106 specifically tailored to the SDGs and the 2018 CEPA Principles and Indicators;

107 (c) *Calls fo*r regional bodies to be formed alongside both bloc lines and regional groupings, such
108 as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), African Union, Eurasian Block, South American Bloc or
109 Western Bloc;

110 (i) Once created, they are encouraged to work on a variety of actions including but not limited to;

111 A. Designating a regional body agenda to clarify and define regional context in relations to the SDGs
112 and 2018 CEPA Principles and Indicators, with an example of the African Vision for 2063;

113 B. Collaborating to analyze the effectiveness of each nations governance through observations on
114 released public expenditure data, such as seen with the African Peer Review Mechanism;

115 C. Creation or continuation of regional workshops;

116 D. With note that if the body identifies mismanagement of funds that they will bring it to the at-
117 tention of the CEPA Allocations and Assessment Committee discussed previously in this resolution;

118   3. *Suggests* that the 2018 CEPA Principles and Indicators be brought to consideration for recognition by
119 the United Nations Statistics Commissions, as to further solidify the measures of which countries are analyzed on by
120 CEPA and other organizations on the same basis;

121   4. *Highly encourages* that recipient countries self-report data relating to their sustainable development
122 practices, progress obtained toward set goals, and allocation of expended funds for these purposes - via both the
123 existing processes of reporting and through new ones created - to ensure transparency and accountability.

2.2   CEPA I/2

125   *Recognizing* the necessity of education in order to develop effective governance,

126   *Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Four, "Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education
127 and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all',

128   *Reaffirming* the importance of upholding and acting with full respect for state sovereignty throughout all
129 processes,

130   *Noting* that the digital divide strongly affects education efforts,

131   *Considering* the importance of equitable access to technology and closing the digital divide in order to
132 encourage sustainable development,

133   1. *Suggests* multi-level educational workshops:

134   (a) *Recommends* on a national level;

135   (i) Increasing intra-governmental education on the SDGs, Committee of Experts on Public Admin-
136   istration (CEPA) and the research that has been passed around it;

137   (ii) Calling for increased civilian participation through education, with focus on developing services
138   that are easily accessible to all citizens, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented;

139   A. Expanding internet access to rural and underprivileged communities;

140   B. Establishing a system to more effectively disseminate information into rural and remote commu-
141   nities;

142   (b) *Calls fo*r on a regional level;

143   (i) Further developing regional workshops through regional bodies;

144   (ii) Increasing research on education of SDGs on the regional level and utilize it to direct specific
145   focus on creating strong guidelines and pathways for education;

146   2. *Encourages* the creation of a mentorship program, where in countries may opt in to have the United
147 Nations and/or other approved bodies help guide states through the process of creating and sustaining effective
148 governance for sustainable development;

149   3. *Calls* for countries to implement rapid assessment questionnaires, specifically on the 17 SDG and 2018
150 CEPA Principles;

151   4. *Urges* for the increased research and development of technology dispensation in countries that experience
152 a moderate to extreme digital divide:

153   (a) *Suggests* a increased focus on expanding universally accessible radio, fiber optic cables, wireless
154 connection (WIFI), and internet-connected devices and technologies;

155   (b) *Calls* for a specific focus on technologies to increase civilian participation within the SDGs and
156 2018 CEPA Principles and Indicators.

3 Consideration of the status

Digital divide is the inequality that occurs between citizens who have Internet access and those who do not. Citizens in rural and underserved communities that lack Internet access are also unable to access open government data and vote on key policy decisions. Enabling more citizens to gain Internet access would allow them to access information on government actions, policies and expenditures and provide more citizens the opportunity to vote on key policy proposals and give feedback on policy priorities or ways to improve governance. The delegation of Brazil discussed addressing the digital divide with the delegations of Morocco, China, Jamaica and the United States due to our mutual concerns about enhancing government transparency and accountability. We also discussed our desire to increase citizen participation in governance to ensure that the government is responsive to the needs of citizens and effective in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Citizen and state relations should seek to be fully formed and trusted. In building this relationship, citizen involvement in governmental processes are essential. As discussed by Brazil and the United States of America, one way by which citizen participation can be advanced include open-contracting policies. This would allow the government to have full knowledge of their investments, as well as citizens can better understand and give feedback on which public contracts are made with which company. The objective of open-contracting is to increase the value for money in public spending by allowing citizens to track public contracts and monitor the budget and government spending. Open-contracting promotes fair competition and economic inclusion, prevents and combats fraud and improves government service delivery and efficiency.

Other methods include giving citizens a say on public expenditure and advancing autonomy and sovereignty, as mentioned by Brazil and China. Finally, as addressed by the delegations of Brazil and Morocco, enhancing local government and civil society organizations is an important aspect because these groups are responsible for implementing these initiatives. This responsibility makes the local government and civil society organizations most directly connected to the citizens, which makes enhancing local governments and civil society organizations critical in improving the relationship between citizens and the state. The delegations of Brazil, the United States of America, China and Morocco discussed ways to foster relationships between citizens and the state due to the importance of enhancing trust in governmental institutions to ensure a responsive, effective and accountable government.

Sustainable development is an important issue regarding the entire world. Completion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are important however, upholding sovereignty is equally important. The countries of China, Russia and The Republic of Korea find it incredibly important to keep sovereignty in mind when funding sustainable development. Countries and their citizens should be able to decide how the SDGs are completed and in which order they are finished. It is important to remember that every country is different and has their own needs, and to require countries to follow specific paths to complete the SDGs would erase their own sovereignty.

Accountability should be enhanced to ensure that countries achieve their sustainable development. Croatia wants other countries to show they are making an effort to improve their economies. This would include improving quantitative data such as each state's exchange rate, inflation rate, public debt, government finances and GDP. Croatia is actively doing these things by joining the European Union. This includes gaining access to the euro and schengen area. Both these things will increase their economy in a dramatic way, and this committee believes governments can be held accountable on a global scale if this quantitative data increases. Croatia talked to Brazil about countries increasing their accountability on a global scale because increasing government accountability will reduce corruption.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a new and major impediment to sustainable development initiatives and effective government practices across the globe in recent years. Stagnating economies, exacerbating inequalities in public goods and services provisions and diminishing public health outcomes. In order to continue combatting this crisis, this body encourages Member States with an excess of COVID-19 vaccines to continue donating doses of vaccines in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to underdeveloped countries, as well as to shift from a short-term crisis response approach to a long-term vaccination strategy. Additionally, the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) calls for member-states to research, plan and invest in building resilient and adaptable institutions to prevent and address flaws within current institutions and practices made apparent by the current situation in the event of future crises.

Sovereignty continues to lie at the heart of the United Nations mission. Many delegations believe that taking away the ability for Member States to delegate their own efforts and report their own statistics regarding their progress toward the SDGs would be a violation of this sovereignty. As a result, CEPA advises that nations still conduct internal statistical analyses, but the United Nations will conduct their own investigations at consistent

210 intervals in order to ensure that progress is being reported accurately and fairly, all while still allowing Member
211 States to manage their own sustainable development efforts. Furthermore, allowing Member States to delegate their
212 own efforts within regional blocs will allow for individualized plans to be formed in order for groups of states to
213 work according to their own abilities and needs. CEPA recognizes that every nation has different needs and wants
214 to allow Member States to work within those parameters while still furthering the Sustainable Development Goals
215 and Agenda 2030 goals.

216   Education lays the foundation for a thriving country. As discussed by the delegations of Jamaica,
217 Germany, Ghana, the Russian Federation, Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan and other member states, education
218 increases citizen awareness and participation. As a result, it contributes to furthering citizens' desire for transparency
219 between them and their government. Initiatives for promoting education, especially in the Global South, include
220 utilizing Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and workshops whose efforts seek to improve education, while also
221 ensuring the NGOs are seeking to eventually make a smooth transition to community-based education. Improving
222 education ensures social, environmental and economic protections for the long-term.

223   The Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, France and China discussed
224 and agreed upon ways to ensure Member States' reporting is accurate, in order to reassure funding to Member States
225 so they know that funding is being allotted to the correct channels. In order to ensure this, these countries agreed
226 that the way to ensure this is for an unbiased committee consisting of ten diverse country representatives and one
227 representative from the country being reported on. These committees would check that self reporting is accurate
228 every five years. This committee check would only be on the specific Sustainable Development Goal that the country
229 is receiving funding for. This committee could potentially be merged or come from another United Nations body
230 that already exists, if the body sees fit. This committee body is in consensus on the initial creation of this, and will
231 change if it sees fit. This check is simply to ensure to funding countries that their funds are being utilized in the
232 intended way as relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. Further reason why this check is established is not
233 to disrupt sovereignty, but rather to ensure that receiving countries are not self-reporting incorrectly to receive a
234 surplus of funds, as this would be a violation of the funding countries' knowledge and support and would encourage
235 other receiving countries to act in this same duplicitous manner.

236   Accountability and collaborative forums are essential to ensure a government that is responsive to
237 the needs of the government. These forums can be established on both the local and regional levels, incorporating
238 civil society groups as well, as a form of double "checks and balances." On the local level, a digital forum or
239 platform may be established, in which citizens can track government funding allocations and report any misuse of
240 public funds. For a system of "check and balances" on a regional level, blocs from different regions of the world can
241 collaborate in analyzing the effectiveness of each nation's governance and ensure that all funding is used towards
242 programs or institutions that aim to increase government transparency and accountability. The delegations of Brazil,
243 Egypt, France, and the United Kingdom discussed ideas of establishing local accountability forums and reviewing
244 the effectiveness of the use of funding towards achieving accountability goals. It was critical for this discussion to
245 occur to ensure governments are making consistent and conscientious efforts towards improvement.

246   The process of drafting the resolution began when delegations of Egypt, Brazil, France, and the
247 United Kingdom brainstormed for methods to reduce biased interpretations in reporting public expenditure data.
248 Egypt mentioned how sometimes neighboring countries experience conflict and may wish to cause harm to local
249 nations by incorrectly calling out a nation for ineffective monetary spending. This issue would be addressed by
250 ensuring no action is taken unless the majority of the regional body recognizes and proves the claim as valid, in
251 which case the third overseeing body would decide whether or not the concerned state passes the evaluation and may
252 continue to receive funding towards improving governmental institutions.

253   The delegations of Egypt, Brazil, France, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and other member
254 states all expressed desires for multiple systems of "checks and balances" to be established so as to ensure that
255 each state is actively working towards becoming a more transparent, accountable, and inclusive government. The
256 committee wanted to ensure greater engagement in governance among local citizens and to increase citizens' role in
257 checking the government's progress towards transparency and accountability. As a result, the resolution was also laid
258 out with the intent of setting a local system to promote citizen participation in forums for voicing concerns relating
259 to governance while ensuring the existence of regional bodies to analyze the effectiveness of each nation's governance.

260   Further expanding on the necessity of ensuring transparency and accountability in governance and
261 that further progress is made towards the SDGs, the delegations of Egypt, France, the United Kingdom and other
262 Member States sought to unify and centralize how effective governance in states are measured by using the 11 CEPA
263 principles from 2018. In addition, to ensure that the sovereignty of member states is upheld and not infringed

upon, the delegations of Egypt, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Russian Federation, China, Republic of Korea and other Member States had decided to encourage that countries receiving funds should self-report their own data regarding the allocation and use of funds, as well as progress made toward implementing the United Nations SDGs.

The delegations of Kazakhstan and Morocco discussed and shared their concerns with the rest of the committee about closing the technology gap between least developed countries with the focus of making technology accessible and the importance of technology needs assessments to strengthen global healthcare capacity, economic self-reliance, climate mitigation, local skill development and sustainable industrialization. There was discussion regarding the expansion and sharing of technology with an emphasis on No Country Left Behind. This led to the creation of a draft resolution.

After discussing the topics and hearing other delegations' solutions, Kazakhstan and Morocco suggested a different proposition in which countries would form the "Regional Sustainable Development Workshop" which will be managed by each local government and will discuss the plans and recommend solutions for specific local needs. CEPA will assign two representatives who will be changed yearly to support and advise. CEPA would have agreed upon protocols which would be recommended to facilitate the implementation of SDGs following the 17 goals and 11 guidelines principles while upholding the cultural integrity of the region and member States. Promoting the creation of peer reviews to support in the area of transparency, accountability and solutions, which was also added to the draft resolution.

Equitable access to modern and advanced technology has been found to be critical to sustainable development initiatives, including the implementation of the United Nations SDGs. Following a previously proposed resolution from the delegations of Kazakhstan and Morocco, as well as extensive deliberations regarding this topic amongst the delegations of Egypt, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Brazil and other member states. Sierra Leone and Kazakhstan specifically came to a consensus during discussion that the committee's time would be better served adding a clause regarding this matter to a preexisting resolution and not working to pass an additional resolution. The body came to a general consensus to include a clause within a draft resolution concerning the importance of this topic and its relation to this body's mission.

4 Adoption of the Report of the Commission

At its meeting on 22 November 2022, the draft report of the Commission was made available for consideration. The Commission considered the report, and with no amendments was adopted by consensus.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions