United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

LOCALISING THE PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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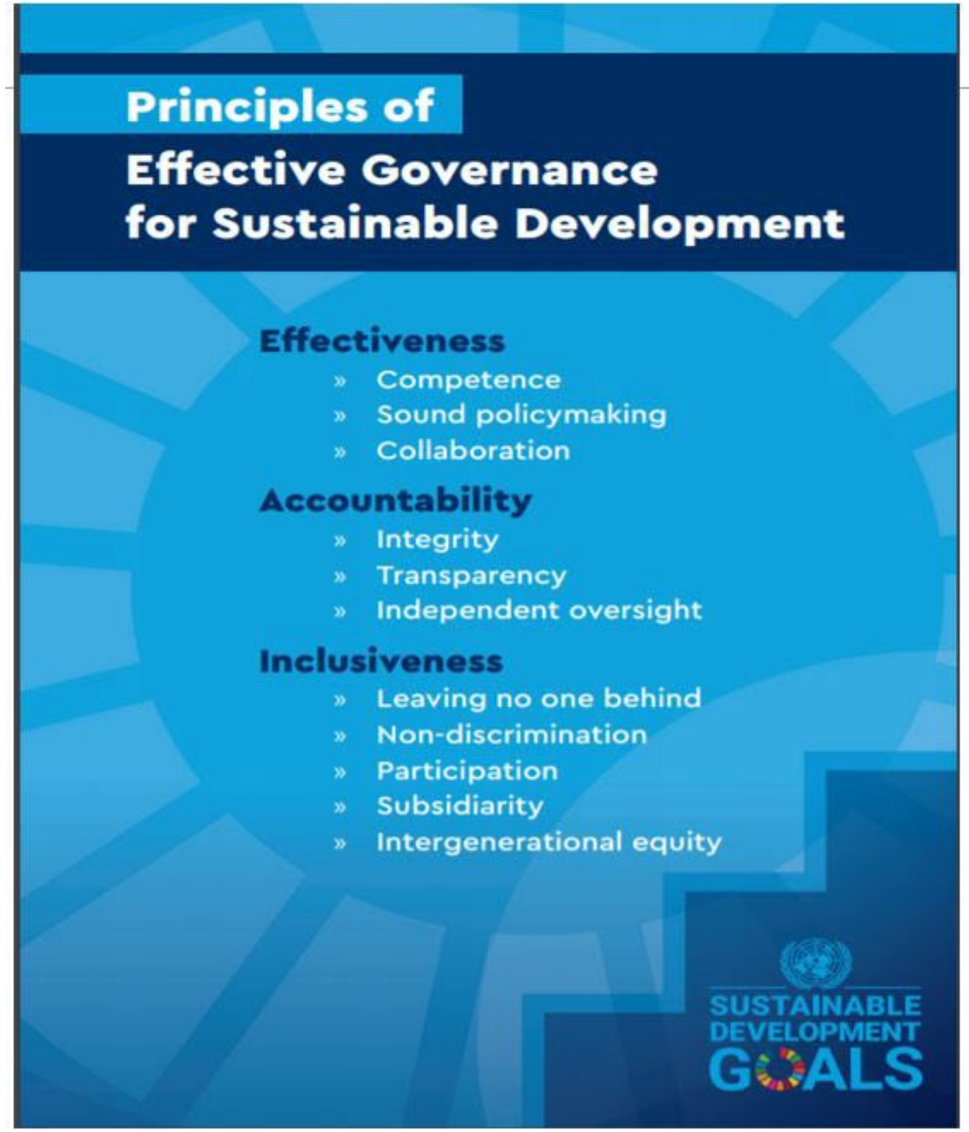

Principles of effective governance for sustainable development

What are they for?

- Building strong institutions at all levels
- Serving as a reference point that brings together relevant standards and technical guidelines
- Informing public sector reform initiatives for the SDGs

Where do they come from?

- Developed by CEPA specifically for SDG implementation
- Endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council
- Based on United Nations agreements

How can countries benefit from them?

- As an analytical framework in policy formulation
- As a guide in assessing institutional capacities, processes and culture
- As a foundation of SDG awareness raising and training initiatives

CEPA » **Committee of Experts on Public Administration**

CEPA is an expert body of the United Nations that studies and makes recommendations to improve governance and public administration structures and processes for development.

EFFECTIVENESS

COMPETENCE
--Promotion of a professional public sector workforce
--Strategic human resources management
--Leadership development, training of civil servants
--Performance management
--Results-based management
--Financial management and control
--Efficient and fair revenue administration
--Investment in e-government

SOUND POLICY-MAKING
--Strategic planning and foresight
--Regulatory impact analysis
--Promotion of coherent policymaking
--Strengthening national statistical systems
--Monitoring & evaluation systems
--Science-policy interface
--Risk management frameworks
--Data sharing

COLLABORATION
--Centre of government coordination under Head of State / Government
--Collaboration, coordination, Integration, dialogue across levels of government, functional areas
--Raising awareness on SDGs
--Network-based governance
--Multi-stakeholder partnerships

ACCOUNTABILITY

ACCOUNTABILITY
--Promotion of anti-corruption policies, practices and bodies
--Codes of conduct for public officials
--Competitive public procurement
--Elimination of bribery, influence trading
--Conflict of interest policies
--Whistle-blower protection
--Provision of adequate remuneration and equitable pay scales for public servants

TRANSPARENCY
--Proactive disclosure of information
--Budget transparency
--Open government data
--Registries of beneficial ownership
--Lobby registries

INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT
--Promotion of the independence of regulatory agencies
--Arrangements for review of administrative decisions by courts or other bodies
--Independent audit
--Respect for legality

INCLUSIVENESS

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
--Promotion of equitable fiscal and monetary policy
--Promotion of social equity
--Data disaggregation
--Systematic follow-up and review

NON-DISCRIMINATION
--Promotion of public sector workforce diversity
--Prohibition of discrimination in public service delivery
--Multilingual service delivery
--Accessibility standards
--Cultural audit of institutions
--Universal birth registration
--Gender-responsive budgeting

PARTICIPATION
--Free and fair elections
--Regulatory process of public consultation
--Multi-stakeholder forums
--Participatory budgeting
--Community-driven development

SUBSIDIARITY
--Fiscal federalism
--Strengthening urban governance
--Strengthening municipal finance and local finance systems
--Enhancement of local capacity for prevention, adaptation and mitigation of external shocks

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY
--Multilevel governance
--Sustainable development impact assessment
--Long-term public debt management
--Long-term territorial planning and spatial development
--Ecosystem management

DESA/DPIDG is leading the development of strategy guidance notes.

- Experts in the practice areas, in global consultation with other specialized experts in the field.
- They contain:
  - Understanding the strategy; public sector situation and trends and methods of implementation;
  - Recent case studies; good practices;
  - Peer to peer learning; and
  - International Development Cooperation

- **How can we increase localisation of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development?**

- Good local governance is not just about providing a range of services but also about doing things like ensuring civic dialogue, supporting environmentally sustainable local development and enriching the quality of life of citizens.

- Local and regional governments are places of opportunities, but they are also tackling the world's most pressing challenges, which are hampering their sustainability and resilience. One of the biggest challenges for many small local governments remain a lack of technical capacity, access to resources and data, and limited competences to advance these commitments.

Some recommendations from a CEPA paper (2022):

(a) Promote the integration of Sustainable Development Goal implementation into national, regional and local policies that reflect local priorities, needs, challenges and opportunities;

(b) Provide more technical and financial support for local governments through meaningful (regional and international) partnerships, including to improve data collection and performance monitoring capacities;

(c) Strengthen local efforts to promote transparency, access to information, open local governance and digital transformation and to address digital divides;

(d) Promote participatory approaches, in particular in budgeting,

(e) Empower and build the capacity and skills of local and regional governments as crucial actors that require appropriate and sufficient resources;

(f) Empower and engage all, including young people at local levels. Education is also crucial to prevent corruption, ensuring a better sustainable future for all.

For more information please see:

https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Intergovernmental-Support/CEPA/Principles-of-Effective-Governance
(the principles and the Strategy Guidance notes)

https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/237/51/PDF/N2223751.pdf?OpenElement
(CEPA members' paper on the application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development; 21st session, 2022)