



Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: SDG 16 implementation and the path towards leaving no one behind

27 – 29 May 2019

Rome, Italy

Session C1: *Building effective institutions for implementing the SDGs at all levels*

Date: 27 May 2019, 16:30 – 18:00

Description:

The confluence of economic, social and environmental trends – such as demographic shifts, growing inequalities, evolution of the digital economy, rapid urbanization and climate change – are reshaping the governance landscape at all levels. Building strong institutions for achievement of all SDGs in the context of rising public expectations poses major challenges and opportunities. Bold public sector transformation for peaceful, just and inclusive societies will be essential, along with serious efforts to combat corruption which gets at the heart of public confidence in government and the rule of law, and significantly limits the beneficial impact institutions can have on the everyday life of individuals.

Building effective institutions for achievement of the SDGs at all levels is not an aspirational idea. Rather it requires close attention to:

- 1) *Ensuring that institutions are equipped with sufficient expertise, resources and tools to carry out their mandates, inter alia* through public sector workforce and leadership development, performance management, effective financial management, revenue administration and investment in digital government;
- 2) *Pursuing evidence-based policymaking in an increasingly interconnected world* with a focus on strengthening policy coherence, foresight, impact analysis, data and statistics, monitoring and evaluation, science-policy interface and risk management;
- 3) *Enabling and sustaining cooperation among diverse constituencies* so that institutions at all levels of government and in all sectors work in harmony with one another and with non-State actors including through coordination and collaboration mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, SDG awareness-raising, multilevel governance and partnerships;
- 4) *Strengthening transparency, accountability and corruption prevention efforts* with a focus on independent oversight mechanisms, access to and freedom of information, social audits, participation and consultative processes.

Objectives:

- To gather leading experts and, building on a global evidence base, recommend actions that can be taken by policymakers in different development contexts to address key institution-building challenges, with support, where needed, from the international community, the private sector and civil society;

- To consider what has been done and what needs to be done to build effective institutions in all sectors relevant to the SDGs and in different development contexts while ensuring that no one is left behind;
- To consider the implications and applications of evolving information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the structures of institutions and the government of the future;
- To identify initiatives and environments that facilitate and incentivize transparency, accountability and prevention of corruption in institutions;
- To explore how proven approaches can be scaled up at national and subnational levels to support implementation of the SDGs at all levels and ensure that no one is left behind.

Key questions:

- 1) What are the main challenges, key areas of progress, and areas of potential rapid acceleration in building effective institutions at all levels and in different development contexts?
- 2) How can we enhance data-driven monitoring and reporting processes to support evidence-based action in building effective institutions at all levels and in different development contexts?
- 3) What key interventions and policies can help us ensure that no one is left behind in building effective institutions at all levels and in different development contexts?
- 4) What are some key interventions and policies to maximize the effectiveness of institutions while making sure to reach people at the local level, foster public confidence and ensure that no one is left behind?
- 5) How can ICTs best contribute to building effective institutions, and can such initiatives be scaled up?
- 6) In what specific ways and to what degree has corruption undermined these efforts? How do we address declining trust in public institutions associated with corruption?
- 7) What are the key challenges encountered in combatting corruption? What are some proven strategies and practices for facilitating transparency, promoting ethical conduct and preventing corruption?

UNDESA/DPIDG, UNDP, UNODC, and UNICRI have been facilitating the organization of this session