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Building Capacities of Training Schools and Institutes of Public Administration to implement the 2030 Agenda and attain the SDGs

Aide Memoire

A joint capacity-development initiative of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Astana Civil Service Hub (ACSH) with the support of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the ‘Government for Citizens’ Public Corporation” NJSC.

Venue: UN House/UNDP 303, Baizakov street, Building 1
Almaty, Kazakhstan
27 - 29 November 2019

Background

Many countries are quite advanced in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by world leaders at the UN in September 2015, along with the 17 ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are at its heart. Governments have been updating strategies and plans, organizing and mobilizing institutions and non-state actors, and developing systems for review and oversight.

Public servants have a key role in all those areas. They are also at the centre of delivering public services, which are instrumental for realizing many of the SDGs. Key principles of the 2030 Agenda such as integrated approaches or leave no one behind have deep implications for the way public institutions work. Critically, public servants form the backbone of such institutions, with the success of implementing the key principles of the 2030 Agenda resting on the ability of the public service to adapt to the changes in mindset required by the SDGs.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires effective public management leaders that fully embrace the core values of the Agenda, such as collaboration and integration, leaving no one behind, inclusion, partnerships, respect for people and planet, integrity, transparency and accountability. The success in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda heavily depends on the capacity of public servants (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude, leadership competencies and mindset) to support the implementation of the SDGs. To be up to the task of implementing the SDGs, new competences in the public sector are needed.

Public administration training institutions play a leading role in developing government competencies and promoting present and future capacities across ministries and institutions. To spearhead the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the current government leadership and the next generation of public servants must internalize that development is not possible without peace and a mindset highlighting the principles and values of the 2030 Agenda. Leaders must have concrete practical tools to spearhead the transformation needed in the public sector to achieve the SDGs.

To contribute to developing the capacity of public servants to embrace the principles and values of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in their daily work, UNDESA, through its global initiative, is engaging with schools and institutes of public administration to mobilize and equip public servants for

implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attain the SDGs as well as developing and updating their curricula to reflect the SDGs and the key principles and objectives of the 2030 Agenda.

The overall purpose of the initiative is to develop the capacities of public servants (in terms of knowledge, skills, attitude, leadership competencies and mindset) to support the implementation of the SDGs, provide data and information about the development of capacities in the regions; and support institutional capacity development for improved public service delivery as well as North-South and South-South exchange of effective governance practices to ensure cross-fertilization and mutual learning.

Against this backdrop, UN DESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, with the support of the 'Government for Citizens' Public Corporation" NJSC and in collaboration with UNDP, the Astana Civil Service Hub and the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, is organizing a workshop to build capacities of training schools and institutes of public administration to implement the 2030 Agenda and attain the SDGs.

The theme of the workshop builds on interest from a presentation by UN DESA/DPIDG at the Astana Economic Forum in May 2019, that introduced the UN DESA's Global Initiative on Equipping Public Servants with the Capacities to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the SDGs. Furthermore, this workshop is a follow-up to the recommendations made during the Expert Group Meetings conducted by the DPIDG in Kampala, and Marrakesh in 2018, and the African Symposium in Addis Ababa in 2017. Also, during the recent Astana Economic Forum and the 27th Annual Conference of the Network of Schools and Institutes of Public Administration in Central and Easter Europe (NISPAcee) participants requested to intensify transformational leadership capacity-development in institutes responsible for training public servants.

Objectives

The workshop aims to build the capacities of training schools and institutes of public administration to include in their training both the principles and the objectives of the sustainable development agenda. It will also aim to equip public servants with transformational leadership capacities needed to implement the SDGs. Strengthened capacities of the institutes and schools of public administration responsible for public servants' training will create a multiplying effect which will bring a greater impact on the development of the skills and competencies required for the achievement of SDGs.

This workshop will also provide an opportunity to include the 2030 Agenda and SDGs among the parameters for accrediting training programs in public administration and to place the training on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs on a sustainable footing.

Finally, the workshop will provide a platform for sharing expertise in training and education of public servants among participating countries and contribute to North-South and South-South cooperation.

Participants

The direct beneficiaries of the workshop are senior public service officials, national SDG focal points, as well as institutes of public administration and the public servants and leaders they train from Central Asia region, who will be supported in their efforts to integrate transformational leadership and the values and principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into their training programs.

Sponsored participants will be drawn from six countries, namely: Afghanistan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan; Tajikistan; and Turkmenistan. Several experts and human resource managers from the Netherlands, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and Montenegro will participate, as resource persons, to provide substantive backstopping to the meeting. Engagement of the resource persons will enrich the discussions of the workshop.

List of countries expected to attend the conference:



Afghanistan



Kazakhstan



Kyrgyzstan



Tajikistan



Turkmenistan



Uzbekistan

Expected Outcomes

The workshop will allow participants to make proposals and recommendations on the next steps needed to strengthen public administration education and the capacity of training schools and institutes of public administration for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The participants will identify specific SDG-related competencies and mindsets from the Region that are needed for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and realization of the SDGs.

In addition, through the interactive activities planned during the workshop and complemented by the plenary sessions, participants will gain an enhanced understanding of the need to develop and promote teachings of SDGs.

It is expected that, as a follow-up to the event, the participating training schools and institutes of public administration as well public servants will have:

- (i) Familiarised themselves with the notion of transformational leadership and the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- (ii) Mainstreamed the SDGs in their training and capacity development programs. They will have also included the notion of transformational leadership, values, and principles of the 2030 Agenda in their curricula;
- (iii) Discussed and internalised the transformational competencies and mindsets required by public sector leaders and public servants for the achievement of SDGs;
- (iv) Improved their skills for considering SDGs in planning, monitoring and reporting;

- (v) Recognised the need for collaboration and partnerships among schools and institutes of public administration in developed and developing countries for sharing expertise in training and education of public servants.

A final report will be drafted at the end of the workshop. It will include working papers compiled for the workshop as well information on the educational and training materials, as well as information on the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, developed by UNDESA/DPIDG.

Co-organizers

The co-organizers will use materials produced by the United Nations and other associates to support the conference and provide beneficiaries with cutting-edge information from all over the world in a coherent manner, using the most appropriate combination of learning methodologies.

The organizers of the workshop are:

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs



UN DESA, based at UN Headquarters in New York, holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat. Its Divisions and Offices work together towards a common goal to promote the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA collaborates closely with its partners at regional and country levels in helping countries to translate policies into formulation and implementation of national sustainable development strategies and preparation of roadmaps for national implementation.

UN DESA's work promotes and supports international cooperation for sustainable development. It addresses a range of cross-cutting issues that affect peoples' lives and livelihoods, especially the most vulnerable. We are fundamentally concerned, not only with global prosperity today, but also tomorrow, having as a foundation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) supported by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

In providing a broad range of top-quality analytical products, policy advice and technical assistance, UN DESA effectively translates global commitments in the economic, social and environmental spheres into national policies and actions and plays a key role in monitoring progress towards the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway.

UN DESA's mission, to promote development for all, underscores the need for all stakeholders – governments, UN and other international organizations, civil society and the private sector – to do their part to improve economic and social well-being and prevent environmental degradation and leave no one behind.

The United Nations Development Programme



UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience to sustain development results. It focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas: Sustainable development, Democratic governance and peacebuilding and Climate and disaster resilience. In all its activities, UNDP endeavours to strengthen member states capacities to reach the targets set out in the SDGs by 2030.

The Astana Civil Service Hub



ACSH promotes civil service effectiveness by supporting the efforts of governments of countries of the region and beyond in building institutional and human resource capacity. It provides technical assistance and advisory services to the governments of the participating countries on civil service issues, and acts as a multilateral platform for the exchange of experience and knowledge related to the implementation of public administration reform.

The Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



The Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan is a non-profit public higher education institution located in Nur-Sultan. The Academy offers courses and programs leading to officially recognized higher education degrees such as master's degrees, doctorate degrees in several areas of study. International students are welcome to apply for enrolment.

'Government for Citizens' Public Corporation" NJSC



The 'Government for Citizens' Public Corporation' is an online portal and physical offices intended to streamline public services and reduce opportunities for petty bribery and corruption.

Official Languages

The workshop will be conducted in English and Russian, whereas for convenience of all participants, simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Venue and Dates

The workshop will take place at the UN House/UNDP 303 Baizakov Street, Building 1, Almaty, Kazakhstan on 27-29 November 2019.

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