

Economic and Social Council

Charting progress: Follow up to the 2022 review of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies

Roundtable discussion during the 2024 June Management Segment

Thursday, 6 June 2024

10:30 am – 1:00 pm (NY Time)

Talking points for Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi
Chair, Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Aligning with the 2030 Agenda

- The 2030 Agenda has been at the centre of CEPA's work since 2016. In providing policy advice to ECOSOC, CEPA focusses on governance and public administration aspects of SDG implementation.
- By its resolution 2023/28, among others, ECOSOC has invited the Committee to continue to advise the Council on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the SDGs. CEPA takes this responsibility seriously.
- In the context of its review, ECOSOC recommended that the subsidiary bodies place poverty eradication at the heart of their work and to be guided by the principle of leaving no one behind.
- At our 23rd session, in April 2024, we discussed new governance insights to advance the SDGs and eradicate poverty, with an emphasis on SDG 1, in alignment with the 2024 theme of ECOSOC and the HLPF.
- We also took a deep dive into building inclusive institutions that leave no one behind at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, bearing in mind that the specific contexts and situations of countries differ widely.
- Another area highlighted by ECOSOC in the 2022 review was climate action. Institutions, climate and environment is an issue area of ongoing concern to CEPA given the interconnected nature of the 2030 Agenda and its economic, social and environmental dimensions.
- More generally, CEPA pays considerable attention to the interlinkages between institutional aspects of SDGs 16 and 17, and the other SDGs, including in relation to questions of policy coherence, partnerships, public finance and the use of enabling technology in government, in particular information and communications technology.

- To this end, we routinely invite UN system entities to join the conversation. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming representatives of UNDP, UNEP, UNODC, UNHCR, OSAA, ESCWA, FAO, UNESCO, UNU, IMF and the World Bank – and greatly benefited from their ideas and experience, particularly in relation to the impact of long-term trends on progress towards the SDGs.

Coordination issues and working methods

- As an advisory body with no decision-making powers, we have found it especially productive to engage with government officials, Permanent Observers, UN system agencies and other Secretariat entities in an expert capacity, as much as with members of the Functional Commissions, which are intergovernmental in nature.
- Alongside the UN system entities just mentioned, the Committee for Development Policy and the Committee of Experts on Economic-Environmental Accounting are cases in point.
- The regulation and use of artificial intelligence by the public sector may be an emerging area where a collaborative approach across the system – within the context of ongoing processes – could help ensure that diffusion of the technology reinforces implementation of the 2030 Agenda and leaves no one behind.
- CEPA remains committed to enhancing exchanges with all relevant stakeholders to support the elaboration of integrated policy approaches, including regional organizations, schools and institutes of public administration, civil society organizations and youth representatives within their respective areas of expertise.
- To promote direct interaction on institutional successes and challenges that participating countries/cities have themselves highlighted in their respective VNRs/VLRs, the Committee regularly facilitates a peer exchange among VNR and VLR cities on institutional aspects of SDGs 16 and 17.
- To ensure that as many voices as possible are heard, we have also carved out a space for a dedicated consultation with observers. In addition to written inputs, a representative selection of observers are invited to weigh in on specific policy recommendations put forward by the expert as the deliberations unfold.
- Hybrid meeting formats are crucial to global engagement in these expert exchanges – as is evident today. I hope they can continue to be supported for the sake of consensus-building throughout the ECOSOC system and around the world.
- To conclude, CEPA is cognizant of the urgent need for transformative actions to amplify the impact of implementation of the SDGs and commitments of the 2030 Agenda.
