Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
15 July 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013
Geneva, 1-26 July 2013
Agenda item 13 (g)
Economic and environmental questions: public administration and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Martin Sajdik (Austria), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2011/2 of 26 April 2011, 2011/22 of 27 July 2011 and 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, and other related resolutions on public administration and development,

Referring to General Assembly resolutions 65/141 of 20 December 2010 and 66/184 of 22 December 2011, and other related resolutions on information and communications technologies for development,

Referring also to General Assembly resolution 67/195 of 21 December 2012, in which the Assembly stressed the important role of Governments in the design of their national public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national needs and priorities through, inter alia, the effective use of information and communications technologies, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[1]

Recalling also the Istanbul Declaration[2] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[3] endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called

---

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.
[2] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[3] Ibid., chap. II.

Please recycle

upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit themselves to implementing the Programme of Action,

Recalling further Council resolution 2012/26 of 27 July 2012, in which the Council called upon the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to fully and effectively implement the commitments made in the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner,

Recognizing the commitment on meeting the special needs of Africa expressed in the road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[4] and also recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Council on issues related to governance and public administration in development,

Taking note of the support provided by the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance to countries on public sector leadership and institutional and human resources capacity development, electronic and mobile government and citizen engagement in managing development programmes,

Recognizing that effective governance at the local, subnational, national, regional and global levels representing the voices and interests of all is critical for advancing sustainable development,

Underscoring the centrality of transparent, accountable, efficient, effective, non-discriminatory, professional and citizen-oriented public administration, as embodied in relevant, ongoing international initiatives, to the successful implementation of development policies and management of development programmes,

Underscoring also the actual potential of e-government in promoting transparency, accountability, efficiency and citizen engagement in public service delivery,

Taking note of the invitation of the Council to the Committee of Experts to study the effect of specific practices in responsive and inclusive public governance on development and the request that the Committee convey the outcome of the study to the Council in the report on its twelfth session, held in April 2013, with a view to assisting the process of preparing for deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda,[5]

1.   *Takes note* of the conclusions contained in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its twelfth session on the role of responsive and accountable public governance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda;[6]

2.   *Notes* the involvement of the United Nations system in the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, and encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and others to continue to strengthen

_____

[4] See A/56/326, paras. 239-260.
[5] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/28.
[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 24* (E/2013/44), chap. III, sect. B.

inter-agency cooperation in addressing the multidimensional nature of governance and in promoting a holistic, transformative approach to governance, public administration and institutional development at the national and local levels, with a view to strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable development;

3. *Also notes* the global thematic consultation on governance, co-led by the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and its valuable contribution to promoting open, inclusive and broad-based deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Reaffirms* that the foundations for sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration;

5. *Stresses* the centrality of effective and responsive local governance with sufficient and appropriate authority and resources for sustainable development, and emphasizes the need to strengthen governance, public administration and professionalism at both the national and local levels to improve the delivery of public services;

6. *Notes* that the Committee of Experts has a role in supporting the Council in addressing the global development agenda, bearing in mind the need for expert and insightful global advice on governance and public administration in its various dimensions, and encourages the Committee to remain involved in and contribute to the relevant intergovernmental and expert processes relating to the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, as appropriate;

7. *Encourages* Member States:

(a) To promote effective leadership, high standards of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector at the national and local levels, through, inter alia, the use of information and communications technologies;

(b) To promote public trust and accountability by providing access to information, fostering the use of open government data in public institutions and publicly funded organizations and optimizing citizen engagement, including through relevant and ongoing initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to take steps to support Governments in this regard, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations system agencies, as appropriate;

(c) To continue to support capacity-building in public governance and institution-building at all levels by, inter alia, encouraging innovation in the public service, fully harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies in all areas of government, engaging citizens and encouraging public participation in managing development;

(d) To promote the effective management of diversity and inclusion in public services and enhance equality in access to services by all, especially people with disabilities, the elderly, women, youth, children and other disadvantaged groups;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To address gaps in research, monitoring, capacity development and implementation in governance and public administration and, in particular, to further develop its public administration country studies and increase the scope and depth of its capacity-development activities with the aim of better assisting countries, according to their specific contexts and needs, in strengthening participatory governance, strengthening public administration, advancing public-private partnerships, promoting innovation and knowledge transfer in the public sector and better defining e-government strategies and policies;

(b) To promote transformative government and innovation in public governance so as to achieve sustainable development by further promoting advocacy and knowledge transfer on good governance at the global, regional, national and local levels, through, inter alia, United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations Public Service Awards and the United Nations Public Administration Network, by developing capacity-building tools and approaches, including self-assessment tools, and by providing advisory services in the field, as appropriate;

(c) To assist in the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[7] and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[8] on issues related to e-government, e-participation, mobile government, open government data, the use of information and communications technologies in parliaments and the Internet Governance Forum.

———————————

———————————

[7] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I.B.
[8] See A/60/687.