



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
6 July 2004

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-fourth session

7 June to 2 July 2004

Agenda item 8

Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fourth session

Rapporteur: Mr. Hitoshi **Kozaki** (Japan)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation

(Item 3 (c))

In-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development

1. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 7 June 2004, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development (E/AC.51/2004/3).
2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded jointly with the Director of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Particular support was expressed for recommendations 1, 4 and 8. Satisfaction was expressed over the strengthening of the Division's capacity as a result of a recent restructuring, the progress made in sharing information and the role therein of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN), and the participation of the regional centres in UNPAN. Given the positive assessment by OIOS of support provided by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management to the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, the view was expressed that that support should be further enhanced. With regard to improving the development of best practices, the view was expressed that there was

a need for a critical analysis of data and the use of standard indicators. Concern was expressed over the Division's resources being spread too thinly, the possible duplication of efforts by the Division and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the lack of visibility of outputs, which required a better dissemination strategy, and the absence of a well developed methodology for best practices. The absence of UNPAN focal points in some regional commissions and the poor quality of Internet connection with some centres in Africa were also noted with concern. The view was expressed that recommendation 5 should be expanded to include academic and research centres dealing with public administration in a worldwide database to enhance the outreach to decision makers.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. **The Committee recommended the approval of the recommendations contained in the in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration, finance and development, it being understood that recommendation 2 would read as follows:**

Recommendation 2

Support to international cooperation in tax matters in the Financing for Development Office

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs should ensure that the work on international cooperation in tax matters and support to Governments is given appropriate focus and support within the Financing for Development Office.

5. **The Committee noted the comments of the Secretary-General in paragraph 44 of document E/AC.51/2004/3 concerning the need for the Division to reorient its technical assistance programme and in this respect recalls the request by the General Assembly in paragraph 48 of its resolution 58/270 to the Secretary-General to undertake a fundamental and comprehensive review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and to make appropriate proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.**

6. **Concerning recommendation 1, the Committee agreed that within its mandate for work on the broad theme of strengthening governance systems and institutions for social development and poverty reduction, the Division for Public Administration and Development Management should seek to enhance the effectiveness and impact of its work by applying the three criteria set out in paragraph 61 of document E/AC.51/2004/3 in the development of its future programme of work, and that the Secretary-General should make proposals to the General Assembly, as required.**

7. **The Committee stressed the crucial importance of the role of the regional commissions in the implementation of the programme, and in particular in the development of the UNPAN. The Committee commended the regional commissions that had already established effective focal points for UNPAN and recommended that the Division for Public Administration and Development Management renew its efforts to establish working relationships with the other regional commissions.**

8. The Committee noted the effective assistance of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management for the Global Forums on Reinventing Government, which had been an important venue for engaging decision makers and other high-level government officials with the goals of the programme, and called for continued partnership with regard to future sessions of the Global Forum.

9. The Committee recommended, in connection with recommendation 5, “Developing an information strategy”, that the Division continued to engage both present and future national policy makers through an outreach strategy aimed at educational institutions, including undergraduate and graduate schools of public administration, and civil society organizations around the world.

10. The Committee stressed that the implementation of recommendation 4 would not imply the establishment of macrolevel indicators to measure the overall performance of public administration of individual Member States.
