



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Public Administration

### Twenty-second session

27–31 March 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

#### Annotated provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
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4. Peer exchange with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities on experiences and promising practices in implementing Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17.
5. Institutional mechanisms for providing economic, financial and structural support to address climate change, reduce the use of fossil fuels and protect biodiversity.
6. Application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. Reinventing public sector workforce training and institutional learning towards changing mindsets in the public sector.
8. Public financial management in times of emergency and implications for the credibility of budgets.
9. Stimulating public sector innovation through digital technology and measuring the impact of digital government.
10. Responding to the effects of climate change in institution-building efforts in fragile countries and countries emerging from conflict.
11. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Committee.
12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session.



## **Annotations**

### **1. Election of officers**

The Committee will elect a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur for the twenty-second session. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur constitute the Bureau. In accordance with established practice, the officers will continue to act as the Bureau during the intersessional period that follows the twenty-second session in preparation for the twenty-third session.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The Committee will be invited to adopt the agenda of the twenty-second session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2022/333. In the same decision, the Council decided that the twenty-second session of the Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters from 27 to 31 March 2023. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 to 6 p.m. Informal meetings and events may be held at other times.

#### *Documentation*

Annotated provisional agenda ([E/C.16/2023/1](#))

### **3. Institutional aspects of the theme of the 2023 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development**

The main theme of the 2023 session of the Council and the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development will be “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The forum will balance consideration of its main theme with in-depth reviews of Sustainable Development Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals) and their interlinkages, including with other Goals.

The theme of the twenty-second Committee, aligned with the main theme of the high-level political forum, will be “Urgently transforming institutions for a greener, more inclusive and more resilient world at a time of multiple crises”. The Committee will consider its theme and the Goals under review by the forum from a governance and public administration perspective, paying particular attention to the cross-cutting nature of all the Goals, and will affirm its input to the forum under the agenda item.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on urgently transforming institutions for a greener, more inclusive and more resilient world at a time of multiple crises ([E/C.16/2023/2](#))

Contribution by the Committee to the thematic review of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development

### **4. Peer exchange with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities on experiences and promising practices in implementing Sustainable Development Goals 16 and 17**

As its twenty-second session, the Committee will again invite a small number of voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities to engage in an

interactive exchange with the experts and observers on the institutional aspects of Goals 16 and 17, taking into account the interlinkages with the other Goals. The exchange could include reflections on the use of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2018/12, as a guide to accelerating the recovery from COVID-19 and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels. The experts will be invited to prepare insights for consideration based on country inputs, identify challenges, pose questions and provide proposals that could contribute to accelerated actions to achieve the Goals. The Committee will also continue its consideration of how best to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and action-oriented approaches to advance the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, building on the process of voluntary national reviews conducted by the high-level political forum.

*Documentation*

Conference room paper on peer exchange with voluntary national review countries and voluntary local review cities on Goals 16 and 17

**5. Institutional mechanisms for providing economic, financial, and structural support to address climate change, reduce the use of fossil fuels and protect biodiversity**

At its twenty-first session, the Committee observed that the fragmentation of responsibility for combating climate change and the sustainable management, protection and restoration of natural resources was a major institutional barrier to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15. The Committee recommended that Governments prioritize mechanisms for policy coherence, such as ecosystem management and territorial development, to address the challenge. The Committee also noted that simplified regulatory frameworks and clear distribution of responsibilities across all levels of government were part of the solution, along with increased capacity in natural capital accounting.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will continue its consideration of how to build strong institutions to address climate change and for the sustainable management of natural resources with particular reference to the capacity of subnational governments to access and manage financing for climate change adaptation in collaboration with national authorities.

*Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on public institutions and support for climate funding ([E/C.16/2023/3](#))

**6. Application of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals**

At its nineteenth session, the Committee focused its discussion on connecting the principles of effective governance for sustainable development to regional and national actions to build strong institutions for the implementation of the Goals. At its twentieth session, the Committee welcomed the preparation of regional studies on the implementation of the principles, while noting with appreciation efforts to identify and review related technical guidelines to operationalize the principles in the form of strategy guidance notes. The Committee concluded that more in-depth consideration of regional studies could be useful, as could further discussion of the public sector situation and trends in specific practice areas. Given the essential role of local authorities in the implementation of the Goals, at its twenty-first session the

Committee considered matters relating to the application of the principles at the subnational level.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will study the application of the principle for the achievement of the Goals. It may also consider whether to reinvigorate its discussion of indicators of effective governance for sustainable development, along with options for future work in this area.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on promoting the governance principle of participation in support of the Sustainable Development Goals ([E/C.16/2023/4](#))

Conference room paper on knowing where countries stand on their way to 2030

Conference room paper on the use of governance indicators in voluntary national and local review processes

### **7. Reinventing public sector workforce training and institutional learning towards changing mindsets in the public sector**

In previous sessions, the Committee discussed the challenges of building the awareness, competencies and skills of public servants, including digital skills, and readying institutions and policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It noted that a comprehensive understanding of the scope and capabilities of the public sector workforce would be helpful in building strong institutions, and countries were encouraged to address public sector workforce capability gaps, including gaps in digital skills, within the context of national human resources strategies and national development strategies. The Committee underscored the enabling role that critical thinking, complexity thinking, futures thinking, design thinking, deliberative skills and emotional intelligence could play in public sector innovation. Attention could be given to new modalities of work, addressing inequalities in compensation systems, expanding subnational workforce capacity and attracting youth to the public sector. The Committee was also of the view that further steps should be taken to promote professionalization, invest in digital skills and update competency frameworks for the Goals while advancing social equity in the design and delivery of public services.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will continue its consideration of public sector workforce matters with a focus on reinventing training and institutional learning towards changing public sector mindsets.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on reinventing public sector workforce training and institutional learning towards changing mindsets ([E/C.16/2023/5](#))

### **8. Public financial management in times of emergency and implications for the credibility of budgets**

In previous sessions, the Committee discussed issues related to mobilizing, allocating and managing budgetary resources and observed that building competent public fiscal management capacity at the national and local levels, together with adequate oversight capacity, remained a major challenge. Sound fiscal management entailed full ownership of domestic and international flows, reduction of illicit financial flows and corruption, strengthened fiscal transparency, participatory and performance-based budgeting, and fiscal decentralization commensurate with subnational institutional capacity and arrangements in a given country. The Committee recommended that the

Goals be mainstreamed into national finance strategies to bridge the gap between policy priorities and actual government spending and, in the least developed countries, to ensure that the achievement of sustainable development did not depend on aid alone. Achievement of the Goals could be accelerated if the Goals were embedded in national and subnational budgets and if these were effectively executed. This effort would require reorganizing budgets based on activities and programmes, which would call for a strategic decision by political leaders, as well as technical efforts. Expanded efforts were also needed to strengthen local government finance and financial management, including through a concerted global effort to address severe budgetary challenges and financial risks that Governments were facing at the subnational level.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will focus on public financial management in times of emergency and implications for the credibility of budgets.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on public financial management in times of emergency and implications for the credibility of budgets ([E/C.16/2023/6](#))

### **9. Stimulating public sector innovation through digital technology and measuring the impact of digital government**

At its twenty-first session, the Committee underscored that digitalization of government and society continued to offer immense opportunities to leapfrog development, improve public service delivery, combat corruption, reduce inequalities and improve State-citizen relations provided it was managed in a fair, ethical and people-centred manner. Efforts to address digital divides were urgently needed if the digital transformation was to achieve its full potential, alongside improved data governance and greater attention to the mitigation of risks arising from information and communications technologies, such as artificial intelligence and social media, through new policy and regulatory regimes and standards.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will be invited to consider matters relating to stimulating public sector innovation through digital technology and measuring the impact of digital government.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on digitalization and public sector innovation ([E/C.16/2023/7](#))

### **10. Responding to the effects of climate change in institution building efforts in fragile countries and countries emerging from conflict**

In its resolution [70/262](#), on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the General Assembly stressed the importance of closer cooperation between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission and encouraged the Commission to draw on the expertise of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Council.

In previous sessions, the Committee considered the question of stakeholder engagement in post-conflict countries. It concluded, inter alia, that re-establishing legitimacy and trust were major challenges faced by post-conflict societies, in which certain groups might have been systematically excluded, and military, police and other institutions might be associated with repressive or corrupt practices. The Committee discussed underlying issues in promoting security and access to justice for all and ways to support institution-building in those areas. Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee observed that local leaders and civil society

organizations could be critical partners in aiding vaccination programmes that relied on trust and legitimacy, while clear, verified information was essential to overcoming challenges related to fake news and mistrust of government. The Committee also stressed that sustaining peace depended upon long-term engagement in institution-building by all stakeholders that was consistent with local norms and political realities; progress in building strong institutions was often hampered, however, by an emphasis on the short-term need for security, political interests and external dependency.

At its twenty-second session, the Committee will reflect on the impact of climate change on institution-building efforts in fragile countries and countries emerging from conflict.

#### *Documentation*

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the expert paper on building strong institutions to link the environment and peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries ([E/C.16/2023/8](#))

### **11. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Committee**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), the Committee should adopt a theme for its twenty-third session that is aligned with the main theme of the high-level political forum and the Council for 2024, while continuing to address issues necessary to the discharge of its other functions. The main theme for 2024 is to be decided by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

In discussing the draft provisional agenda of its twenty-third session, the Committee may wish to consider reflecting on a provisional programme of work for the period from 2023 to 2025, building on the experience and accomplishments of previous years. Members could consider whether doing so would contribute to the work of the Committee and further enhance its profile through the forward-looking study of critical issues in governance and public administration relevant to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda.

### **12. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its twenty-second session**

The Committee will adopt a report to be submitted to the Council on the work of its twenty-second session. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [72/305](#), the work of the Committee should reflect the need for an integrated and action-oriented approach to the Goals and build on a solid evidence-based review of progress on the 2030 Agenda.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [68/1](#), the Committee should include in its report an executive summary, and the report should be concise and clearly identify the conclusions and recommendations and issues that might require attention and/or action by the Council.