11 Principles for Effective Governance

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The full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives strongly depends on a common understanding of the basic principles of effective governance for sustainable development.

The 11 principles that follow have been developed to help interested countries, on a voluntary basis, build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, with a view to achieving the shared vision for the people and the planet embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As basic principles, they apply to all public institutions.
Effectiveness

**Competence** Institutions must have sufficient expertise, resources and tools to adequately fulfill the mandates under their authority.

**Sound policymaking** Public policies are to be coherent with one another and founded on true or well-established grounds.

**Collaboration** Institutions at all levels of government and all sectors should work together and with non-State actors towards the same end, purpose and effect.

Accountability

**Integrity** To serve in the public interest, civil servants are to discharge their official duties honestly, fairly and in a manner consistent with soundness of moral principle.

**Transparency** Institutions are to be open and candid in the execution of their functions and promote access to information, subject only to specific and limited legal exceptions.

**Independent oversight** Oversight agencies are to act according to strictly professional considerations and apart from and unaffected by others.

Inclusiveness

**Leaving no one behind** Public policies are to take into account the needs and aspirations of all segments of society, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those subject to discrimination.

**Non-discrimination** Access to public service is to be provided without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

**Participation** All significant political groups should be actively involved in matters that directly affect them and have a chance to influence policy.

**Subsidiarity** Central authorities should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more intermediate or local level

**Intergenerational Equity** Institutions should construct administrative acts that balance short-term needs with the longer-term needs of future generations.