19th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

Written statement by Asian Institute of Public Policy and Public Affairs

Agenda Item 10: Training and awareness-raising for the Sustainable Development Goals

Reduce inequalities within and among countries Goal-10, is the UN Goal of the month.

With the outbreak of COVID-19, presents greatest challenge since world war two between lives and livelihood of most vulnerable sections of society solidarity to reduce poverty, addressing the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs follow up of 2030, global agenda ambitious commitments is emerging as greatest global challenge, access to data sharing, advancing knowledge, networking, and learning best practices has been halted briefly, the implications on how to enhance the awareness and train the public officials in maintaining the momentum on advancing the implementation of SDGs ambitious set to 17, goals, 169, associated indivisible targets, and 231, indicators developed by member states require the provision of maintaining the coherence the review of progress in implementation of SDG should voluntarily be reviewed by the state-led actors involving public officials, relevant groups and stakeholders.

In the context of training and awareness raising for realising the SDG the current global pandemic have brought to the fore importance of to leave no one behind, its practical implementation in particular, public officials both in developed and developing countries should consider ways to strategize an integrated policy semblance, redrawing training ecosystem, and stability comprising inclusive responses for reactivating the SDGs implementation as they face difficult choice because the costs of erring in either direction could be very large, as the countries adopted strict lockdowns the economic impact of which has become evident, while some European, Asian countries are adopting and sequenced approach have moved down this path with some success risks remain may be even greater, since the governments have primary responsibility of implementing the SDGs they should reshape institutional mechanism for steering and reviewing the progress.

Public Administration systems and public officials have key role in ensuring delivery of SDGs it is at the heart of efforts to make institutions effective, accountable and inclusive, as elaborated in SDG-16, key principles of the 2030 Agenda, such as integrated approaches or the need to leave no one behind, have deep implications for the way public institutions work. Public officials need to be aware of the SDG and the key principles of the 2030 Agenda, which have implications for the skills and knowledge they need to advance the work of achieving the SDGs, it is therefore important to mobilize and equip public servants to support the implementation of the 2030, Agenda.

Transforming public officials is imperative to move to a strategic human resource management system, which would look at the individual as a vital resource to be valued, motivated, developed and enabled to advance the work of achieving the SDG. By strengthening competencies countries can implement reform processes to develop competencies that can increase public officials performance alongside a framework of agreed core values, knowledge, skills, attitudes and ultimately behaviours.
Administrative training institutes and public administration schools should integrate the SDGs training and awareness into existing civil services training programs and extensively use technology for enhanced effectiveness, massive open online-courses, virtual workshops, e-learning courses should aim to strengthen the knowledge and capacities from within and outside of government on SDG related progress to official statistics, community partnerships, and data value chain needed to ensure effective monitoring for the SDGs, technology enabled learning enhances the knowledge and skills of government officers, public administration schools need to put in place institutional arrangements, systems and processes to ensure the participation of key stakeholders in national SDG review and aspects related to the interpretation, analysis, and presentation of data of direct relevance to the SDG and more broadly national, sectoral policies aimed at ensuring sustainable and inclusive development.

The COVID 19, global pandemic has thrown new challenges of reversing the global goals achieved so far, the countries should address the systemic gaps in the context of where we need more action, in addition changing the public officials mindsets along with institutional strengthening of national administrative institutes by developing exclusive SDG management programmes SDGMP, a regionally-owned curriculum, training modules, case studies for the SDG knowledge content to be integrated into its national training structure and appropriate teaching methods, innovative partnerships with higher education institutions, practice workshops and engaging experts drawn from academia, public sectors, sharing experiences of peer to peer collaboration, learning data driven practical experiences and best practices for adaptive and future ready SDG training strategies.