

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In contemporary democracies, public administration and management are essential tools for good governance and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). According to this assumption, the Committee on Public Administration and Management for Development proposes to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations the following principles constituting a work agenda.

1. Public administration will be based on professional public officials, recruited and promoted according to merit, and trained according to the ethos of the public interest.
2. Public officials will be committed to effectiveness of the state organization and to the rule of law while involved in public administration; to efficiency or the reduction of cost and the increase of the quality of public services while managing public services.
3. In a world where technological and social change is increasingly fast, public officials are supposed to be more autonomous in taking decisions, and more accountable to the state organization and to society.
4. Increased autonomy will be achieved through decentralization of public services to autonomous agencies and to service organizations of civil society.
5. Increased accountability will be achieved through the combination of the classical mechanisms of administrative supervision and auditing to results based management and social accountability.
6. Increased effectiveness will be achieved in so far as legal institutions are adapted to society's values and moods, and as public officials are committed to the ethos of public service.
7. Increased efficiency will be assured in so far as autonomous public officials will be able to choose the means to achieve the accorded objectives, and feel pride for the results attained.
8. In the management of public services, the adoption of information technology is essential to the efficiency of public administration.
9. Communication to the public through the Internet and other media is required to achieve transparency – a condition for accountability.
10. These principles are suitable to developed as well as developing societies, provided that they are adapted to their specific needs.
11. In poor and dual societies, particularly the African ones, necessary foreign aid will be coupled with a sense of ownership of the adopted administrative policies and practices.