



**INTER-AMERICAN COOPERATION MECHANISM FOR  
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC MANAGEMENT (MECIGEP)**

**Reference Document  
February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**[1] The Concept**

- MEGICEP is an institutional mechanism for regional cooperation to facilitate peer dialogue, exchange of experiences, and technical cooperation strategies to support the pursuit of national goals and priorities set by each OAS member state.
- It stems from an Organization of American States General Assembly mandate in resolution AG/RES 2788 (XLIII-O/13), “Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas.”
- It draws on similar experiences in Europe (OECD); Africa (Organization of African Unity); and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries; as well as from numerous peer dialogue processes within the United Nations and the OAS.

**[2] Basic Features**

- Formal, permanent, voluntary, and open to all OAS member states.
- It is based on thematic "rounds" being held to examine a variety of public management issues, such as: open government; planning; public budget; civil service; coordination mechanisms; policy and program evaluation; transparency and accountability; information and communication technologies; decentralization; quality of public services; and civil society participation in public administration, among others. The topics to be discussed will be decided by the participating countries.
- It uses analytical frameworks agreed on by all participants, to be able to think up essential elements that every public management process must take into consideration if it is to be effective. For example, incorporating long-term vision coupled with participatory planning; a professionalized civil service; or a system that promotes quality public service – all critical elements that every public administration should have.
- This process is strictly technical in nature, involving high-level specialists and experts from different countries engaged in a process of dialogue of countries, with support from the DEPM/OAS. This dialogue would involve *in situ* visits by experts, video-conferences, document sharing, etc.
- After a “Round of Analysis” is completed the DEPM/OAS will prepare reports outlining, in general terms, the findings of the peer dialogue; cooperation needs; and challenges for reform, innovation, and modernization in public management.
- Based on these reports, the Department for Effective Public Management – as well as the donor community and other multilateral organizations – could orient their cooperation activities for specific projects toward implementing those recommendations.



- The proposal is for a "Pilot Round" to be held by 2014, using a simple methodology to identify the most suitable operating procedures, experiences, and elements that could eventually be considered in a subsequent discussion on more formal governance rules.

### **[3] Benefits**

- It contributes to the strengthening of public administration to better address citizens' demands; deliver public services in an effective, transparent, and participatory manner; and reaffirm the legitimacy of democratically-elected governments while facilitating good governance in the region.
- It creates opportunities for dialogue, exchange of experiences, and learning by all participating countries.
- It helps identify cooperation needs and challenges in reform, innovation, and modernization of public management—in view of lessons learned and experiences from other countries.
- It promotes and facilitates horizontal and multilateral cooperation among member states by inviting cooperation offers from international donors.
- Support in defining analytical frameworks; creation of public management tools; and case studies that enrich public administration in our countries.



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#### [4] Methodology for the MECIGEP “Pilot Round”

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[1] On a voluntary basis, the beneficiary country requests DEPM/OAS to set up a *round of dialogue* on a topic/area/policy, or public programs of its interest.

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[2] DEPM/OAS prepares a *Self-Assessment Questionnaire* on the chosen topic, for submission to the authorities of the interested country.

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[3] Along with the requesting country, the OAS shares responsibility for putting together a panel of experts consisting of:

- A maximum of 3 (three) experts, who would be authorities from three OAS member states selected by the recipient country.
- These experts would analyze the substance of the topic selected by the beneficiary country and must have expertise in the subject area. One DEPM/OAS expert would be selected for general coordination and for secretarial and technical support.

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[4] The panel of experts begins the process of dialogue by visiting the beneficiary country for a series of *bilateral meetings* with the relevant government entities – using as a frame of reference the *self-assessment questionnaire* prepared by the authorities of the beneficiary country.

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[5] When the process of dialogue is finished, the panel of experts will prepare a preliminary report, using the information gathered in the process of analysis, with the DEPM/OAS providing secretarial and technical support, according to the topic.

This preliminary report will be sent to the beneficiary country for review and final approval.

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[6] The OAS publishes and disseminates the *Final Report*, in coordination with the beneficiary country.

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[7] DEPM/OAS organizes an annual international conference (*MECIGEP Learning Forum*) to publicize the experiences analyzed by the mechanism.

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