

**SUMMARY REPORT
FIRST MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES OF PUBLIC
MANAGEMENT OF OAS MEMBER STATES**

**March 14th, 2014
Panama City, Panama**

OAS Department for Effective Public Management
(DEPM)

SUMMARY REPORT
FIRST MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES
OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT OF OAS MEMBER STATES
March 14th, 2014
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I. BACKGROUND

The First Meeting of High Level Authorities of Public Management took place on March 14th 2014 in Panama City, Panama, in the framework of the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management

The objective of the meeting was to present the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management to the High Level Authorities of the Policy Institutions on Public Management of the OAS Member States in order to obtain their valuable inputs and suggestions, as well as facilitate the exchange of experiences amongst participating countries.

Representatives from twenty (20) OAS member states participated in the Meeting, as well as the Secretary General of the Latin American Centre of Administration for Development (CLAD), and Representatives from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Basque Government as observers (See Annexes I and II).

II. OVERVIEW

To begin the Meeting, Mrs. María Fernanda Trigo, Director of the OAS/Department for Effective Public Management, presented the Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management - MECIGEP¹, highlighting its basic features as well as the General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 2788 (XLIII-O/13) “Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas”, approved on June 5th, 2013 in La Antigua Guatemala (Guatemala).

In her introduction of the MECIGEP Mechanism, Director Trigo explained the preparatory activities that took place leading up to the Meeting, which included: the coordination of activities with the OAS Permanent Missions and Public Management Policy Institutions; the delivery of presentations to sub-regional groups as ALADI and CARICOM; the receipt of twelve (12) letters of support from ministers and senior officials of public administration entities, and the realization of three (3) informal meetings with the Permanent Missions of OAS Member States, which took place between September 2013 and February 2014 at the OAS headquarters in Washington DC.

Furthermore, Mrs. Trigo made reference to prior coordination activities carried out with the internal organs of the Organization of the American States, such as the presentation of the initiative to the Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS in December 2012 and the adoption of Resolution AG/RES. 2788 (XLIII-O/13) “Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the

¹ In its Spanish acronym

Americas” by the General Assembly of the OAS, approved at the Forty-Third Ordinary Session held on June 4-6, 2013 in La Antigua, Guatemala, which resolves: *“To amalgamate the current initiatives and activities of the Department for Effective Public Management into a hemispheric cooperation mechanism on governance aimed at bolstering public administration in member states through dialogue, mutual learning, and technical cooperation by which to enable efficient, transparent, and participatory governance. To that end, the development and implementation of this mechanism shall be done in permanent consultation with the public administration supervision entities in OAS member states”.*

Mrs. Trigo mentioned that the aforementioned meetings were key in terms of receiving comments and suggestions on the functioning of the mechanism, which in turn contributed to the drafting of the reference document titled “Inter-American Cooperation Mechanism for Effective Public Management”, published on February 21st, 2014 and distributed to all Meeting participants. (Annex III)

Finally, Director Trigo concluded by giving an overview of the main features of MECIGEP: its voluntary nature, flexibility and adaptability to the specific needs of each beneficiary country.

After the presentation, the floor was opened to the participating delegates, who expressed their full satisfaction with and willingness to implement the mechanism, among other comments.

In that regard, various delegates suggested that the work being carried out in the framework of the Mechanism be complemented by the work of other regional organizations that may be interested in strengthening public management. Particularly noteworthy was the intervention made by the Permanent Representative of Bolivia and President of the CJPA, who proposed to identify a specific set of thematic areas, thus narrowing the scope of MECIGEP, due the breadth of the field of Public Administration.

Similarly, several delegations stressed the need to implement the initiative, as its implementation will allow for the improvement of its structure and functioning. An emphasis was placed on the importance of the Mechanism for the facilitation of the exchange of experiences and regional integration.

In addition, delegates from Brazil, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic, among others, expressed a desire to be involved in the First Round of the Mechanism in the following themes: collective labour relations in the Civil Service; Administrative Simplification; Quality of Public services, with a special emphasis on health services; Single Windows for Citizen Services; Organizational Development; and Process Management.

Several countries, including Argentina, Mexico, Peru and El Salvador, among others, offered their innovative experiences on these issues and are currently being considered as tentative participating countries for the First Round of MECIGEP. (See Annex III)

The Director of the Department for Effective Public Management, in response to demands made by some delegations, also expressed the willingness of the DEPM to collaborate with other international organizations such as OECD-CLAD -who offered to share their experiences on the topic-, as well as with other organizations interested in collaborating.

Finally, it was stated that participation in the Mechanism shall be requested by sending a formal letter addressed to the GS/OAS through the Permanent Missions of the OAS Member States, in coordination with the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Panama City, March 14th 2014

ANNEX I

Participating Delegations

Argentina

C.ra Mónica Beatriz Zorrilla – Deputy Secretary
Under Secretariat of Management and Civil Service – Secretariat of the Cabinet
Office and Administrative Coordination

Bahamas (the)

Hon. David Shane Gibson – Minister
Minister of the Public Service

Barbados

Mr. **Michael Archer** - Director
Office of the Public Sector – Ministry of the Civil Service

Bolivia

H.E. Diego Pary – Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the Organization of American States

Brazil

Mrs. **Ana Lúcia Amorim de Brito** – Executive Secretary
Secretariat for Management – Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management

Canada

Dr. **Douglas Janoff** – First Secretary – Alternate Representative
Permanent Mission of Canada to the Organization of American States

Colombia

Dr. Orlando Gracia Fajardo – Director
Direction of Evaluation of Public Policies – National Department of Planning

Costa Rica

Dr. Roberto Gallardo Nuñez – Minister
Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy – MIDEPLAN

Dominican Republic

Dr. Manuel Ramon Ventura Camejo – Minister
Ministry of Public Administration

Ecuador

Dr. Oscar Alexis Uquillas Otero – Under Secretary
Sub Secretariat for Institutional Reform
National Secretariat for Planning and Development – SENPLADES

El Salvador

Mr. José Antonio Morales – Under Secretary
Sub Secretariat for Governability and Modernization of the Secretariat for
Strategic Affairs

Guatemala

Lic.da Dora Marina Coc Yup – Under Secretary
Sub Secretariat for Public Policies – Secretariat for Planning and Programming of
the Presidency - SEGEPLAN

Jamaica

Mr. Victor L. Brown – Business Process Re-engineering Specialist
Public Sector Transformation Unit of the Cabinet Office

Mexico

Chief of the Delegation:

Dr. Julián Alfonso Olivas Ugalde – Ministry Secretary
Secretariat for the Public Function

Representatives:

Dr. César Osuna Gómez – Chief Officer
Federal Public Administration Human Resources Unit – Secretariat for the
Public Function

Nicaragua

H.E. Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres – Ambassador
Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the Organization of American States

Panamá

Ing. Eduardo Jaén – General Administrator
National Authority for Government Innovation

Paraguay

Ec. Humberto R. Peralta Beaufort – Ministry Executive Secretary
Secretariat for the Public Function

Perú

Mrs. Mariana Llona Rosa – Executive Secretary
Secretariat for the Public Function

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Mrs. Torfrida Rochester – Permanent Secretary
Human Resources Management Department

Suriname

Mr. Mohamad Nasier ESKAK – Policy Advisor
Ministry of Home Affairs

Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM/OEA)

Mrs. María Fernanda Trigo – Director

Mr. Silverio Zebral – Senior Specialist

Mr. Franz Chevarría – Specialist

Mr. Hugo Inga – Specialist

Miss Enrica De Pasquale – Consultant

Latin-American Centre of Administration for Development – CLAD

Mr. Gregorio Montero – Secretary General

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development– OECD

Mr. Martin Forst – Head of the Division of Governance Reviews and
Partnership

Basque Government

Mr. Javier Bikandi Irazabal, Director of Citizen Services, Innovation and
Improvement of the Administration

ANNEX II
OFFICIAL PHOTO OF THE MECIGEP MEETING



ANNEX III

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

Reference Document February 21st, 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.

[4] Methodology for the MECIGEP “Pilot Round”

[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.

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

[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.

[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.

[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.

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

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