An Open Government framework for the Arab Region

Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for achieving the 2030 Development Agenda

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Introduction

• Technology, Innovation and Openness
• Powerful tools in strengthening Government
  • Technology
    • Each revolution of technology ➔ opportunities for government and citizen
  • Innovation: Processes, structure, networks and customer
  • Openness
    • Transparency
    • Accountability
    • Effectiveness
    • Inclusiveness
Introduction

• Supports Agenda 2030
  • Calls good governance at all levels of Government, and
  • Transparent, effective and accountable institutions

• SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
• SDG 17: Means of implementation
• Support of other SDGs
ESCWA Initiative

Fostering Institutional Development for Participatory Approaches towards the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia

• Objective
  • To build the capacity of ESCWA Member States to:
    • Utilize technology for increased transparency and accountability
    • Adopt effective and efficient participatory approaches for better governance and to address root causes of conflict and prevent its potential relapse.
ESCWA Initiative: Technology for Development

• Effective use technology and innovation:
  • Enhance transparency
  • Implement participatory approaches to governance
  • Through utilization of open government

• Activities:
  • Development of studies and report (4)
  • Meeting (1) and Workshops (3)
  • National activities
    • 3 National workshops
    • National reports and advisory services based on requests
Open government

- Term dates back to 1950s – “the right to know”
- No one definition
  - Can relate to data and information access, online services, and/or citizen involvement, but...
  - The **objectives** between definitions are the same:
    - improved participation, transparency and accountability
- Require interaction with technology as an enabler
- Beyond technology
  - Political will to lead the change
  - Innovative processes, structures and technologies require change
ESCWA Framework on Open Government

• Build on two existing models
• Considerations in developing the framework
  • Should be derived from the best global practices
  • Should be realistic and simple, so that easily applied action plans can be developed
  • Should be clearly linked to the adopted e-Government activities
  • Should allow for the effortless use of available information and communication technologies, including social media and web technologies
  • Should be adaptable, both vertical and horizontal
ESCWA Framework on Open Government

The First Stage: Transparency

The Second Stage: Participation

The Third Stage: Collaboration

The Fourth Stage: Involvement

Preliminary Steps
ESCWA Framework: Preliminary steps

• Establish the link to e-government
• Other preliminary considerations
  • Raise awareness
  • Capacity building
  • Internet and information networks
  • Organizational structures
  • Legislation and Regulations
  • Challenges of open government
ESCWA Framework: Transparency

• **Focus on**
  • open data, its dissemination and quality
  • Build a culture of cooperation among government agencies
  • foundation for open participation and collaboration
  • Use of available ICT such as traditional Web applications or mobile applications

• **Procedures**
  • Data inventories, quality assurance, and dissemination, management and evaluation
ESCWA Framework: Participation

• **Focus on**
  • promote citizen participation in government work
  • Enhance interaction
  • Enhance receipt of feedback and suggestions
  • Intensify ICT use
  • Improve mechanisms

• **Procedures**
  • Social media and other two-way communication technologies means of expression
  • Requires implementation program: needs, method and achievement
ESCWA Framework: Collaboration

• **Focus on**
  • Collaboration between government and citizens
  • innovative, value-added government services with any time, access and participation from any location
  • Collaborative technologies
  • Move towards the agile government and rebuild its institutions

• **Procedures**
  • Social media as collaboration tool
  • Open administrative cooperation
  • Citizen sourcing
  • Public-Citizen partnership
ESCWA Framework: Involvement

• **Focus on**
  • Total participation of citizens in government work
  • Comprehensive access to data and services
  • Involvement of all parties in policy-making and decision-making
  • Build a citizen-centered and accountable government
  • Open government sustainability and improvement
Conclusion

- Open government is a continuous program at the heart of government business, not a time-limited project.
- Political will is needed for commitment and support from the highest structures are necessary.
- Government should issue a policy document, outlining it framework, vision for the open government and principles underlying it.
- Coherence of the legislations with the national policies and action plans of the open government
- Detailed action plans at the national and government departments for implementation according to the stages with clear, realistic and measurable outputs.
- Ensure the involvement of government officials and all categories of citizens in all processes of designing, implementing and evaluating open government programs and activities
Thank you