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THE UN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

A UN Lever to promote Excellence and encourage Creativity and Innovation in Public Service Delivery

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1. The Origin of the Award

- ❖ The idea to launch the Public Service Awards first emerged during the 15th Session of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.
- ❖ After deliberating on measures aimed at promoting excellence and encouraging innovation in public service delivery, the Expert Group recommended that an annual event be organized by UNDESA, through its Division for Public Economics and Public Administration (now Division for Public Administration and Development Management), to recognize and encourage excellence in Public Administration.

1. The Origin of the Award

- ❖ This recommendation was subsequently reflected in the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General (E/2000/66), and endorsed by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in its Decision 2000/231 of 27 July 2000.
- ❖ UN Public Service Award winners are honored in an Awards Ceremony which takes place, each year, on 23 June. This day is designated by the UN General Assembly as the UN Public Service Day, in its Resolution [57/277](#), 7 March 2003.
- ❖ The United Nations organized and hosted the first Public Service Awards Ceremony in New York on 23 June 2003

The UN General Assembly Resolution

(57/277, 7 March 2003)

“2. Reiterates that efficient, accountable, effective and transparent public administration, at both the national and international levels, has a key role to play in the implementation of internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, and in that context stresses the need to strengthen national public sector administrative and managerial capacity-building, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

“3. Decides that 23 June will be designated United Nations Public Service Day, and encourages Member States to organize special events on that day to highlight the contribution of public service in the development process”.

2. The Objectives of the Award

- ❖ The UN Public Service Day intends to celebrate the Value and Virtue of Public Service to the community;
- ❖ It highlights the contribution of Public Service in the development process;
- ❖ It recognizes the work of Public Servants;
- ❖ The Award encourages young people to pursue careers in the Public Sector. Since the first Awards Ceremony in 2003, the United Nations has received an increasing number of submissions from all around the world.
- ❖ The UNPSA is the most prestigious international recognition of excellence in Public Service.
- ❖ It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of Public Service Institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive Public Administration in countries worldwide.
- ❖ Through an annual competition, the UNPSA promotes the role, professionalism and visibility of Public Service.
- ❖ Since 2016, the purpose of the UNPSA is to promote and reward innovation and excellence in public services in support of the realization of the SDGs and the principle of leave no one behind, which is at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. The Modalities of the Competition

- ❖ The announcement is done on UNPAN (July-September) (www.unpan.org)
- ❖ Initiatives are submitted to an electronic platform, supported by evidences
- ❖ 2 Rounds organized by the UNDESA/DPADM
- ❖ 1 Round by a Sub-Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), in April during its annual Session (UN Headquarters, New York)
- ❖ The UNDESA/DPADM also ensures that the project is not contentious, that it exists and that it has a real and concrete impact

3. The Modalities of the Competition

- ❖ To ensure a level playing field for nominations from different Countries, UNPSA winners are decided according to the 5 UN Regional Groups:
 - Africa
 - Asia-Pacific
 - Eastern Europe
 - Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Western Asia.

4. Some Statistics

- ❖ Since 2003, more than 4437 initiatives from 161 Countries have participated in the UNPSA.
- ❖ 258 initiatives have received the UNPSA
- ❖ 437 nominations were received for the 2018 cycle, of which 343 met the eligibility criteria, and **79 Countries participated in the 2018 cycle**, compared to 62 countries in 2017.
- ❖ 3 Categories in 2018
 - Category 1 “Reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through inclusive services and partnerships” continues to receive the highest number of nominations (194),
 - Category 2 “Making institutions inclusive and ensuring participation in decision-making” (111) s
 - Category 3 “Promoting gender responsive public services to achieve the SDGs” (38).
- ❖ The existence of a Database of all the cases on UNPAN, as a tool for Inspiration, Creativity and Benchmark

The UNPSA Ceremony was organized in different Countries (9 Countries so far)

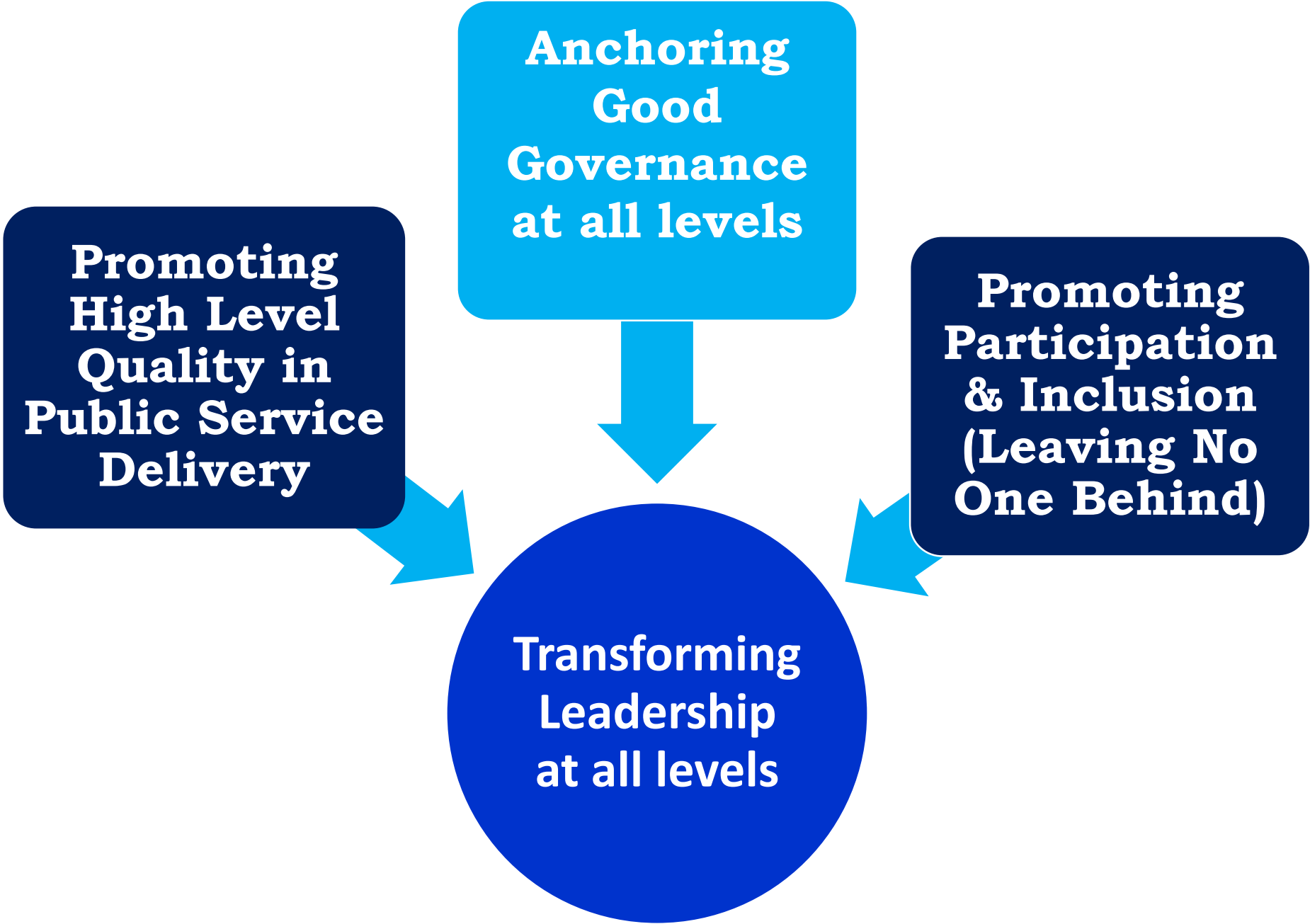
- ❖ [2018 - Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco](#)
- ❖ [2017 - The Hague, Netherlands](#)
- ❖ [2016 - New York, USA](#)
- ❖ [2015 - Medellin, Colombia](#)
- ❖ [2014 - Seoul, Republic of Korea](#)
- ❖ [2013 - Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain](#)
- ❖ [2012 - New York, USA](#)
- ❖ [2011 - Dar es Salaam, Tanzania](#)
- ❖ [2010 - Barcelona, Spain](#)
- ❖ [2009 - New York, USA](#)
- ❖ [2008 - New York, USA](#)
- ❖ [2007 - Vienna, Austria](#)
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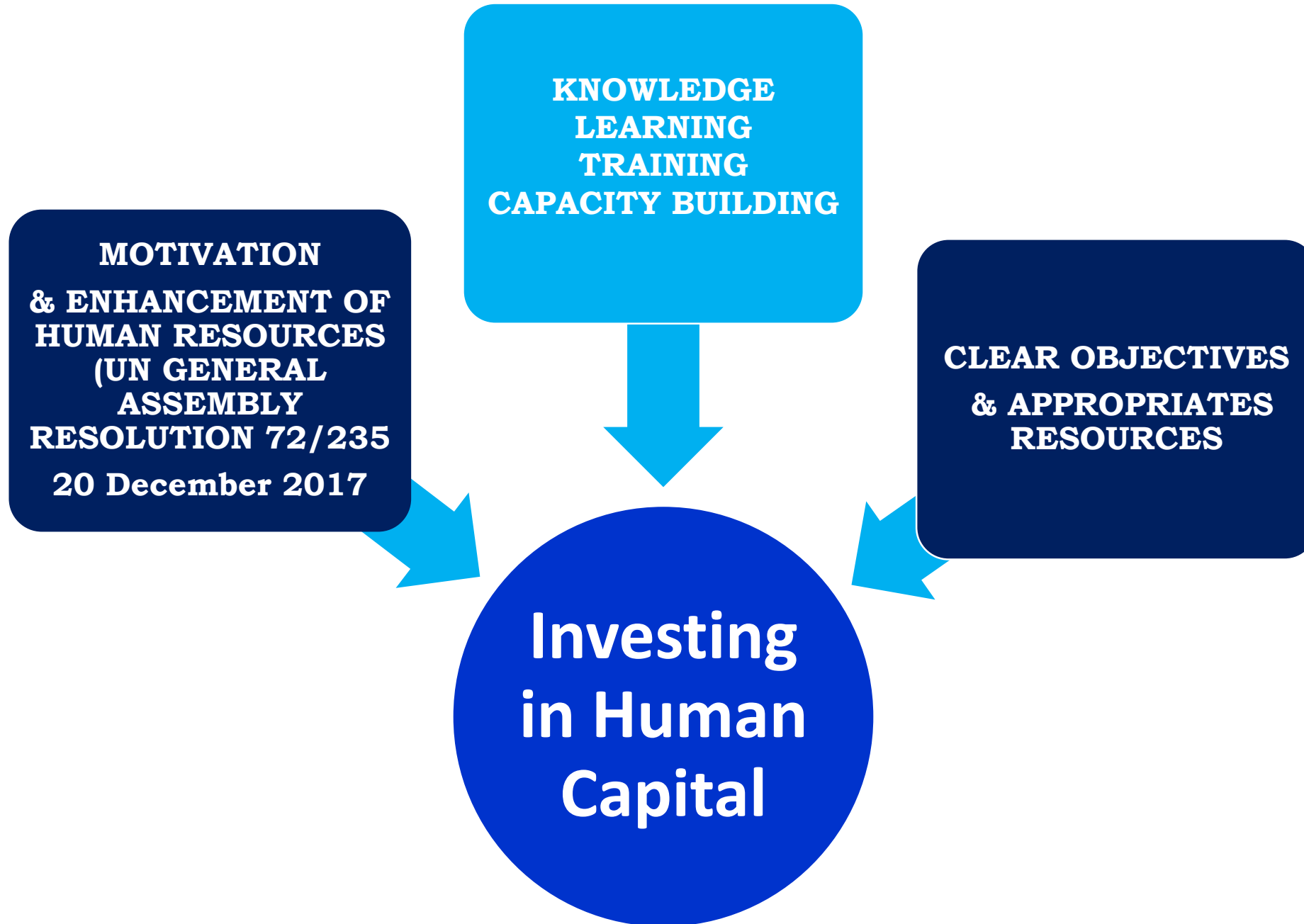
5. UNPSA Challenges

- ❖ Access to information on UNPSA and Competition
- ❖ The mastery of procedures by all Public Institutions at national and local levels, and in particular in Africa
- ❖ DPADM is required to do a lot with less (issue of resources and means)

5. UNPSA Challenges

- ❖ The crucial issues and challenges facing Public Service: how to move from Routine and Bureaucracy to Excellence, Creativity and Innovation???





We need to work, all together and at all levels, including at Grass Roots, to promote Creation, Innovation, Performance, Competitiveness and Excellence

- * Nothing is ever enough for you**
- * Nothing is ever enough for your Organization/Institution**
- * Nothing is ever enough for your Country**
- * Nothing is ever enough for our World and Planet**



According to Aristotle

(384 BC - 322 BC) Greek Philosopher

« **Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit** »



Aristote

384 - 322 av. J.C.

« L'excellence est un art que l'on n'atteint que par l'exercice constant. Nous sommes ce que nous faisons de manière répétée. L'excellence n'est donc pas une action mais une habitude. »

Manuel de gestion-réflexion / Christian Latour

*Thank
you*

