



## RECALIBRATING... GETTING BACK ON TRACK TOWARDS THE SDGs

**Table 3: Effective Governance: From the National to the Local Level**  
Friday, 30 September 2022 | 8.00-10.00am

### Concept Note

Latin America and the Caribbean has been hard hit by COVID-19. The consequences derived from the pandemic in the economic, social and political spheres refer to pre-existing institutional conditions in the region, including low trust in institutions, political and social polarization, perception of State capture and weakened political parties. Overcoming these challenges requires advancing on a three-lane road. Countries must enhance their productivity, inclusion and resilience. We must work on paving these three-lanes, yet still be mindful that this requires effective governance as a prerequisite.

COVID-19 goes beyond a health crisis and must be understood as a crisis of governance. The pandemic has revealed vulnerabilities in the current institutional framework and has exposed inequalities and structural deficits that must be addressed. The context of uncertainty that characterizes this crisis makes policymaking particularly hard as the reaching of consensus becomes more difficult. Governments continue to operate in emergency mode.

However, it is time to turn to the long-term recovery process and start thinking of policy options. The choices governments make with their limited resources today, and how these are deployed, will shape the sustainability of our societies and the attainment of the Agenda 2030. We are facing an exceptional opportunity to forge new agreements between government, the private sector, civil society and communities. These agreements must be built on solutions and install the need to establish a recurrent search for results that produce legitimacy of the process and outcome. We must rethink how we approach challenges with novel policies, strategies, and solutions. A new social compact requires leadership and an acceptance for change. And it must be both local and national level.

Local governments have a central role in improving the human development of their citizens: they are the closest to the people, they have in-depth knowledge of the challenges that citizens face, and they are the most immediate to act in a timely manner and be accountable. The 2030 Agenda considers that local governments are key actors to fulfill the SDGs. In order for them to truly take on this role, it is necessary to reform the institutional environment, create local leadership committed to taking ownership over the SDGs, improve accountability and promote the construction of solutions backed by knowledge of people's needs. However, the participation of the state and federal governments in this task is essential.

In order to advance on these issues, table 3 of the Ministerial Forum will focus on "Effective Governance: From the National to the Local Level". In a context of greater uncertainty, strengthening effective governance is essential and requires looking not only at the national level, but also understanding how the different levels of government and institutions articulate their work. This table will explore how to strengthen effective governance, in particular concrete actions to ground development agendas from the national to the local level.



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The table will take place on Friday, September 30, 2022 (8.00-10.00am). Panelists are expected to share their countries' experiences on this topic, as well as programs, public policies and challenges in their respective countries.