

E-GOVERNANCE AS ONE OF THE KEY ENABLERS IN ACHIEVING THE SDGs: LESSONS LEARNED FROM ESTONIA, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND NAMIBIA

CONCEPT NOTE

**3 May 2017
1:15–2:30**

**Conference Room 8,
UN Headquarters,
New York**

As part of Estonia's event series aimed at introducing e-governance to the larger UN membership, Estonia is convening an event, co-hosted by the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Moldova and Namibia to the United Nations together with E-Governance Academy.

The aim of the event is to introduce the many benefits of e-governance to the larger UN membership, and to show Member States how utilizing e-governance in their respective countries could help them to better achieve the SDGs, due to efficiency, cost-effectiveness and systematization that e-governance offers. Through case studies, this event examines the role of e-governance in achieving the SDGs, and explores lessons learned from launched projects in Estonia, the Republic of Moldova and Namibia. This event aims to contribute to the generation of momentum around the implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Background

While e-governance offers many opportunities to help countries to achieve the SDGs, its potential remains often misunderstood and heavily under-utilized. With the aim to change this, Estonia, the Republic of Moldova and Namibia, who have been very active in the field of e-governance, would like to share their experiences in how e-governance can drive progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

Estonia started to develop its e-governance infrastructure in early 1990s and by now Estonia has developed a comprehensive system through which most government services are made available to citizens in a convenient, efficient and transparent manner through using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Thanks to e-governance, Estonia has made significant progress, and is looking to share this success with others. For this purpose, Estonia has assisted more than 60 governments, including the Republic of Moldova and Namibia, to launch e-governance projects, and is looking to further share this experience with other Member States.

The Republic of Moldova and Namibia, whose experiences with e-governance will be highlighted during this event, serve as excellent examples in showing how adopting e-governance solutions can really enhance progress in societies. Furthermore, these countries have gone on to assume leadership in their regions in the field of e-governance, and are an inspiration for others.

For fellow Member States also keen to learn further about options available to them in utilizing e-governance, Estonia has also set up a program, which allows country representatives to travel to Estonia to learn more about e-governance and, in particular, how e-governance projects could help their respective countries.



Objectives:

The event seeks to highlight the potential of e-governance in helping countries to achieve the SDGs, and by this to build momentum around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- To enhance understanding about e-governance and its interconnectedness with achievement of the SDGs
- To foster further collaboration in the field of e-governance
- To encourage integration of innovative technologies in achieving the SDGs

Format:

The event will be divided into five sections:

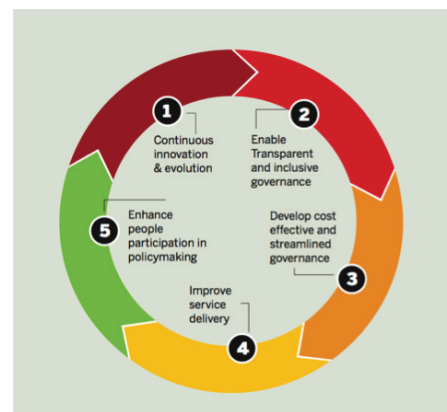
- Opening segment – setting the stage for this action-oriented event
- Keynote statement – emphasizing the importance of further galvanizing efforts for the achievement of the SDGs
- Interactive panel discussion – examples and experiences of Estonia, the Republic of Moldova and Namibia
- Questions and Answers – opportunity to ask any questions representatives may have
- Closing segment – summary of discussion and ways forward

Main takeaways:

- Introduction to e-governance – what it is and how it can help countries to achieve the SDGs?
- How e-governance could be utilized in fellow Member States?
- Paths for further co-operation

Contributions:

- Raising **awareness about e-governance** and its usefulness for the implementation of the SDGs
- **Galvanizing efforts to create further momentum** to the achievement of the SDGs



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**PROGRAMME
OUTLINE**

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Welcome and Opening Remarks

H.E. Mr. Sven Jürgenson
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN

Keynote Statement

To Be Confirmed

Panel Discussion

Mr. Hannes Astok
Director for Development of Estonian e-Governance Academy, Seconded expert to the UNDP

H.E. Mr. Vlad Lupan
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the UN

H.E. Mr. Neville Gertze
Permanent Representative of Namibia to the UN

Questions and Answers

Concluding Remarks

H.E. Mr. Sven Jürgenson
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN

