Lessons learned from the United Nations Publics Service Awards (UNPSA)

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UNPSA Overview

✓ Recognizes excellence in public service at the global level.
✓ Launched in 2003 to promote & support innovations in public service worldwide.
✓ Reviewed in 2016 & aligned with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
✓ Organized and managed by UNDESA, through DPIDG.
UNPSA Purpose

- To promote and reward innovation and excellence in public service for sustainable development in support of the achievement of the SDGs and the principle to leave no one behind, which is at the core of the 2030 Agenda.
- Through a global competition that promotes the role, professionalism, and visibility of public service, the UNPSA aims to:

  - Highlight innovations in governance
  - Reward excellence in the public sector
  - Motivate public servants to further promote innovation
  - Enhance professionalism in the public service
  - Raise the image of public service
  - Collect and disseminate successful practices for possible replication
1. Fostering innovation to deliver inclusive and equitable services
2. Enhancing the effectiveness of public institutions to reach the SDGs
3. Promoting gender-responsive public services to achieve the SDGs
4. Special Category 4. Institutional resilience and innovative responses to the COVID-19 pandemic
What we have Learnt about Innovation through the UNPSA

What we have confirmed

1: Public Sector Innovates
2: Poor countries innovate
3: Innovation breeds innovation
4: ICT facilitates innovation
5: Institutionalization is key for sustaining innovation

Drivers of innovation

1: Effective transformational & service driven leadership
2: Community engagement & Empowerment
3: Collaboration & Partnerships
4: Capacity building
5: Working in teams
6: Harnessing diversity
7: Future orientation. Long term thinking
8: Monitoring & evaluation. Measuring change and impact