PUBLIC SECTOR ETHICS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

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Introduction

- What is the current state of human development?
- What are the pressing public sector ethics issues?
- Why are they important?
- What is the UN doing about it?
- Human development is about expanding ‘choices’ for individuals: What can others do?
The State of Human Development: Positive Aspects

- **Decline in world’s share of people in extreme poverty:** from 29% in 1990 to 23% in 1999.

- **Rise in primary school enrolments:** from 80% in 1990 to 84% in 1998.

- **Access to improved water supplies:** 800 million people have gained since 1990.

- **Access to improved sanitation:** 750 million people have gained since 1990.

- **Steps in democratization:** 81 countries have taken since 1981.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2002
The State of Human Development:
Gaps and Failures

- **Inequality:** The richest 5% of the world’s peoples have incomes 114 times those of the poorest 5%.

- **Preventable deaths:** More than 300,000 children die of preventable diseases/per day.

- **HIV/AIDS:** Nearly 14,000 people are infected per day.

- **People living on 1$/per day in Sub-Saharan countries:** 47% has remained the same. These peoples’ human development has regressed.

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2002
Public Sector Ethics Issues

- Grand corruption in:
  - privatization deals
  - massive procurements contracts
- Petty corruption in:
  - ‘speed money’
  - small bribes
  - lack of understanding of the notion ‘public interest’
Impact of Corruption on Development

- Diverts resources from development and aid
- Deters investment
- Breaks down trust in public institutions
UN’s Role

- Promotes peace and human rights
- Protects the environment
- Fights disease
- Promotes developments and reduces poverty (through cooperation and exchanging experiences)
UN’s Anti-Corruption and Ethics Activities

- UN Center for International Crime Prevention:
  - enforcement and judicial integrity
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs:
  - prevention and public administration improvement and development
- UNDP Programme:
  - good governance
  - national anti-corruption strategies
Role of Others

- Multi-lateral and bilateral donors
- National and international (NGOs)
- Other Concerned Organizations
Contacts

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