

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND INSTITUTIONS

22 – 23 December 2016

Bamako (Mali)

I. Context and justification

Currently one of the main challenges facing public administration in Africa in general and Mali in particular is how to respond to the major issues that engage states in this time of globalization. In order to overcome this challenge, it must establish its legitimacy and thus reform and adapt itself constantly, in order to be more effective not only at the procedural level but also, and above all, in understanding the deep vision of the State in which it must operate. This is why an administration that wants to be modern and effective must be part of the pursuit of a vision developed in strategy then in projects and programs recognized, legitimate and ultimately shared by the greatest number.

The modernization of public administration as a project is a major objective whose legitimacy is based on the need to transform a State positively. It is much a political aspiration as it is a coherent rational approach, disseminated and claimed by all levels of society.

Modernization of administration goes beyond the technical aspect based on the replacement of one tool by another. It is, first and foremost, the transformation of a relation to the public good and to the State. It is a culture. This is why, globalization appears as a privileged moment of this reflection because it offers a contextual and demanding reading grid.

This contextualization is based essentially on the elements of competition that structure the contemporary international society, which is itself subject to the diktat of the amplification of competitive offers and the desire to present the best profile to ensure efficiency and attractiveness.

Administrative modernization therefore, becomes an issue of globalization because it determines the capacity of a State or a country to build a new relationship with the world and thus to guarantee citizens a set of opportunities within the shortest possible time.

It is therefore, in particular, to answer the question of how to build an administration truly serving the welfare of the community in an environment of great challenges.

Thus, it is about trying to understand how to take public administration closer to the aspirations of the populations and make it an indispensable instrument of development within the specific context of Mali.

The challenges of such reflection is great insofar as Africa and Mali are increasingly sought after internationally, it is important to provide the country and the continent with educated executives to a truly shared vision in what the country as a whole should be in a more or less defined future.

It is also a question of putting at the disposal of the State, institutions and mechanisms that are at once legitimate, rational, comprehensible and known, for the service of the construction of an administration and a country resolutely turned towards the control of the issues of their time and able to face the various challenges that the country is or might be facing.

Modernization of administration thus becomes a vital requirement because it structures the whole being and the becoming of the State. It determines by extension those of the Malian society of today and of tomorrow.

But the question to be answered here is 'how do we get there?' What are the most appropriate ways to do this, given the current security, economic and political situations? These are the questions to be answered by the Symposium that the Government of Mali organizes in collaboration with its partners. There are important avenues for reflection. Some have been explored with various fortunes. Others are being experimented and other categories are in their design phase. This indicates the importance of such a project for the State of Mali.

II. Main objective

The main objective of this meeting is to set up a framework for reflection and exchange with a view to creating a new administration in Mali, based on mastering the country's current challenges and building new perspectives in this regard.

III. Specific objectives

They are in particular those of the construction of a new and truly appropriate vision of the Malian administration and of the State as a whole through:

- 1) Reform of its institutions;
- 2) Reform of pathways and quality of training;
- 3) Reform of administrative procedures;
- 4) Reform of the administrative tools or instruments;
- 5) A greater involvement of recipients or beneficiaries of public administration;
- 6) A revision of the systems of evaluation and control of the action of the administration;
- 7) The establishment of a new administrative culture based on the imperatives of service and efficiency;
- 8) The limitation to a tiny proportion of offenses against the public good; and
- 9) Establishment of synergies at the sub-regional, regional and international levels,

IV. Themes to be discussed

The following topics will be discussed:

1. The problems and the current situation of public administration in Mali;
2. Current trends in the modernization of Administration in Africa;
3. The question of modernization of public administration: between universality and authenticity;
4. Cultural aspects of the modernization of public administration;
5. Legal and institutional aspects of modernization of public administration;
6. Steering public administrative reforms and modernization;
7. Modernization of public administration and the problems of training and management of human resources;
8. Modernization of public administration and political challenge;
9. Modernization of public administration and the problems of economic development;
10. Institutional support in the modernization of public administration and the role of regional and international institutions.

V. Expected results

- ✓ A better understanding of the idea of modernization of public administration;
- ✓ A better understanding and appropriation of the strategies of reform and modernization of public administration and the State;
- ✓ A better understanding of the challenges of modernizing the administration at the national, regional and international levels;
- ✓ Creation of a synergy between researchers, policy-makers and practitioners of the administration;
- ✓ Comprehensive understanding of the challenges of a proper steering of the reform;
- ✓ Establishment of a cooperation network to accompany the modernization of public administration.

VI. Target

A hundred participants from various public administration sectors with the participation of two foreign steering structures (Senegal and Rwanda), and the participation of Experts from CAFRAD and ENAP of Québec.

Venue: Kennedy Hotel; Bamako (Mali)

Date: 22– 23 December 2016

Duration: 2 days

Working language: French