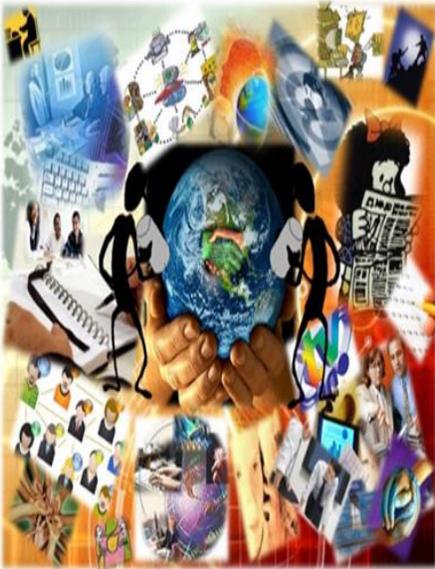


# Meeting with Governance and Public Administration Division at the United Nations



On June the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Dr. Eneida Torres, executive director of the Center for Public and Corporate Governance and Mr. Rafael Durand Aldea, senior researcher of the Center met with Mr. John Kauzya, director of the Governance and Public Administration Division at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The Governance Center is a non-profit research and education entity with a theoretical-practical approach whose mission is to contribute to improving governance, transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility in the management of public affairs; to foster a better understanding of the formulation of government policies and decision-making; and enhance the development of institutional entities and human capital.

The Governance Center maintains collaborative agreements with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and the Institute for Public Policy and Government Research (IIPPG) at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. Research studies conducted by the Governance Center during the past seven (7) years point to the need to strengthen the governance of public affairs to advance the Island's development and competitiveness.

The findings of these research studies reveal that for the past 40 years the absence of good governance has generated uncertainty and lack of confidence in citizens, entrepreneurs and investors, which has deepened the fragile fiscal situation. The distrust generated by the lack of transparency and the inability of the government to be accountable, specifically in fiscal matters, has adversely impacted the responsiveness to solve the pressing problems facing Puerto Rico worsened by the devastation caused by hurricanes Irma and María.

The Executive Director of the Center for Public and Corporate Governance, Dr. Eneida Torres, emphasized that the most recent research study on *Governance and media development* provide a diagnosis of the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities for the development of the media and its essential role in strengthening governance and democracy in Puerto Rico. The study analyzes the current regulatory framework to see if it is adequate and actually implemented. It examines the structure and composition of the media ecosystem, as well as the opinions that the various segments of the media industry in Puerto Rico (owners, journalists, regulators and professional associations) have on the way in which the five categories of Media Development Indicators (MDIs) developed by UNESCO—as well as an additional category of journalistic quality developed by the researchers and applied in journalist interviews in Puerto Rico.



To promote the development of the media ecosystem in Puerto Rico, the researchers propose a conceptual model to improve certain areas, namely, the regulatory framework (a law for transparency and access to information, and a law for the protection of information sources) and self-regulation, the formulation of public policies, citizen education and literacy, and the diversification and transparency of funding sources. The proposed conceptual model integrates the study variables—governance, media, and democracy—to promote the country's inclusive and sustainable development. This is articulated under the fundamental principles of freedom of expression, pluralism and diversity as pillars to promote media development and the guiding principles of public governance (transparency, access to information, and accountability).

The Center asserts that the context of public governance is considered critical to reaching good governance and prosperity. The particular circumstances that hinder the attainment of good governance in Puerto Rico are unique and the attainment of long-term solutions

are overdue. Transparency and accountability reforms are crucial to move forward the governance reform.

During the meeting those present explored collaborative opportunities on research and capacity development initiatives. Dr. Durand stated that a potential collaborative effort should include capacity development and technical support on issues regarding governance, citizen engagement, capacity building of public servants on transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility. Arpine Korekyan will provide input regarding the possibility of meeting with the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York to move forward capacity building on media development.

## **Contact Information**

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