Countdown to the UN SDG Summit 2023 Webinar No. 7 on SDG 15 and SDG 16

Good Governance to Accelerate SDG Implementation at all Levels:
Missing Institutional Infrastructure for Process Accountability

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What is Governance?

☐ **Governance is about monitoring the process of making and enforcing decisions within an organization or society.**

☐ **It is the process of interactions regulated by laws, social norms, power or language of a structured & organized social system. Compliance to & respect these regulating instruments are essential.**

What is Governance?

❑ **in a broad sense, denoting the complex ways by which *predictability and responsiveness* are maintained in contemporary socio-political systems**

❑ **Includes traditional activities of government, and also other *processes that regulate societal interactions***

❑ **Structures of governance extend from the local and regional to the national and international, and different modes of governance predominate in diverse spheres of social life.**

Robust Institutional Capacities

TARGET 16·3

PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE

TARGET 16·5

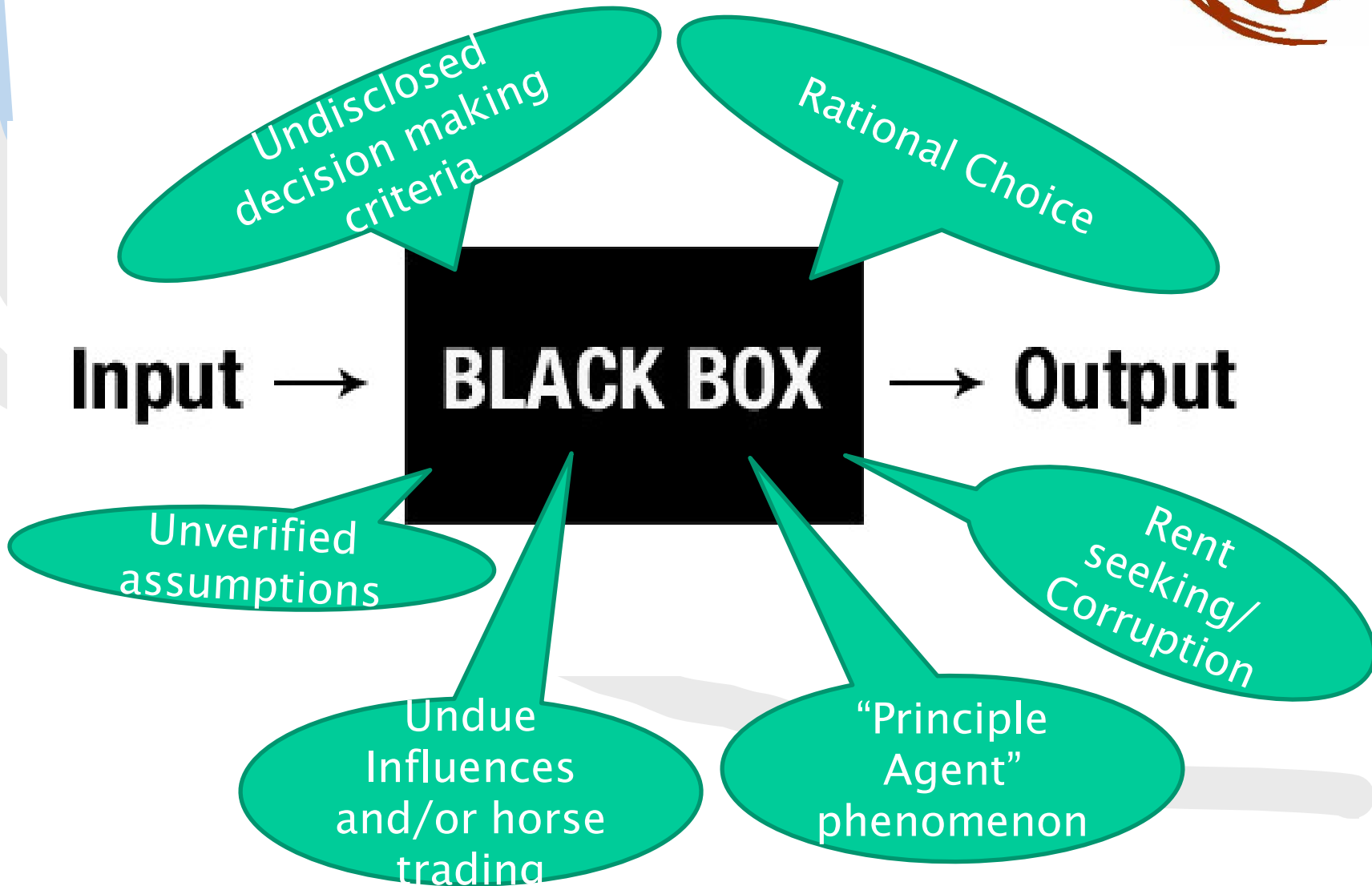SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY

TARGET 16·6

DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS

TARGET 16·7

ENSURE RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING

Opening Up the Black Box

Input → BLACK BOX → Output

Undisclosed decision making criteria

Rational Choice

Unverified assumptions

Rent seeking/ Corruption

Undue Influences and/or horse trading

"Principle Agent" phenomenon

Accountability System

ACTORS

Responsible role/office → Stakeholders

PROCESSES

Defining
-Responsibility & Performance Measures
-Accountability to whom and for what
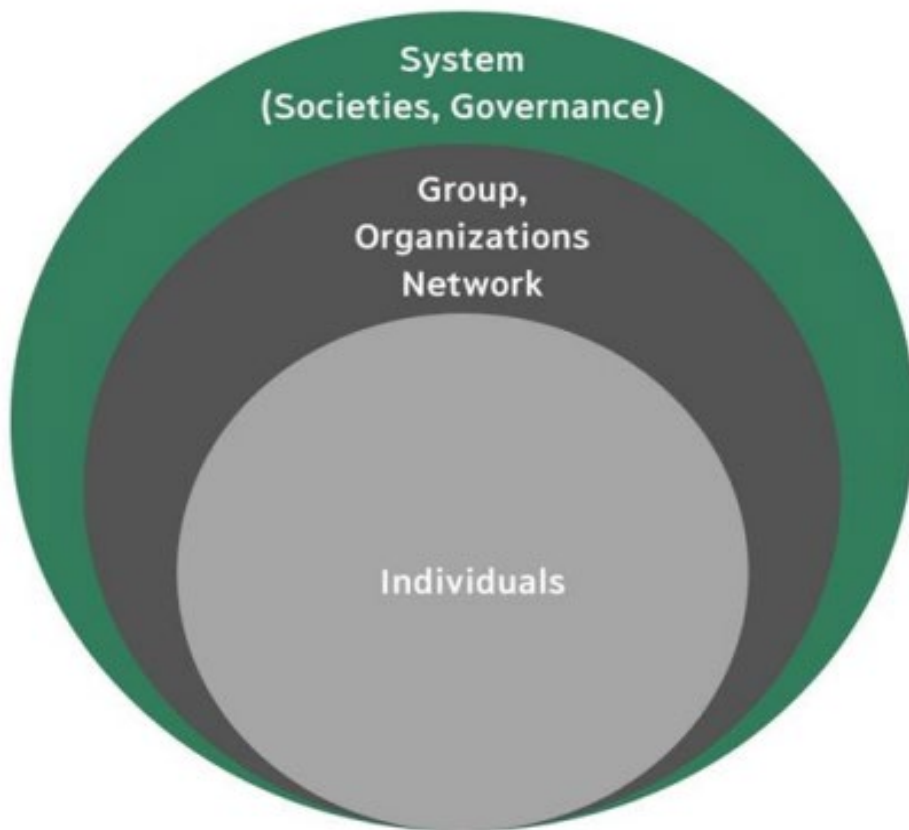
→ Informing about performance → Assessing

OUTCOME

Affirm-ation

Sanctions

Multilevel Interventions, localisation and Capacity Development

System
(Societies, Governance)

Group,
Organizations
Network

Individuals

Changes in governance/institutional system context

Changes in consciousness/awareness, behavior, skills and relationships in organizations and networks

Changes in human knowledge, skills, attitudes, public service motivation for implementation

Localising data practices, & capacities

Common Institutional Gaps

- **Digital infrastructure** that supports data utilisation at different aggregate levels to support *responsive* policy making and implementation

- **Data collection framework** based on agreed operational procedures of governance requirements in specific contexts

- Adequate **autonomy and coordination capacities** at horizontal, vertical and diagonal levels

- Institutional learning **culture** with enabling **scaffolders** for innovative solutions

Closing the Gap

❑ **Governance Quality infrastructure** to generate and track **standardised and structured data at scale and at different aggregate levels ("do the right things", "do things right", "fit for purpose")**

❑ **Benefits:**

❖ Better informed policy making

❖ Build analytic foundations for social impact of SDG implementation at

❖ Build real world cases of successful policy intervention in modifying the mindset, behaviour, and attitude of institutions

❖ Embedded knowledge for self-regulated improvements and innovation due to sound feedback

Good Governance for SDG Transformation

SDG Transformation

- ❏ ensure **coordination** across functions/policy dimensions
- ❏ Ensure policy **coherence & alignment**
- ❏ Ensure **inclusive representation** of stakeholders and voices
- ❏ Safeguard individual right to development

Governance Quality Infrastructure for

-Process Accountability &
-SDG Transformation

Responsive Governance System

❑ **Continuous learning needs to be part of the governance system for continual correction and self-regulation.**

❖ **Process** specifications & accountability as focal points for governance practices

❖ **Empowering** the sub-national level authorities, e.g., cities and municipalities for SDG implementation & innovations

❖ **Data-based management system** to ensure policy continuity and predictability

SDG Transformation

□**Requires four basic approaches:**

1. Human rights based approach

2. Whole of government approach

3. Whole of society approach

4. Leaving no one behind approach

**Need for
Good Governance**