



Republic of Zambia

AFRICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND
MANAGEMENT (AAPAM)



ASSOCIATION AFRICAINE POUR
L'ADMINISTRATION PUBLIQUE
ET LE MANAGEMENT (AAAPM)

42ND ANNUAL AAPAM ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

Theme: Building Resilient Societies in Africa through Effective Governance and Public Administration: An Imperative for the Realisation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Aspirations

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Venue: LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA
Date: 5th- 8th DECEMBER, 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. African has, over the years and still grapples with numerous challenges that have hindered its socio-economic development. There is, however, growing recognition that effective governance and public administration is critical to building resilient societies, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the aspirations of Agenda 2063. The importance of effective governance and public administration in building resilient societies in Africa cannot be overemphasized. With the increasing challenges facing the continent, such as climate change, conflict, and economic instability, there is a need for strong institutions that can promote sustainable development and address these challenges. Economic instability and inequality are also major challenges in many African countries. Effective governance and public administration are considered critical interventions to promoting inclusive economic growth, enhancing public service delivery, and addressing corruption and other forms of economic malfeasance (African Development Bank, 2020).
2. There is a recognition that effective governance and public administration are critical instruments for the realization of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. These two instruments provide a veritable framework for ensuring that policies and programs are implemented efficiently and effectively. Good governance and public administration promote the rule of law and human rights, which are essential in creating an enabling environment for sustainable development. Moreover, effective governance and public administration mobilize resources, build partnerships, and facilitate coordination and collaboration between different stakeholders, all of which are indispensable for the successful implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Ultimately, a discourse on effective governance and public administration is necessary for translating the lofty aspirations of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into tangible results on the ground to improve the lives of millions of people across Africa.
3. Effective governance and public administration play a crucial role in achieving sustainable development in Africa. Strong institutions that promote good governance can enhance the effectiveness of public service delivery, promote inclusive economic growth, and promote social inclusion and human development. On the other hand, weak governance systems can and do create conditions that fuel conflict, corruption, and economic instability.

BACKGROUND TO THE 42ND ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

4. Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are both global development frameworks that outline a shared vision for a better future. Agenda 2063 is an African Union initiative that aims to accelerate the socio-economic transformation of the continent, while the SDGs are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations to address poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability worldwide. These two agendas were developed in the backdrop of the reality that Africa faces a unique set of challenges that require effective governance and public administration to address. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 24 African countries are categorized as low human development, with a Human Development Index (HDI) of less than 0.5. Additionally, the continent has the highest proportion of people living in extreme poverty, with an estimated 414 million people living on less than \$1.90 per day (World Bank, 2020). The challenges facing Africa are compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in the Ukraine and severe climate conditions which has had a significant impact on the continent's economy and social systems.

CONTEXTUAL ORIENTATION

5. The social, economic, and public administration environment within which the SDGs and Agenda 2063 are implemented in Africa is complex and challenging. The region is characterized by multiple and interrelated development challenges, including poverty, inequality, weak institutions, limited access to basic services, and conflict (Africa's Development Dynamics 2021). From a social perspective, Africa has made progress in areas such as access to education and healthcare, but there are still significant gaps, especially in rural areas. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), over 50% of Africans do not have access to basic healthcare services, while about 20% of African children are not enrolled in primary school. Gender inequality is also a challenge, with women often having limited access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.
6. On the economic front, Africa faces a range of challenges that include weak infrastructure, limited access to finance, and poor business environments. Despite progress made in some countries, such as the growth of mobile banking, the region having to contend with a significant infrastructure gap that hinders economic growth and development. Access to finance is also limited, with less than 20% of adults in Sub-Saharan Africa having a bank account. The business environment is often characterized by cumbersome regulations and bureaucratic procedures, which make it difficult for entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses (Africa's SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2020).

7. Public administration in Africa is faced with the challenge of building strong and effective institutions that can deliver public goods and services efficiently and transparently. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), weak governance and corruption remain significant challenges in the region, hindering the effective delivery of public services and undermining trust in public institutions (Africa Public Sector Report 2018-2019). Despite these challenges, progress has been made in some areas. For instance, several African countries have made significant strides in improving macroeconomic stability and promoting private sector development. Moreover, some countries have made progress in implementing institutional reforms that have enhanced public service delivery.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE THEME AND SUB-THEMES

8. The theme: "Building Resilient Societies in Africa through Effective Governance and Public Administration " was selected by experts within the AAPAM fraternity. The theme will evoke a relevant and timely discussion given the numerous challenges Africa is currently grappling with. Africa has been wrestling with challenges such as poverty, inequality, economic instability, conflict, and climate change. To address these challenges, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063 provide a framework for sustainable development in Africa. To actualize these goals would, however, necessitate building strong institutions that can promote good governance, accountability, and transparency. Effective governance and public administration can help build climate resilience by promoting sustainable land use practices, investing in renewable energy, and developing policies that prioritize adaptation and mitigation efforts (UNDP, 2019). Similarly, conflict and political instability continue to be major challenges in many African countries.
9. The theme highlights the role of governance and public administration in promoting sustainable development in Africa. The theme also provides an opportunity for policymakers, practitioners, and academics to discuss the challenges facing Africa and explore innovative ways of addressing them through effective governance and public administration. The African Governance Report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) highlights the importance of effective governance and public administration in achieving sustainable development in Africa. The report emphasizes the need for strong institutions, transparent and accountable governance, and effective public service delivery to promote inclusive and sustainable development. Effective governance and public administration are significant planks in building resilient societies in Africa, as they provide a framework for addressing the complex challenges facing the continent. The impacts of climate change, for example, are felt disproportionately in Africa, with severe droughts, floods, and other weather-related events leading to food insecurity, displacement, and conflict (UNDP, 2019). There is therefore a plausible justification in hoisting the 42nd AAPAM Roundtable Conference on the proposed theme and sub-themes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ROUND-TABLE CONFERENCE

10. Guided by the outlined theme and sub-themes, the general objective of the Roundtable Conference is to converge experts from Africa and across the world for an open and constructive exchange of ideas, perspectives, and experiences to enhance the understanding of the key thematic areas and identify opportunities for collaboration or action. This platform will be accessed to address a wide range of issues, from policy development and implementation to research and innovation, and from social and cultural affairs to economic and environmental challenges. The aim being to generate insights, knowledge, and recommendations that will inform decision-making, influence policy, and promote positive change. The specific objectives are:
- a) Discuss the current state of public administration in Africa and identify gaps in capabilities and aspirations,
 - b) Explore ways to enhance the capacity of public administrators to effectively deliver services to citizens,
 - c) Discuss the potential benefits of Africa's diversity and demographic dividends for socio-economic transformation,
 - d) Identify challenges and barriers to achieving inclusive development and discuss ways to overcome them,
 - e) Discuss the role of emerging technologies in transforming public administration in Africa and explore innovative solutions for enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of public service delivery,
 - f) Identify challenges and risks associated with the use of emerging technologies in public administration and discuss ways to mitigate them,
 - g) Discuss the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for deepening regional integration and attainment of Agenda 2063 aspirations,
 - h) Explore ways to enhance the implementation of AfCFTA and maximize its potential for socio-economic transformation,

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

11. At the end of the roundtable conference, several outcomes are expected based on the set objective and this include:
- a) Enhanced understanding of the current state of public administration in Africa and the gaps in capabilities and aspirations,
 - b) Best practices and innovative solutions for improving public administration at both local and national levels identified and a mechanism for development of strategies for enhancing the capacity of public administrators to effectively deliver services to citizens proposed,

- c) Benefits of Africa's diversity and demographic dividends for socio-economic transformation highlighted and policy solutions to harness this potential through inclusive policies and programs that leave no one behind identified,
- d) Strategies for overcoming challenges and barriers to achieving inclusive development discussed and disseminated,
- e) The role of emerging technologies in transforming public administration in Africa outlined and innovative solutions for enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of public service delivery elaborated,
- f) Strategies for mitigating challenges and risks associated with the use of emerging technologies in public administration developed,
- g) Increased understanding of the benefits presented by the AfCFTA for regional integration and attainment of Agenda 2063 aspirations,
- h) Strategies for enhancing the implementation of AfCFTA and maximizing its potential for socio-economic transformation developed

ROUND-TABLE SUB-THEMES

(i) **Strengthening the Capabilities and Aspirations of African Public Administration at both Local and National Levels**

12. This sub-theme recognizes the importance of building strong and effective public institutions for sustainable development in Africa. The sub-theme aims to address the current gaps and challenges in public administration in Africa by exploring ways to enhance the capabilities and aspirations of public administrators at both local and national levels. Contributions to this sub-theme will focus on identifying best practices, innovative solutions, and strategies for enhancing the capacity of public administrators to effectively deliver services to citizens. The outcomes from this sub-theme will contribute to building a resilient society in Africa by promoting good governance, transparency, and accountability in public administration.

(ii) **Harnessing Africa's Diversity and Demographic Dividends for Socio-Economic Transformation: Leaving No One Behind**

13. This sub-theme acknowledges the huge potential inherent in Africa's diverse population and demographic dividends for the realization of sustainable development and socio-economic transformation. The sub-theme will discuss ways to leverage Africa's diversity to build inclusive societies that leave no one behind. Discussions on the sub-theme will focus on identifying innovative solutions and strategies for addressing the challenges of inequality, poverty, and exclusion that exist and bedevil African societies. The outcomes of this sub-theme will contribute to building a resilient society in Africa by promoting inclusivity, social cohesion, and

equitable development. Contributions will explore ways to harness Africa's diverse population and demographic dividends to achieve sustainable development goals and Agenda 2063 aspirations.

(iii) Transforming Public Administration in Africa through Emerging Technologies and Innovation

14. Transforming Public Administration in Africa through emerging technologies and innovation has become a necessity to improve the quality of governance, service delivery, and socio-economic development. With the advent of new technologies, there has been a paradigm shift in the way government's function, and Africa cannot afford to be left behind. Innovations such as e-governance, big data analytics, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and mobile technologies offer unprecedented opportunities to transform public administration in Africa. These technologies, if effectively harnessed, can enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, in addition to reducing corruption, bureaucracy, and inefficiency. Moreover, the new technologies can enable governments to provide better and more efficient services to citizens, such as healthcare, education, and public safety, and improve the overall quality of life. To, however, fully harness the potential of emerging technologies and innovation, it behooves African governments to invest in the necessary infrastructure, human capacity development, and regulatory frameworks, and engage in partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and academia.

(iv) Accelerating Regional Integration through AfCFTA to Attain Agenda 2063 Aspirations

15. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a flagship initiative of the African Union aimed at promoting regional integration and boosting intra-African trade. The AfCFTA is expected to provide a framework for African countries to integrate their economies and work towards the attainment of Agenda 2063 aspirations, which seek to transform Africa into a prosperous, integrated, and peaceful continent. The AfCFTA presents a unique opportunity for African countries to leverage their collective strength and resources to create a larger market, attract investments, and enhance competitiveness. By promoting regional trade and investment, the AfCFTA can help to increase productivity, create jobs, and reduce poverty and inequality. Moreover, AfCFTA can facilitate the transfer and cross pollination of knowledge, technology, and skills among African countries, and promote cultural exchange and social cohesion. Speakers on this theme will focus on how AfCFTA will accelerate regional integration and in the process ultimately contribute to the realization of the Agenda 2063 aspiration of economic development and social cohesion.

The Logical Framework of the 42nd Roundtable Conference

16. The Roundtable conference is designed and anchored on the below framework:



- a) Keynote Address
- b) Plenary Discussions
- c) Break-Away Sessions
- d) Specialized Groups
- e) Ministerial Panel
- f) Regional Chapters
- g) Innovative Management Awards Presentations

9/3/20XX

Presentation Title

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Key Partners and Stakeholders

17. Besides government, individuals and non-state actors, AAPAM values the attendance of partner institutions. At the 41st Roundtable Conference the following partners graced the occasion:

- a) The International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)
- b) The African Cabinet Government Network (ACGN)
- c) Association of African Public Service Commissions (AAPSCOMS)
- d) African Public Sector Human Resource Network (APS-HRMnnet)
- e) South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM)
- f) The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
- g) African Union Commission (AUC)
- h) Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG)

18. Overall delegates to the Roundtable Conference are drawn from and comprise the following:



- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| a) Ministers drawn from National, Provincial and Local Governments | e) Development Partners and Governance Agencies |
| b) Senior officials from Public and Private Sectors | f) Resource persons from within and outside Africa |
| c) Scholars from the Academia and MDIs | g) Multilateral Organizations |
| d) Civil Leaders from a Broad Spectrum of Society | h) Young Professionals |

18. The conference will be held in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia from 5th- 8th December 2023

CONTENT FOR THE CONFERENCE

19. Speakers and presenters at the Conference will be identified by AAPAM in collaboration with partnering institutions. For the speakers, the following deadlines shall be adhered to:



WORKING LANGUAGES

20. The working language shall be **ENGLISH, FRENCH, and ARABIC.**

REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION FEES

21. All participants are expected to register online:

<http://www.aapam.org/conferences-and-events/event-calendar#id=109&cid=1076&wid=701> and pay registration fees at the following rates:

- a) Participants from host country - **USD \$500**
- b) Others / International - **USD \$600**
- c) Accompanying Persons (spouses of participants) - **USD\$300**
- d) Students- **USD \$200**

22. Participation fees shall be paid at the time of registration and/or at the venue of the conference. However, Delegates are encouraged to pay earlier (at least 3 weeks to the conference date) and may pay by bank transfer to the AAPAM Account whose details are given below:

AAPAM A/C FCY 1103297694
Kenya Commercial Bank
Milimani Branch
P.O. Box 69695, Nairobi, Kenya
Tel; +254 20 2719433/2719434, 2719470
Fax: +254 20 2729942
SWIFT CODE: KCBLKENX

For Kenyan Nationals

AAPAM MPESA PAYBILL NO: 4035177

Account: Your Name

23. Those who prefer bank transfer are expected to show evidence of payment on the day conference registration. Delegates may pay the equivalent of the participation fees indicated above in other convertible currencies such as the Euro, British Pound Sterling (GBP), Canadian

Dollar (CND), and South African Rand. The equivalents of the participation fees in these currencies shall be indicated in a schedule that will be available at the registration desk.



HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS INFORMATION CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Further information and inquiry on the conference may be directed to:

24. Full information on recommended hotels shall be posted on the AAPAM, website: www.aapam.org,

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