

2025 MENAPAR Conference

Public Administration in the MENA Region: Transitions, Resilience, and Future Prospects

Amman, Jordan
28-30 April, 2025



Concept Note

Public Administration in the MENA Region: Transitions, Resilience, and Future Prospects

The Middle East and North Africa for Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) network and the Service and Public Administration Commission (SPAC), UN-ESCWA are organizing MENAPAR 2025 Joint Conference. This conference will be held at Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from April 28 – 30, 2025.

This partnership reflects the joined vision of these institutions to foster collaboration in the field of public administration, good governance and the professional competencies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The conference will contribute to sharing knowledge, expertise and experiences in the themes pertaining to Public Administration, Public Policies, different transitions, digitization, and innovation and their effects and future prospects in the MENA region.

Brief on SPAC

The establishment of the Service and Public Administration Commission (SPAC) marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to modernize the public sector under the Public Sector Modernization Roadmap (PSMR). SPAC plays a crucial role in advancing economic and political reforms by enhancing public sector services and reinforcing governance and compliance standards. SPAC is responsible for the following areas: Public Sector Human Resources management, Government Services (public service delivery) and Institutional Development.

In the above-mentioned areas of responsibilities, the SPAC's mandate encompasses the following interconnected functions, the formulation of policies, principles, standards, and performance metrics. Technical and advisory Support. In addition to ensuring strict adherence to the established standards and policies by public sector institutions. This oversight function is characterized by diligent monitoring to ascertain unwavering compliance, thereby upholding the principles of transparency and accountability.

The Middle East & North Africa General Context

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region witnessed recently big transitions in the different sectors including economic, political, social and technological fields. These big transmissions presented unique challenges and promising prospects for Public Administration practitioners, decision makers, and researchers. The region faces a complicated scene characterized by economic slowdown, geopolitical tensions, social unrest and the effects of global conflicts, crises and shocks.

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank expectations indicate a severe slowdown in economic growth in the Middle East and North Africa region to 2%, down from about 6% in 2022. These expectations also indicate an increase in the local production to only 3.5% in 2025. The regional conflicts and the spread of social unrest in the region lead to the increase in economic challenges. As there is great disparity in wealth and income within the region. Some countries also face big economic challenges.

While we move through these challenges, It becomes increasingly necessary to enhance Public Administration systems' flexibility and dealing with these challenges and transition by strong administrative frameworks which are adaptable with the rapid changes, political responses encouraging innovation developing the digital infrastructure, adopting artificial Intelligence systems and streamlining management structures as a pivotal issue to ensure sustainable development, providing the public services effectively and overcome the future doubts. Where resilience and innovation in Public Administration, structural reforms, crisis management and precautionary policies are necessary for governments and public sector's entities in the MENA region to deal effectively with the complicated and dynamic political, technological, and economic scene in light of the continuous challenges. Through these principles' adoption, the governments can enhance their abilities to respond fast to crises, provide high quality of public services foster citizens' participation and advancing sustainable development for their societies.

Objectives

The 2025 MENAPAR international conference aims to shed light on the current transitions and challenges which Public Administration in the MENA region face and examine their impacts on Public Administration's practices and the governance's structure. In addition to explore Public Administration improvement's methods to be more resilience and responsible to the rapid transitions and to specify the future prospects in light of the emerging challenges and opportunities.

Furthermore, the conference seeks to provide a platform collecting practitioners, experts, public policies' makers, researchers and whoever interested in Public Administration to share and exchange knowledge and experiences, deepen understanding, fostering dialogs and discussions and generate actionable insights to build flexible, effective and innovative Public Administration practices to be able to push the sustainable development mid of the complicated political and economic scene in the MENA region. In addition to specify strategies and methods to enhance flexibility of Public Administration's institutions in the MENA region and enabling these institutions of responding effectively to transitions, adapting with the changing circumstances, and maintaining their stability and public performance. The conference also seeks to expect the future prospects of Public Administration in the region, taking into consideration the emerging trends, developing social needs, technological, digital and artificial intelligence systems advancement, fostering discussions about innovative methodologies and strategies to formulate governance future in the region.

Moreover, the conference aims to enhance collaboration and partnerships among the participants from diverse backgrounds including academia, governments, non- governmental organizations and the private sector to foster multi specialized methodologies and partnerships to face the familiar challenges and get opportunities in Public Administration. The conference will form an incentive to develop the field of Public Administration in the MENA region, enhance collaboration, generate knowledge, and lead the positive change for societies and citizens all over the region.

The MENAPAR 2025 Conference focuses on the following tracks:

1. Public Policy Innovation and Adaption

This track focuses on the importance of innovation in taking and implementing the Public Policies and adapting with political, social, technological, economic, environmental and others rapid changes. In addition to shed the light on the necessity of continuous Public Policies development in a way that meet the society's changing needs, achieve the national and regional objectives, review and evaluate the regulations (the related legislative effect). The track also explores discussing the newest developments in the field of Public Policies making and adopting innovative practices in this field. It also discusses developing new mechanisms of creative thinking in policy making and using the new techniques for public decision-making procedures. It also explores how to develop fast responsive mechanisms and flexibility in public policies to ensure the governments' effective response for modern challenges. In addition to discuss the best and successful practices and experiences in the field of Public Policies innovation and their applications in different contexts, the most important challenges that these policies face and how to deal with these challenges.

2. Service Delivery and Design

This track reflects the increased interest in designing and improving Public Services delivery effectively and in a sustainable manner, in addition to Public Administration's continuous commitment in developing policies and practices which improve the quality of life for the citizens and enhancing sustainable development. Where this track sheds light on the importance of including designing and innovation's concepts in designing, developing, and providing Public Services. In addition to discussing a variety of topics including citizens' needs and expectations analysis, harnessing the innovative methods and governance collaborative forms to enhance the service effectiveness, citizens' satisfaction and providing transformational strategies which work on improving public services provision and achieving positive social results. In addition to the challenges that the governments and public institutions face in providing effective and high-quality services, also in designing governmental policies and programs in a way that meets the social needs.

3. Institutional Reform - (Public Administration Modernization)

This track affirms the importance of the joint efforts to enhance the effectiveness and the competencies of Public Institutions' performance through the institutional reforming and developing to meet the time's requirements and keep base with the economic, social, electronic transitions. This track also goes in deep in institutional reform's dynamics including organizational restructuring, governance's frameworks, organizational culture, institutional capacities' building, enhancing flexibility and focusing on fostering innovation, creativity, accountability, and responsiveness in the institutions. It also includes providing the best local, regional, and international practices, experiences, and research papers to form the bases of more effective and flexible Public Administration systems which are able to adapt and thrive in the changing environment.

4. Human Resource Development

This track discusses the importance of investment in developing and enhancing Human Resources as a significant, basic and pivotal entrance for sustainable development and achieving excellence in Public Administration. This track includes studying the successful and best practices and experiences in the field of Human Resources Development including managing and leading talents, institutional culture, continuous training and development, developing leadership and management skills, performance management and building the effective leaderships. It also explores how to foster innovation and creativity in the work environment through encouraging varieties and adopting the continuous learning culture. In addition to the challenges that human resources development face in the MENA region.

5. Inclusive Digital Governance Transformation

This track explores the transition that the world witnesses towards digital technology and how this transformation affects governance and Public Administration's methodologies and practices. The track focuses on how governments in the MENA region adopt the digital technology and use it inclusively and effectively to improve their services, transparency, and social participation. The title of the track reflects the inclusive insight for the digital governance which is not only restricted to technology's adoption, but also includes policies, procedures and cybersecurity and the required cultural transformation to accomplish the digital transition in a completed manner, developing the digital infrastructure, creating the digital transition's tools and investing more in technology in the region.

Through benefiting from the digital techniques and using modern technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, data analysis, and cloud computing to develop and improve the governmental services and enhance interaction between the governments and citizens. This enables the governments to simplify the administrative procedures, improve decision making, quality of the provided services and enhance citizens satisfaction. The track also sheds the light on the importance of the digital inclusiveness and accessibility for all citizens including the marginalized categories, bridging the digital gap, fostering the digital service's accessibility, and enabling citizens of participation in decision-making processes through the digital platforms.

6. Leadership in Times of Crisis

This track discusses effective leadership's role and its importance in directing organizations and institutions in crises times and strong challenges, directing teams, and specifying strategies and methods which help in dealing with challenges and crises which may institutions and societies face competently and effectively. The track also discusses the attributes and skills which leaders should have in challenging times. It also includes browsing the successful and best practices in the field of leadership in crises, including case studies from different public and private sectors and other organizations. In addition to research papers in the field of crisis management and developing the necessary leadership skills to avoid disasters and manage them effectively.

7. Fostering Public–Private Partnerships for Effective Public Administration

This track reflects the importance of partnerships, collaboration, and interaction between the Public and Private sectors in achieving Public Administration’s goals, accomplishing Sustainable Development Goals, and improving the quality of provided services to citizens.

The track also discusses how to build sustainable and fruitful partnerships lean on the common interests between the two Public and Private sectors and accomplishing the balance in their roles. Focusing on common collaboration projects between them and innovations which aim to improve Public Administration’s competency and effectiveness, deal with complicated social needs, enhancing economic growth and enhancing sustainable development.

