



Republic of Zambia

# 42<sup>ND</sup> ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUÉ

42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL AAPAM ROUNDTABLE  
CONFERENCE

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

VENUE: AVANI VICTORIA FALLS RESORT

LIVINGSTONE, ZAMBIA

05 – 09 DECEMBER 2023

## INTRODUCTION

1. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roundtable Conference of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) was co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in partnership and coordination with the AAPAM Secretariat at the Avani Victoria Falls Resort, Zambia from 05 – 09 December 2023.
2. The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Roundtable Conference was held under the guiding Theme:

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

3. The following sub-themes steered discussions at the conference:
  - 3.1 Strengthening the Capabilities and Aspirations of African Public Administration at both Local and National Levels
  - 3.2 Harnessing Africa’s Diversity and Demographic Dividends for Socio-Economic Transformation: Leaving No One Behind
  - 3.3 Transforming Public Administration in Africa through Emerging Technologies and Innovation
  - 3.4 Accelerating Regional Integration through AfCFTA to Attain Agenda 2063 Aspirations
4. Four Hundred and Ten (410) delegates from Twenty-Four (25) Countries attended the Conference. Representation at country level was distributed as follows:

Benin  
Belgium  
Botswana  
Cameroon  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
Germany  
Ghana  
Kenya

Lesotho  
Liberia  
Mauritius  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Palestine  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore

South Africa  
South Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
USA  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

5. Among the participants were Ministers; Heads of Public/Civil Services and Secretaries to Cabinet; Permanent/Principal Secretaries, local elected officials, and other high ranking Government Officials. Others were Chairpersons and Commissioners for Public Service Commissions; Heads of Management Development Institutes; Development Partners;

representatives of Statutory Institutions; scholars and researchers AAPAM Young Professionals and other delegates of various standing.

- Several AAPAM partner organizations graced the Roundtable Conference. Organizations that sent representatives and delivered messages of solidarity to the conference were: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), Africa Public Sector Human Resource Network (APS-HRMnet), South African Association of Public Administration and Management (SAAPAM), Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG), Emerging Public Leaders, General Personal Council, Palestine and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Kenya Airways (KQ) and ZAMTEL.

## OFFICIAL OPENING

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> AAPAM Roundtable Conference was officially declared open by Her Excellency the Vice President, Republic of Zambia, **Mrs Mutale W.K Nalumango**. The conference was organized in Eight (8) plenary sessions, four (4) parallel and four (4) specialised sessions. One of the seven plenary sessions was specifically dedicated to Innovation Management Awards.
- The following networks met on the margins of the Roundtable Conference and held discussions on issues of specific and particular interest to them. These were: the AAPAM Young Professionals Network (YPN), the APS-HRMnet, Commissions, Research and Academia. UNDESA conducted a workshop on the margins of the conference. In these forums' information was exchanged, experiences shared, and lessons learned. The AAPAM Executive Committee and Council also held meetings on the margins of the conference.

## INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT AWARDS

- Four finalist organizations received AAPAM Innovative Management Awards. The awards recognise and celebrate creativity in the African public services. This year, the jury received fifty-seven (57) submissions from Nine (9) countries. Out of the 57 submissions one was from an Arabic speaking country while the rest from Anglo-phone countries. There was no submission from Francophone countries.
- The jury identified 6 top submissions for a merit recognition and another 2 for the Presidential Award. The top submissions were arrived at by summing up the individual scores from the jury members and getting the average score. The jury also singled out innovations which impressed them across the board. The final score is as follows:

No.	Name of Innovation	Country	Number	Prize
1	Smart Agriculture Box initiative	South Africa	1	Gold
2	Innovation in Hiring, Training, and Promotion	Egypt	2	Silver
3	GBV Protection Tool	Mauritius	3	Bronze
4	e-HR Project	Mauritius	4	Glass

4	Streamlined e-Services for Passport and Visa Applications	Namibia	5	Glass
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## INTERVENTIONS, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. In the face of the multifaceted socio-political and economic challenges confronting Africa today, it is increasingly evident that a robust and responsive approach is required to navigate these complexities effectively. Key to this approach is the strengthening of governance and public institutions across the continent, which hinges on the adoption of sound governance practices and efficient public administration.
6. The successful navigation of these challenges is only feasible within the framework of viable, resilient institutions. This realization necessitates a concerted effort to enhance institutional capacities, ensuring that they are not only equipped to address current issues but are also prepared to anticipate and adapt to future challenges. Such a strategic reinforcement of institutional frameworks is crucial for Africa's journey towards sustainable development and prosperity.

## CONCLUSIONS

7. Within this structured understanding, the 42<sup>nd</sup> AAPAM Roundtable Conference expressed the following positions on the theme and sub-themes:
  - a) The Conference Theme "Building Resilient Societies through Effective Governance and Public Administration in Africa" underscored the imperative of evolving African public administration to meet the ambitious goals of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This evolution is anchored in strengthening governance and institutional capacity through robust frameworks, policy alignment with global goals, and promoting transparency. Emphasizing inclusivity and social equity, it calls for policies to reduce inequality, ensure gender equality, and enhance community involvement in governance.
  - b) Sustainable development and environmental stewardship were highlighted, integrating eco-friendly practices into governance and resource management. Innovation and technology, especially in digitizing public administration, are essential for modern governance.
  - c) The discussions also focused on enhancing the skills of public administration professionals, decentralizing power for localized effectiveness, and embracing Africa's cultural diversity and youth potential for socio-economic transformation.
  - d) Furthermore, transforming public administration through digital technologies and fostering regional integration via initiatives like AfCFTA, were identified as critical for harmonizing policies and building cross-border infrastructural and technological capabilities, in partnership with the private sector, to realize Agenda 2063 aspirations.
  - e) It is critical that effective integration in trade initiatives hinges on the active participation and involvement of local communities. This is essential because production, the cornerstone of trade, resides at the local level.

- f) For integration strategies to be meaningful and successful, these must be grounded in the realities and contributions of these communities, ensuring that their needs, skills, and potential are integrated into the larger framework of trade and economic policies. Without engagement communities, integration efforts may fail to capture the true essence and diversity of local production capabilities, which are critical for the overall success of trade initiatives.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Strengthening Governance and Public Institutions:

- a) Adopt sound governance practices and efficient public administration.
- b) Enhance institutional capacities to address current and future challenges.
- c) Invest in robust frameworks, policy alignment with global goals, and transparency.
- d) Promote inclusivity and social equity through policies that reduce inequality, ensure gender equality, and enhance community involvement in governance.

### Sustainable Development and Environmental Stewardship:

- a) Integrate eco-friendly practices into governance and resource management.
- b) Utilize innovation and technology, especially digitization, for modern governance.

### Enhancing Public Administration:

- a) Upskill public administration professionals.
- b) Decentralize power for localized effectiveness.
- c) Embrace Africa's cultural diversity and youth potential for socio-economic transformation.

### Regional Integration and AfCFTA:

- a) Foster regional integration through initiatives like AfCFTA.
- b) Harmonize policies and build cross-border infrastructural and technological capabilities.
- c) Engage local communities in trade initiatives and utilize their skills and production capabilities.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8. The Conference conveyed profound gratitude to all AAPAM partners, especially Member States, and in particular the Government of Zambia, under the Leadership of His Excellency President **Hakainde Hichilema**, for his country's generosity, commitment to and support for the Annual AAPAM Roundtable Conferences.
9. The Conference congratulated the AAPAM Innovation Management Award winners for their dedication, commitment, and brilliance in excelling and thereby expanding the horizon of knowledge.
10. Delegates recognized and expressed gratitude for the significant impact that the Late Dr Roland Msiska had on the development of AAPAM during his tenure as President. Conference further highlighted Dr Msiska's extensive contributions to the transformation of public administration both in Africa and on a global scale.
11. Delegates conveyed earnest gratitude to the National Organizing Committee, along with the Management and Staff of the Avani Victoria Falls Resort, and the hospitable people of Zambia.
12. Delegates appreciated the exceptional hosting and courteous arrangements that were meticulously and skilfully made for their comfort and convenience.

13. Delegates applauded the AAPAM leadership and secretariat as well as resource persons and rapporteurs for their dedication and commitment to making the 42<sup>nd</sup> Round-table conference the unqualified success it is.
14. Delegates warmly received and expressed profound gratitude to the Ugandan government for the generous offer to host the 43rd AAPAM Roundtable Conference.
15. Delegates are formally invited to participate in this upcoming 43rd Roundtable Conference. The theme will be communicated to the AAPAM fraternity in due course.

**DONE AT AVANI, VICTORIA, FALLS RESORT, LIVINGSTONE THIS 09 DECEMBER 2023**