

**SECTION ON AFRICAN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SAPA)  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**SAPA 2023 CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE**

**The American University of Cairo (AUC)  
Department of Public Policy and Management (AUC)  
June 6-7, 2023 | Cairo, Egypt | HYBRID**



**CALL FOR PAPER PROPOSALS**

**LOCALIZATION OF AFRICAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**Challenges, Lessons Learnt & Opportunities for African Public Administration Systems**

The Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063 set ambitious transformative goals for African countries. The pledge of the SDGs to “Leave No One Behind” directs attention to the importance of taking the subnational contexts into account while designing and implementing plans to achieve the SDGs. Croese and Parnell (2022) cite African cities as the crucible of sustainable development goals’ implementation and as examples of SDG localization, from Cape Town to Cairo. This approach focuses on the interactive relationships between the local, provincial, national, and global efforts to achieve African sustainability goals and ideals. Such a multidimensional development agenda requires heightened multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships but also boundless opportunities for resilient recovery and growth as the African national and subnational government respond to the Covid-19 pandemic setbacks, turbulent political transitions, regional conflicts, and the climate change imperatives.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions particularly felt amongst the already disenfranchised communities and regions trailing behind in terms of adequate access to local service provision, investment in health and education, sustainable employment, and quality of life. The pandemic-related vulnerabilities are further exacerbated by the uncertainties brought about the escalated Russian-Ukraine conflict with effects on the continent’s supply chains and food security. Such setbacks in addition to other challenges facing the implementation of both the universal SDGs and African Development 2063 agenda, raised concerns about the current capabilities of African public administration systems to accelerate the

effective localization of such development agendas. The UN called for a “Decade of Action” to accelerate the speed of implementing the SDGs. Coordinating efforts of all stakeholders at the local and national levels is critical for improving the ability to fast track African Development goals .

The SAPA 2023 continental conference jointly organized with the American University of Cairo invites multidisciplinary scholars and practitioners into the conversation to take stock on the SDGs implementation at the local level, unpacking the local understanding of African local public sector institutions and communities of the nationally framed SDGs agenda, priorities, metrics and timeframes. SAPA aims to gauge a diversity of scholarly and practitioner perspectives on concrete proposals and plans for the local public sector to promote civic engagement, mobilize the African workforce and youth talent around innovative and inclusive solutions to surmount the Covid-19 pandemic setbacks and reversals and more importantly to get more in synch with national and international SDGs priorities and pace. SAPA members, African and global scholars, and practitioners please come join us again in full force as we disseminate research and enrich the existing PA scholarship on the African continent.

The continental conference is divided into six detailed tracks outlined below to guide your proposal abstract submission. By tagging your abstract submission to the following tracts, it allows us to identify and designate panel moderators for fruitful discussion and commentary.

#### **Track I: Taking Stock of SDGs & African Agenda 2063 Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities**

- Linkages and alignments between the 2030 Global SDG and the 2063 African Agenda
- Global development norms and priorities and the African contexts
- Public policy and administration frameworks to incorporate inter-country and intra-country variations
- African countries’ experience of SDG localization, monitoring and implementation: where do we stand?
- Why is SDG localization critical? What are the comparative advantages of subnational governments in SDG localization?

#### **Track II: Assessing African Public Administration Contributions to the SDGs: Lessons Learnt**

- SDGs localization policies and implementation: Comparative case studies, proven platforms and means of cross-fertilization of best practices
- Multi-sectoral partnerships over SDGs Localization; role of street-level bureaucracy; urban/rural alignment over development priorities
- Institutional innovations considering the unique African context; Harnessing local strengths and arrangements for diffusion
- Role of the youth in implementing SDGs and AUA 2063

#### **Track III: Improving SDGs Localization Governance, Infrastructure and Finance**

- Multilevel governance, public policy, planning and administration frameworks and

- processes in Africa: impact on SDGs national and local implementation
- Role of local governments and their involvement in infrastructure planning and management
- Financing subnational governments in Africa - fiscal decentralization, capacity, and tools of local government finance
- Role of technology in fast-tracking SDG implementation, accountability and transparency
- E-government and SDG's tracking

#### **Track IV: SDGs Monitoring, Evaluation & Assessment: The Role of Metrics & Data**

- How do we design and adopt smart metrics in the African context
- How do we verify and enable feedback to address SDG localization shortcomings
- Intersectionality in methodology and monitoring capacity
- Funding African SDG data collection, benchmarking, and reporting; role of ICTs for data collection and digitalization
- Big data and predictive analytics for sustainable development
- Critical and nuanced consumption of SDG data in the localized African contexts

#### **Track V: Bilateral, Multilateral and Continental Cooperation Efforts in Support of African SDG Localization**

- Leveraging multilateral and bilateral development institutions' support and investment
- Continent-based development institutions and tools; supporting subnational governments and home-grown development initiatives
- Role of African Development Bank and the African Continental Free Trade Area in supporting SDG localization
- African climate change policies, management, infrastructure, and finance in light of COP27 framework
- Strengthening global/continent partnerships and platforms for African SDG localization

### **Submission Protocol for Paper Proposals**

SAPA Academic Affairs committee welcomes the submission of proposals for individual papers and fully formed panels in alignment with the SAPA 2023 Continental conference theme “The Localization of African Sustainable Development Agenda: Challenges, Lessons Learnt and Opportunities for Public Administration Systems.”

Dissemination of high-quality conceptual, theoretical, empirical, policy- and practice-oriented research is strongly expected. All proposals should: 1) briefly explain how the paper or panel connects to the overall Symposium theme; 2) note the individual conference track in which the proposal best fits; 3) include 3-4 keywords, and 4) provide complete contact information for the corresponding individual. Proposals for individual papers should include an abstract of 250-400 words. Proposals for fully formed panels should consist of three to four complementary papers and include an abstract of 400-600 words.

Review of SAPA 2023 continental conference proposal submissions will begin on **January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023** and continue through **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The conference committee will review the proposals and notifications of decisions will be made via email on or before **March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Proposals should be emailed to SAPA Academic Affairs Chair, Dr. Shin Kue Ryu at Idaho State University ([shinkueryu@isu.edu](mailto:shinkueryu@isu.edu)). The high-quality papers presented at the continental conference will be considered for publication in either a special co-edited issue of AJPAM (e-edition) and/or an edited volume. AJPAM is the African Journal of Public Administration and Management supported by the African Association for Public Administration and Management, a supportive institutional partner of SAPA.

The SAPA 2023 conference is scheduled over two days on June 6-7, 2022, 3:00-8:00 PM (Cairo Time). AUC will ensure in-person participation with remote access options. For additional inquiries about the conference venue and format, please email the Section on African Public Administration Chair, Dr. Rym Kaki at the University of Southern California at [rym@usc.edu](mailto:rym@usc.edu). For further information about SAPA mission, goals, people, and activities please peruse our website at the following link: <https://thesapa.org/>

#### **References:**

African Union. Linking Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/sdgs>.

African Union Development Agency. February 2022. *Second Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063*. South Africa: NEPAD.

Croese, Sylvia and Parnell, Suzan, Editors. 2022. *Localizing the SDGs in African Cities*. Springer Nature: Sustainable Development Goals Series.

N'Sele, Hassatiu Diop and De Rosa Gustavo. November 2022. Time to Empower Regional Development Banks for SDG Financing. DEVEX. <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-time-to-empower-regional-development-banks-for-sdg-financing-104258>

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Group. March 2022. *Leave No One Behind*. United Nations.