

AMEPPA Annual Conference 2026

Conference Theme:

Public Policy and Administration in Times of Global Uncertainty: Rethinking Governance

Location: The American University in Cairo (AUC) - Moataz Al Alfi Hall

Date: November 26-27, 2026

Background and Rationale

The contemporary global landscape is increasingly defined by uncertainty, complex, and interconnected crises. Geopolitical tensions, economic volatility, climate change, forced displacement, technological disruption, public health challenges, and widening social inequalities are placing unprecedented pressures on governments and public institutions. These developments are not occurring in isolation; rather, they interact in ways that create new and often unpredictable governance challenges.

In this rapidly changing environment, traditional approaches to public policy and administration are increasingly being tested. Governments are expected to respond effectively to immediate crises while simultaneously addressing long-term challenges related to sustainable development, social inclusion, institutional resilience, and economic transformation. This requires public institutions to operate under conditions of uncertainty, adapt to rapidly changing circumstances, and develop new forms of collaboration across governmental, private, civil society, and international actors.

This year's AMEPPA (Association for Middle Eastern Public Policy and Administration) Annual Conference, held in partnership with the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) and the China-Arab Network of Schools of Public Policy and Administration (CANSPAA), seeks to bring together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and international partners to examine how public policy and administration can respond to these emerging challenges and how governance itself needs to be rethought in an increasingly uncertain world.

The conference will explore how states and public institutions can strengthen their capacity to anticipate and respond to crises, maintain effective public services, promote sustainable and inclusive development, and building institutional resilience. Particular attention will be given to the experiences of the Middle East and other regions of the Global South, while recognizing the global dimensions of these challenges.

At the core of the conference is the recognition that global uncertainty is not simply a challenge for governments; it also creates an opportunity to rethink how governance is designed, implemented, and evaluated. This includes reconsidering the role of the state, strengthening administrative capacity, improving policy coordination, fostering institutional innovation, and developing more adaptive and resilient governance arrangements (Torfing, 2024).

The conference will therefore examine questions such as: How can governments govern effectively in an increasingly uncertain world? What forms of institutional capacity and leadership are required to manage complex and interconnected crises? How can public policy and administration become more adaptive while maintaining accountability and legitimacy? What new approaches to governance are needed to address climate change, technological transformation, inequality, displacement, and other transnational challenges? In addition, the conference will also consider how emerging technologies, particularly the advent of artificial intelligence and digital government, and transforming public administration and creating both opportunities and new governance risks.

Conference Tracks

Track One: Public Policy and Administration in a Context of Global Instability

This track examines how governments and public institutions respond to political, social, economic, environmental uncertainty.

- Governance responses to political, economic, and geopolitical shocks
- Public policy responses to global and regional crises
- Climate governance and environmental resilience
- Risk governance and crisis management
- Forced displacement, migration, and public policy
- Inequality, social protection, and inclusive governance
- Public administration and the management of complex crises

Track Two: Rethinking Governance for Sustainable and Inclusive Development

This track focuses on the institutional and administrative foundations required to pursue sustainable and inclusive development under conditions of uncertainty.

- Administrative capacity and institutional performance
- State capacity and institutional resilience
- Policy coherence and implementation
- Intergovernmental and interorganization coordination
- Public sector reform and administrative innovation
- Adaptive and resilient governance systems
- Governance and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Inclusive governance and sustainable development
- Public-private and civil society partnerships

Track Three: Digital Transformation and the Future of Public Administration

This track examines how technological transformation is reshaping public administration, governance, and the relationship between governments and citizens.

- Digital government and public sector modernization

- Artificial intelligence and public administration
- Data governance, transparency, and accountability
- Cybersecurity and emerging governance risks
- Digital inclusion and access to public services
- The future of public administration in an increasingly digital world.

Submission Guidelines

- Paper Abstracts: 300–500 words outlining the research question, methodology, findings, and contribution to the conference themes
- Panel Proposals: 500–600 words describing the panel theme, individual paper abstracts, and the panel's added value
- Practitioner Insights: 200–300 words highlighting practical innovations, implementation challenges, and lessons learned

Submission Timeline

Deadline for submitting abstracts and panel proposals: **September 22, 2026**

Notification of acceptance: **September 30, 2026**

Deadline for submitting full papers: **October 30, 2026**

Please submit your abstracts and panel proposals to: AMEPPAconference@aucegypt.edu

Registration Fee: Free of charge

Notes:

Although all proposals should be submitted in English, as in previous years, some panel proposals may be accepted for presentation in Arabic. For any logistical inquiries, contact AMEPPA Executive Director Ms. Enas Abdel Azim at enas_20@aucegypt.edu.

Conference Organizing Committee

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