



PA Research and SSC for the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab Region

MENAPAR Annual Conference IV

October 28th – 31st, 2019

Ifrane, Morocco

www.menapar.org





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PA Research and SSC

for the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab Region

MENAPAR Annual Conference IV¹

October 28th – 31st, 2019

Ifrane, Morocco

Call for Papers

MENAPAR is pleased to announce its annual conference to be held from October 28th – 31st, 2019 in the beautiful town of Ifrane, Morocco in local partnership with the Al-Akhawayn University. This year's theme will contribute to knowledge building in ***“Public Administration Research and South-South Cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region.”***

Brief on MENAPAR (www.menapar.org)

The Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) is a registered international NGO with its Secretariat in Bahrain and serving the MENA region. It is open to international [membership](#). MENAPAR is the regional arm of the [International Institute of Administrative Sciences \(IIAS\)](#) and also a member of the [Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks \(GCTTN\) for South-South Cooperation](#). It is a joint effort of the [Bahrain Institute of Public Administration \(BIPA\)](#) and [UNDP-Bahrain](#) with approximately 70 members (20 institutional and 50 individual), spanning 13 Arab and 3 non-Arab countries. MENAPAR in its intrinsic nature is a model of South-South Cooperation (SSC) for knowledge creation and exchanges that occur among member organizations and individuals from government and the civil society.

MENAPAR was conceptualized by BIPA in June 2013 and has since conducted annual conferences in Bahrain, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine and Spain (2014-2018) showcasing approximately 500 scientific papers. MENAPAR's mandate is the development and implementation of an Arab regional research agenda that promotes evidence-based policy and decision-making in public administration through developing thinking and a research culture about strategic issues in Arab PA for human development; building research capacities within Arab PA and building networks and harnessing their collective efforts to set the cause of PA in the region for its citizens and residents.

¹ Please note that this is MENAPAR's *sixth* annual conference, however biennially, MENAPAR collaborates with the [EGPA](#) to produce the EuroMENA Conference, both of which have parallel naming schemes.



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Brief on Al-Akhawayn University (www.aui.ma)

Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane is an independent, public, not-for-profit, coeducational, Moroccan university committed to educating future citizen-leaders of Morocco and the world through a globally oriented, English-language, liberal arts curriculum. The university enhances Morocco and engages the world through leading-edge educational and research programs, including continuing and executive education, upholds the highest academic and ethical standards, and promotes equity and social responsibility.

Founded in 1993 by Royal decree, Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane opened its doors to students in January 1995. Based on the principles of diversity and an international outlook, the university's mission is driven by values of human solidarity and tolerance. Al Akhawayn has modeled its administrative, pedagogical, and academic organization on the American university system, and English is the language of instruction. Still in its infancy, the university has already developed a national and international reputation for its unique identity and potential.

Background and Rationale for this Year's Theme

"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet"² in a global partnership with both developed and developing countries (the Global South). As a regional member of the Global South, MENAPAR's vision of creating "a highly developed Arab region via sound public administration" is aptly aligned with this global mandate. MENAPAR also recognizes the dramatic growth in South-South Cooperation (SSC) as an essential modality to further the global developmental agenda. As a "public administration research for human development" think tank, with focused priority areas for the next 4 years (2019 – 2022), MENAPAR dedicates its 2019 conference to knowledge production in the essential SSC space to enable effective and efficient public administration for all in the Arab region, leaving no one behind.

Conference Objectives

1. To identify the status of SSC vis-à-vis public administration in the Arab region
2. To identify gaps in public administration of the region vis-à-vis the SDGs
3. To identify the status of the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region
4. To analyze the relationship between the three spaces of PA, SSC and SDGs in the Arab context
5. To identify resources (financial and otherwise) from within and outside the Arab region that can support the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region
6. To evaluate the impact of existing relevant Arab programs & projects related to PA, SSC & SDGs

² <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>



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Main Theme of the Conference

Main Theme: PA Research and SSC for the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab Region

South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among developing countries, geographically referred to as the Global South, that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SSC is a broad framework of collaboration among these countries in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. Involving two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional or interregional basis. Developing countries share knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts.³ In the last decades, South-South Cooperation has grown dramatically in both volume and geographic reach and continues to gain momentum with the United Nations Second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires SSC Plan of Action ([BAPA + 40 Conference](#)).

As an alternative and distinct modality of cooperation among countries, SSC offers Arab countries, all 22 of which belong to the Global South, a prodigious opportunity to collaborate on a regional public administration, public management and public governance agenda with the goal of achieving the SDGs, furthering environmental, social and economic development for the Arab region.

This call invites researchers, practitioners, PhD students and academicians to contribute papers, best practices, and advanced PhD theses that highlight the status and identify the current gaps in SSC vis-à-vis PA and the SDG spaces in the Arab region. Given that PA cuts across all SDGs, a focus is suggested based on the MENAPAR Priority areas below:

MENAPAR Research Priority Areas

1. Innovation (SDGs 7, 9, 11, 16, 17)

This area of research seeks to find innovative solutions to Arab region public service delivery, which are citizen and resident centric.

2. SDGs (3, 4, 8, 9, 16)

This thrust seeks to promote SDG research for the Arab region in the 5 areas of education, health, peace, the economy and innovation. These five areas were prioritized by the MENAPAR [Research Priority Area Survey](#)⁴.

³ <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/>

⁴ Live results can be viewed here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-ZQNC5VL/>



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3. Governance (SDGs 16, 17)

This area of research evaluates best practice governance mechanisms for the Arab region.

4. Public Policy (SDGs 3, 4, 6)

This research area seeks to make the public policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes in the Arab region more inclusive, transparent, effective and efficient.

5. Education (SDG 4)

This research area seeks to determine the gaps in education reform in the Arab region from primary level to university

Papers shall be categorized in the following areas:

Conference Sub-Themes

- **Thematic Area 1 - Knowledge gaps in the practice and research of PA, SSC and SDGs in the Arab Region**

New public governance has a strong focus on collaboration and horizontal ties between individuals and agencies, (Dickinson, 2016) and by extension countries, which forms the basis of SSC. Domains such as Public Service Innovation are benefitting greatly from SSC where southern countries are collaborating to “exchange knowledge, experiences and expertise to harness innovations in public service delivery and help governments and people to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s and other development agenda.”⁵

Furthermore, there is a strong link between public administration and the SDGs. “First, having a proper public administration system is now a stand-alone development objective. Second, public governance systems are now explicitly mandated to contribute to the realization of SDGs through policy instruments. Finally, the remaining SDGs are embedded and framed in public governance, and their realization will strongly depend on it. The formulation of the SDGs may refer to different levels of commitment, but still: public administration is everywhere in the SDGs.” (Geert BOUCKAERT, 2016)

However, such linkages remain weak within the Arab region. This thematic area welcomes papers that analyze existing gaps in SSC with respect to PA in the achievement of the SDGs. Any gap analysis within and / or between the three spaces of PA, SSC and SDGs in the Arab context are also welcome. Best practices that help identify the stated gaps are invited.

⁵ <http://www.asia-pacific.unsouthsouth.org/our-work/south-south-network-for-public-service-innovation/>



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- **Thematic Area 2 - Facilitators and Inhibitors of SDGs in the Arab region**

Despite the notable progress made so far, achieving the SDGs by 2030 will require enormous financial resources, far exceeding the current allocations made available through governments and multilateral agencies. UNCTAD (2014) estimates that the annual investment gap in key sustainable development sectors for developing countries is about US\$ 2.5 trillion.⁶ This means that countries will need between US\$ 3.3 trillion to US\$ 4.5 trillion annually to meet demands for basic infrastructure, health, education, food security, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Bridging this investment gap is crucial and will require increased public and private sector contributions that address issues of public-private partnerships (PPP); innovative financing mechanisms and a reorientation of financial markets; development of a new generation of investment promotion institutions and strategies; good governance in business practices; incentivizing SDG-oriented investments; boosting traditional and digital economy growth, and raising investments in research and development.⁷ This area welcomes papers that investigate the use of resources (financial and otherwise) in supporting the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region. The context of SSC should be emphasized whenever relevant. Any best practices vis-à-vis financing and / or other support modalities that provide resources for the achievement of the SDGs for the Arab region are invited.

- **Thematic Area 3 - Evaluation of Arab cooperation on PA programs and projects**

This area will accept monitoring and evaluation research on any programs and projects that are currently working via the SSC modality to further the cause of PA in the Arab region. Any best practices with regards to monitoring and evaluation of PA projects that involve two or more Arab countries are welcome.

- **Open Call**

This area will organize accepted papers and best practices which are relevant to the overall theme of the Conference however do not fall into the above sub-themes.

⁶ Gokhan Dikmener, UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (ICPSD)

⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and development (UNCTAD), World Investment Report: Investing in the SDGs: An Action Plan, 2014.



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Best Practices Call for Contributions (Pre-Conference Day)

The Best Practices (BP) Workshop is a permanent feature of the MENAPAR annual conferences and takes place during the pre-Conference day. The MENAPAR IV will conduct this important forum on October 28th, 2019. Its purpose is to showcase best practices in Public Administration and output from collaboration projects that have been started through the MENAPAR and involve at least 2 Arab countries. Best Practice workshops have taken place in conjunction with each of MENAPAR's previous conferences in Tunisia, Oman, Palestine and Spain. To date contributions have been made from the following Arab and non-Arab countries: Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia, Oman, Palestine, France and Germany.

All best practices submissions are reviewed by a committee of experts in public administration to ascertain the proof of concept as a requirement for presentation. Submissions can be in any of the following formats:

- A written paper in the format of a case study (to be submitted in this [template](#))
- A video or animated presentation
- A demo / storyboard display
- A combination of the above or any other format / delivery that clearly outlines the best practice

Best practice presentations will be grouped within single 15-minute sessions either on an industry or country basis. If there are many submissions that are deemed worth presenting by the committee of experts, parallel sessions could be considered.

Best practices should have undergone proof of concept with evidence to show their effectiveness (e.g. international benchmarking, impact analysis, etc.). Other than their basic functionalities/ working mode, lessons learned should illustrate the path to success and/or risks of failure.

Best Practices Award

To promote cooperation and partnership between different public sector organizations across the Arab countries, the MENAPAR Best Practices Award will monitor, document and disseminate best practice and make it available to beneficiaries across the region. **For those interested in applying for this award, please review the links below** for the criteria for participation, conditions for acceptance, the submission mechanism, the evaluation mechanism as well as the special form for the award submission:

[Arabic Version](#)

[English Version](#)



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PhD Doctoral Workshop (Pre-Conference Day)

The MENAPAR Doctoral Workshop offers PhDs students a unique opportunity to present their work to well-known professors and experts in the Arab region. It also encourages doctoral students to submit their research results to the test of external validation. The Doctoral Workshop allows sharing and learning, and helps to consolidate the community of young researchers, invigorating an Arab research eco-system.

Format for proposal

- The submission and the presentation must focus exclusively on the thesis work.
- The proposition should be no more than 5 pages long.
- It should detail clearly the PhD project, but may insist more on certain points to be discussed, that can be theoretical, methodological and / or empirical.
- The proposition should include the following elements:
 - Date of first registration for thesis
 - A half-page maximum summary in English and / or Arabic
 - Five keywords (maximum)
 - The PhD work in progress:
 - The research questions
 - A short review of literature
 - Empirical and Methodological elements
 - Preliminary findings and elements for discussion
 - Limitations of the research
 - The remaining work schedule (planning)
 - The student may also address issues he or she wishes to discuss during the presentation.

Conference Submission Guidelines

To begin the submission process, please visit <https://www.conftool.org/menapar2019/>. More details will be present on the new MENAPAR website shortly.

Submissions can be made in English or Arabic, and French will be considered on an as-need basis.



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Due Dates

Papers and Best Practices



PhD Doctoral Workshop

Due date for the PhD Doctoral Workshop submission is **September 1st, 2019**.

Scientific Committee

Conference Program Co-Chairs

Dr. Sofiane Sahraoui & Dr. Najat Zarrouk

A full list of committee members will soon be available on the new MENAPAR website.

Logistics Committee

- MENAPAR Secretariat
- Al-Akhawayn University Local Organizers
- MENAPAR Think Tank Members (BIPA, ALGA)

General Program

Pre-Conference Day	October 28 th , 2019 (Monday)
Opening Ceremony, Plenary and Sessions	October 29 th , 2019 (Tuesday)
Gala Dinner	TBD
Closing Ceremony, Plenary and Sessions	October 30 th , 2019 (Wednesday)
Social Day	October 31 st , 2019 (Thursday)



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Registration Information

Registration information including fees will be available on the new MENAPAR website shortly.

Contact Information

Please contact the MENAPAR Secretariat at conf@menapar.org for any conference related questions.

We look forward to your submissions and to seeing you at the Conference in Morocco!