



PRESS RELEASE

6th International Conference of the MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RESEARCH (MENAPAR)

From 28th to 31st October 2019, the annual conference of the Middle East & North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) will be held at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane (Morocco). The conference is organized by MENAPAR, Bahrain Institute for Public Administration, Al Akhawayn University, African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa), UNDP, International Institutes of Administrative Science (IIASA), in partnership with the National High School for Administration (ENSA, Morocco), the Aix-Marseille University (France) and the University di Roma (Italy).

The theme of this 6th international conference of the MENAPAR is: " **Public Administration Research and South-South Cooperation for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab Region** ". 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 (Agenda 2030) and continental (Agenda 2063 of Africa Union) visions and mandates.

The objectives of the conference are:

- To identify the status of South-South Cooperation vis-à-vis public administration in the Arab region;
- To identify gaps in public administration of the region vis-à-vis the SDGs;
- To identify the status of the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region;
- To analyze the relationship between the three spaces of PA, SSC, and SDGs in the Arab context;
- 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;
- To evaluate the impact of existing relevant Arab programs and projects related to PA, SSC, and the SDGs;
- To highlight and value the best practices.

The Conference will be marked by 2 special events:

- The Best Practices Panel where more than 30 experiences from the Arab Region will be presented ;
- The presentation of the translation of the Book on "Understanding Public Administration" of Prof. Michiel De Vries (Netherlands) from English to Arabic.

The opening ceremony will take place on Tuesday 29 October 2019 in presence of:

Dr. Raed Bin Shams, MENAPAR President, Director General of BIPA, Bahrain.

Dr. Driss Ouaouicha, Minister Delegate to the Minister of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, in charge of Higher Education and Scientific Research, President of Al Akhawayn University or his Representative, Morocco.

Honourable Mr Hicham Afifi, Mayor of the City of Ifrane, Morocco.

Prof. Brahim ZYANI, Chairperson of the Moroccan Public Administration Observatory(OMAP), Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Moroccan Government, Morocco.

Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Director of African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of UCLG Africa.

Nearly 200 stakeholders are expected to attend the conference, issue from International Organizations, Public Administrations and Institutions, Academia and Training Centers, Researchers and Experts, Practitioners, PhD students, Private Sector and Civil Society.

The national and the international press (based in Morocco) are invited to cover the opening ceremony **on Tuesday 29 October 2019, at 9:00 am at the Al Akhawayn University – Conference Center (Auditorium).**

On Monday 28 October, 2019, the Conference will start by the Best Practices Panel.

For further information, please contact:

Gaëlle Yomi: + 212 610 56 71 45

Email: gyomi@uclga.org

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

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.

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.

UCLG AFRICA AND ALGA

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is the umbrella organization and united voice that represents local Governments throughout the African continent. UCLG Africa brings together more than 350 million African citizens, more than 40 national associations and more than 2,000 cities. Promoting decentralization in Africa and within African Local Governments as autonomous and distinct spheres of Government, as well as contributing to the unity of the African continent thanks to the dynamism of the local Governments are parts of the main missions of UCLG Africa.

www.uclga.org - [@UCLGAfrica](#)

Created in 2009 and operational since 2016, the African Local Governments Academy (ALGA) is a subsidiary body of UCLG Africa which mission is to promote quality standards for training and capacity-building targeting the Local Government, invest in the human capital of these entities and anchor local performance and professionalism in Africa (www.uclgafrica-alga.org).

Dr Najat Zarrouk : najat_zarrouk@yahoo.fr Mobile : +212 0661 120 552