IASIA2022 Conference
Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles
to Leave No One, No Place Behind

Introduction

The IASIA 2022 Conference will take place in Rabat, Morocco on July 25-29, 2022.

It is co-organized by:

- the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA)
- the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Africa and
- the *African Local Governments Academy (ALGA)*

in partnership with:

- the *Faculté des Sciences Juridiques, Economiques et Sociales - Agdal* of *l'Université Mohammed V de Rabat.*

The IASIA2022 Conference will focus on the theme ***Implementing and Promoting Effective Governance Principles to Leave No One, No Place Behind.***

IASIA2022 Conference

The IASIA2022 Conference is consisting of several elements (scientific preparation - mobilization of a network - practical organization) targeting public administration scholars, practitioners, and students from all over the world. It takes place in English, around the main theme, and consists of five Plenary sessions that include: a Keynote speeches session; a Host Country session; a Main theme; an Awards session, and finally, a Report and Conclusions session to be held during the last day of the conference. The program also contains Parallel panels, according to a strict selection of a Call for Panels, and several parallel sessions of the ten IASIA working groups and the Conference Theme track (English & French participation in this last track).

The Program Committee of the IASIA2022 Conference is led by:

- PS Reddy, IASIA Functional Vice-president for Program, as Chair (South Africa);
- Liza Van Jaarsveldt, IASIA Project Director of WG VIII, as Coordinator and Rapporteur (South Africa);
- Ms. Abir Achour, ALGA (Morocco);
- Prof. Hassane Al-Arafi, l'Université Mohammed V de Rabat (Morocco);
- César Alfonzo, IASIA Executive Secretary (Brazil);
- Sofiane Sahraoui, IIAS DG (Belgium).

Background on the theme

The adage "leave no one behind" (LNOB) is the key focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs). "Leave no one behind" represents a commitment by all UN Member States and governments around the world to ensure that SDGs are achieved. At its core "leave no one behind" can be viewed as supporting the SDG inequality agenda for inclusive development, supporting marginalised

and vulnerable groups excluded from social opportunities, focusing on income and wealth distribution, addressing challenges related to extreme inequality and reaching out to the poor. LNOB aims to address those on the fringes of society that in many instances are neglected and are the most marginalised, notably the poorest of the poor.

The notion of" leaving no one behind" has never been more relevant due to the socio-economic outcome that the Covid-19 pandemic caused globally. During the pandemic, gains made with poverty reduction and inequality were lost and the divide between the rich and the poor increased. It is widely acknowledged that the pandemic has, since its outbreak in December 2019, resulted in increased poverty and food insecurity, reduced access to healthcare, the unequal distribution of vaccines, job losses and interrupted education. According to the United Nations Development Programme (2021: 32) COVID-19 has resulted in a sharp increase in the global poverty rate with an average of 88 million people per year facing reduced livelihoods while slipping into poverty. This increase in poverty is experienced largely by women and girls as well as lower-middle-income countries that have already faced high inequality, poverty, and unemployment rates. Apart from poverty, other major causes of people being left behind are discrimination or mistreatment based on gender, ethnicity, age, class, disability, education level, religion or nationality and a lack of access to equal opportunities. According to Mr Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary-General (2021), the world has never been more threatened or divided. Mr Guterres stated that ".... human rights are under fire……. and economic lifelines for the most vulnerable are coming too little and too late, if they come at all, …… We are on the edge of an abyss - and moving in the wrong direction".

Governments play a key role in ensuring that the most vulnerable get the support they need. However, many governments around the world experienced challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic that impacted their planning, spending and service delivery. In many instances, governments worked in uncertainty, making difficult financial decisions between lockdown measures, keeping the citizenry safe and the economy going. Many decisions came at a very high cost, for example, the loss of trust by citizens in governments' ability, decisions, and actions.

To ensure however that "no one gets left behind", citizens should have the ability to access government services, support, and information. This requires of governments to ensure that they are responsive and inclusive to the needs of citizens by focusing on policies and making decisions that leave no one behind. Governments need to engage with citizens and be inclusive and accountable with scarce resources. Sustainable and equitable development is not possible if certain groups in society are marginalised and excluded, and low well-being being perpetuated. States through multi-level and good governance and the notion of subsidiarity need to renew their focus on sustainable development and at the same time combatting corruption thereby ensuring that the SDGs are achieved. It is essential to ensure that communities that are left behind are included, empowered, and viewed as equal partners in public governance, notably in planning, decision making, service delivery and sustainable development. Ultimately, "leaving no one behind" requires political and management will and public functionaries with determination to respond to inequalities, while focusing on the needs and expectations of the citizenry in a challenging and complex environment.

In pursuance of the above, several key principles have been put forward by the Committee of Experts (CEPA) of the (UN, 2018) to promote effective governance for sustainable

development. The need for **effectiveness** has been emphasised, namely <u>competence, sound policymaking</u> and <u>collaboration.</u> Another critical focus area is **accountability** with <u>integrity, transparency</u> and <u>independent oversight</u> being the critical components. The focus on **inclusiveness** underscores the notion of <u>leaving no one behind</u> through <u>non-discrimination; participation; subsidiarity</u> and <u>intergenerational equity</u> which are imperative for the sustainability of future generations.

Key research questions impacting on the conference theme include:

- How can the concepts of "leave no one behind" be operationalised in a governance context?
- How can governments be inclusive to ensure that "no one gets left behind"?
- How can local government foster the inclusiveness process?
- How do citizens experience exclusion from essential public services?
- Why are citizens at the fringes of society being excluded from governance processes, communication, and information?
- How can the citizenry participate meaningfully in governance processes focused on sustainable development and the achievement of the SDGs?
- How can policies be adapted to minimize inequality while promoting the notion of the wellbeing of the citizenry?
- What policies, processes, and procedures can be put in place by governments to ensure that "no one gets left behind"?
- Can accountable, responsive, and inclusive governance systems be built to ensure a reduction in inequality and exclusion?
- What opportunities do governments have to address inequality in a post-Covid-19 world?
- How can citizens engage with the government to ensure responsive governance?
- What challenges do the indigents face in accessing essential government services?
- Can gender equality be achieved by 2030?
- What role does public leadership play in "leaving no one behind"?
- How can public functionaries be sensitised to ensure "no one gets left behind"?
- What government capacities are required to be built to ensure inclusiveness?
- Which government HR for inclusiveness?
- The complexity and experiences of the most vulnerable in any society remain misunderstood - how can governments better understand and serve these groupings?

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