



**AMDIN**  
African Management Development  
Institutes Network

# 2026 AMDIN CONFERENCE

**Theme: Transformative Public Service Leadership for  
Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth in Africa.**

## CONCEPT NOTE

**Conference proudly hosted by:**



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# 1. Background and Rationale

The African Management Development Institutes' Network (AMDIN) is the continent's premier professional association committed to enhancing public sector capacity. Established in 2005, AMDIN was founded to ensure that institutions tasked with developing public sector capabilities operate effectively, while benefiting from collaboration, shared resources, and knowledge exchange. Its mandate is uniquely tailored to address Africa's multifaceted developmental challenges and promote institutional excellence across the continent.

AMDIN's membership comprises Management Development Institutions (MDIs), including government-established training entities, university-based Schools and Institutes of Administration, public policy and administration research centres, and regional training organisations. The constitution also provides for associate membership by invitation of the Council. Key continental bodies such as the African Union Commission (AUC), the Conference of African Ministers of Public Services (CAMPS), and the NEPAD Secretariat are represented on the AMDIN Council, reinforcing its strategic influence.

To advance its mission, AMDIN launched an annual conference as a flagship platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and capacity building among public sector training and development institutions. The conference promotes cross-country partnerships, thought leadership on governance issues specific to Africa, and institutional effectiveness through technical exchanges and workshops. It also enhances AMDIN's visibility, advocates for increased investment in public sector development, and sustains the relevance of the network. The inaugural conference was held in May 2025 in Accra, Ghana, where it was resolved that the second edition will be hosted by NIPAM in Windhoek, Namibia, in 2026.

Africa stands at a pivotal moment in its development trajectory. Effective governance, innovative leadership, and resilient institutions are critical to achieving the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want – and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Despite notable progress, public services across the continent continue to face challenges such as limited institutional capacity, governance gaps, socio-economic disparities, weak accountability mechanisms, and digital exclusion. Concurrently, opportunities are emerging through digital transformation, regional integration, and growing citizen demand for inclusive and participatory governance.

This conference aims to provide a strategic platform for reflection, knowledge sharing, and dialogue on building a professional, innovative, ethical, and citizen-centered public service capable of driving Africa's transformation.

## 2. Objectives

The Conference will:

- 2.1 Reimagine public service institutions to effectively deliver on Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.
- 2.2 Promote governance models that foster accountability, transparency, and public trust.
- 2.3 Share innovations in leadership development, capacity building, and ethical administration.
- 2.4 Explore the role of digital transformation and emerging technologies in enhancing service delivery.
- 2.5 Advocate for inclusive governance that integrates youth, women, and vulnerable groups.
- 2.6 Strengthening partnerships, collaboration, and regional integration as drivers of sustainable development.

## 3. Conference Theme and Focus Areas

Transformative Public Service Leadership for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth in Africa.

### Sub-Themes

#### **3.1 Governance, Accountability, and Ethical Leadership in the African Public Service**

- 3.1.1 Enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms.
- 3.1.2 Combating corruption and promoting integrity-driven leadership.
- 3.1.3 Ethical leadership as a foundation for trust and legitimacy.
- 3.1.4 Strengthening oversight and regulatory frameworks.
- 3.1.5 Aligning leadership with constitutional and democratic principles.
- 3.1.6 Case studies on governance and ethics reforms in Africa.

#### **3.2 Building Institutional Capacity and Professionalising Public Service**

- 3.2.1 Developing competency frameworks and standards.
- 3.2.2 Talent management, succession planning, and leadership pipelines.
- 3.2.3 Continuous learning and professional accreditation.
- 3.2.4 Institutional reforms for efficient service delivery.
- 3.2.5 Promoting professionalism and meritocracy.
- 3.2.6 Benchmarking against global best practices.

#### **3.3 Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Innovation for Public Sector Renewal**

- 3.3.1 Citizen-centered digital service delivery.
- 3.3.2 Opportunities and risks of AI in governance.
- 3.3.3 Data infrastructure, analytics, and cybersecurity.
- 3.3.4 Innovation labs and agile methodologies.
- 3.3.5 Bridging digital divides and promoting equitable access.
- 3.3.6 Ethical and legal frameworks for emerging technologies.

### **3.4 Inclusive Public Service: Gender, Youth, and Vulnerable Groups in Leadership and Development**

- 3.4.1 Gender mainstreaming in leadership.
- 3.4.2 Youth empowerment and innovation.
- 3.4.3 Representation of marginalised groups.
- 3.4.4 Removing barriers to inclusive leadership.
- 3.4.5 Social equity in public policy and service delivery.
- 3.4.6 Inclusive leadership for social cohesion.

### **3.5 Partnerships, Regional Integration, and Collaborative Governance for Agenda 2063**

- 3.5.1 Strengthening intra-African partnerships and networks.
- 3.5.2 Policy harmonisation and cross-border collaboration.
- 3.5.3 Public-private partnerships for development.
- 3.5.4 Role of regional institutions in Agenda 2063.
- 3.5.5 Knowledge sharing and South-South cooperation.
- 3.5.6 Collaborative governance for peace and inclusive growth.

### **3.6 Resilient and Future-Ready Public Services for Sustainable Development and Crisis Management**

- 3.6.1 Adaptive leadership and institutional agility.
- 3.6.2 Foresight, risk management, and scenario planning.
- 3.6.3 Lessons from responses to pandemics, climate shocks, and conflicts.
- 3.6.4 Sustainability and resilience in public policy.
- 3.6.5 Human capital development for continuity.
- 3.6.6 Aligning resilience strategies with SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## 4. Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the Conference, participants will have:

- 4.1 A shared understanding of strategies to enhance governance and accountability.
- 4.2 Practical insights and case studies on institutional capacity building.
- 4.3 Policy recommendations for leveraging digital transformation in governance.
- 4.4 Frameworks for promoting gender equity, youth empowerment, and inclusive leadership.
- 4.5 Increased awareness of the role of partnerships and regional collaboration.
- 4.6 Actionable recommendations for building resilient public services.
- 4.7 Drafted policy briefs and frameworks for adoption by member states and institutions.

## 5. Target Participants

The Conference will convene a diverse group of stakeholders from across the continent and beyond, including:

- 5.1 Senior government officials and policymakers.
- 5.2 Leadership and management development institutes.
- 5.3 Representatives from the African Union Commission and Regional Economic Communities (RECs).
- 5.4 Development partners and international organisations.
- 5.5 Public administration schools and research centres.
- 5.6 Regional and national training institutions.
- 5.7 Civil society organisations and advocacy groups.
- 5.8 Experts in governance, digital transformation, and institutional development.
- 5.9 Youth and gender-focused organisations.
- 5.10 Academia and thought leaders in public sector reform.

## 6. Format and Methodology

The Conference will adopt a dynamic and interactive format designed to foster leadership development, strategic dialogue, and practical learning. The methodology will include:

- 6.1 Plenary sessions featuring keynote addresses by high-level leaders and experts in governance, public administration, and institutional development.
- 6.2 Parallel sessions structured around the six thematic areas, allowing for in-depth exploration and technical discussions.
- 6.3 Case study presentations showcasing best practices, reform experiences, and leadership innovations from across Africa.
- 6.4 Roundtable discussions and policy dialogues to facilitate cross-sectoral engagement and collaborative problem-solving.
- 6.5 Leadership workshops and masterclasses focused on ethical leadership, strategic foresight, and institutional transformation.
- 6.6 Exhibition and networking opportunities to promote institutional visibility, partnership building, and knowledge exchange.

## 7. Conclusion

The AMDIN Annual Conference 2026, hosted by NIPAM in Windhoek, Namibia, will serve as a pivotal platform for advancing transformative leadership and institutional excellence in Africa's public sector. By convening a diverse range of stakeholders, the conference will stimulate strategic dialogue, foster innovation, and promote inclusive governance aligned with the aspirations of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

Through its thematic focus, interactive format, and high-level participation, the conference will generate actionable insights, strengthen regional collaboration, and contribute to building resilient, ethical, and future-ready public services across the continent. It will reaffirm AMDIN's commitment to driving Africa's development through professionalised public administration and visionary leadership.