Call for Papers

International Conference on Public Sector Innovation, Digital Transformation and Inclusive Development

Theme: A Dive into the First World: Weaving A Public Service Fit for Purpose

Conference Dates: 7th –9th April, 2027

Venue: Kenya School of Government, Mombasa, Kenya

Introduction

The Organizing Committee of the International Conference on Public Sector Innovation, Digital Transformation and Inclusive Development (PSITID 2027) cordially invites researchers, academics, policymakers, industry experts, development practitioners, postgraduate students, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to submit original research articles for presentation during the conference.

The conference aims to provide an international platform for the dissemination of high-quality research, the exchange of innovative ideas, and the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing contemporary global and regional development challenges. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in scholarly discussions, network, establish research partnerships, and contribute to evidence-based policy and practice.

Conference Objectives

The conference seeks to:

a) Promote the dissemination of original and high-quality research findings;
b) Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, academia, policymakers, practitioners, development organizations, and industry;
c) Showcase innovative solutions that address societal, environmental, technological, and economic factors;

d) Promote exchange of knowledge on emerging issues in sustainable development;
e) Provide exposure for early-career researchers and postgraduate students;
f) Facilitate policy dialogue based on scientific evidence and best practices.

Invitation for Submission of Papers

Authors are invited to submit original and unpublished research papers, case studies, review papers, conceptual papers, and work-in-progress papers aligned with the conference themes and tracks. The submission portal can be found at https://programs.ksg.ac.ke/events/088cda88-a6e8-4b93-a280-411cc6f24c29.

Accepted papers will be presented during the conference and published in the conference proceedings, subject to successful peer review and compliance with publication requirements. Articles from the conference may be considered for publication in East African Journal of Public Affairs

Key Dates and Timelines

Activity	**Date**
Call for Abstracts	05th October, 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	6th November, 2026
Feedback on Reviewed Abstracts	21st November, 2026
Manuscript Submission Deadline	15th February, 2027
Feedback from Internal Blind Review	26th February, 2027
Invitation for Manuscript Presentation	26th March 2027
Conference Registration Deadline	5th April, 2027
Conference Presentations/Discussions	7 – 9 April, 2027
Final Manuscript for Publication Deadline	30th April, 2027

Conference Fees and Charges

Registration Fee	**Charges**	
	Kenya	**United States**

	Shillings (KES)	Dollars (USD)
Kenyan Citizens	20,000	155
EAC Citizens	20,000	155
Other Nationalities	32,500	250
Students (Kenyan and EAC Citizens)	6,500	50
International Students	13,000	100
Corporate Package (up to 10 pax)	175,000	1350
Corporate Package (11-20 pax)	300,000	2310
Corporate Sponsorship	50,000	400

Notes

1. Conference registration fee covers one meal and two teas for the conference days;
2. Conference participants to cater for their accommodation and travel logistics;
3. Delegates may reserve accommodation at KSG Mombasa in advance through psitid@ksg.ac.ke
4. Conference fee is non-refundable
5. Payment Details:

Bank Name	Kenya Commercial Bank Limited
Bank Branch	Sarit Centre
Bank Code	01141
Swift Code	KCBLKENX
Account Number (KShs)	1106972732
Account Number (USD)	1107057957
D-U-N-S No.	559904857
Account Name	Kenya School of Government

Structure of the abstract

An abstract shall include; title, problem description, suggested objectives, rationale and proposed methodology. For completed articles, authors should

provide results and recommendations. Abstract shall not exceed 300 words and shall include 3 – 5 key words.

Submission of manuscript

Manuscript shall include;

i. Title
ii. Abstract (maximum 300 words)
iii. Background
iv. Statement of the problem and objective
v. Justification
vi. Significance/ benefits
vii. Review of relevant literature
viii. Data and methods
ix. Findings/ Results and discussion
x. Conclusion and recommendations
xi. References/Bibliography (APA 7th edition)
xii. Manuscript shall be between 6000 - 8000 words

Formatting Style and Language

a) Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx)
b) A4 page size
c) Garamond, 12-point font
d) 1.5 line spacing
e) 2.5 cm margins on all sides
f) Tables and figures numbered sequentially and in APA style.
g) All submissions must be written in English.
h) Similarity index (plagiarism) should not exceed 20%

Contact Information

The Chairman,
Conference Secretariat,
International Conference on Public Sector Innovation, Digital Transformation and Inclusive Development (PSITID 2027),
Kenya School of Government Conference Centre
P.O. Box 23030–00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: psitid@ksg.ac.ke
Website: https://programs.ksg.ac.ke/events/088cda88-a6e8-4b93-a280-411cc6f24c29

Telephone: +254 727496698

KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Empowering the Public Service

CONCEPT NOTE ON RESEARCH ACTIVITES FOR FY2026/27

A Dive into The First World: Weaving a Public Service Fit for Purpose

August 2026

Background

The transition from a developing to a first world economy is a profound transformation of a nation's tapestry, driven by the quality of its governance and public service. Across the globe, nations that have achieved this status are characterized by public sectors that are agile, efficient and with deep interconnection between public and private sector. In contrast, developing countries are characterized by silos, bureaucratic inertia, and a reactive rather than proactive orientation. To achieve first world status, Kenya requires a future ready public service and anticipatory governance system that co-creates national prosperity.

This concept note proposes a strategic discourse centred on "weaving" a new tapestry for the public service. The dialogue must be robust enough to support national development and flexible to adapt to rapid global disruptions arising from technological and demographic changes. The ultimate goal is to create a cohesive ecosystem where public policy and service delivery are synchronized to achieve a shared vision for prosperity and equitable future.

Approach

The development of this concept note was anchored on a participatory and evidence-driven approaches designed to ensure policy relevance and applicability. The initial step involved a comprehensive desk review of the relevant document including the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda, Vision 2030, and Developing A New Vision For Kenya: Towards A First World Nation. Further, a consultation with subject matter experts, policymakers, academics, and public service practitioners from relevant ministries, state corporations, and development partners was adopted. This review made possible a contextual approach to

develop the research themes that anchors national development priorities and global trends. These approaches resulted into generating seven thematic areas and attendant subthemes that converged after various iterative process of policy gap analysis, stakeholder validation, and strategic foresight exercises. Each theme has been disaggregated into specific research foci to guide the call for abstracts and proposals.

Thematic Areas

The conference dialogue will revolve around these structured seven themes with each having isolated strands for a progressive national tapestry.

Thematic Area 1: Transforming Agricultural and Food Systems for National Prosperity

This thematic area shall focus on necessary agricultural transformations to promote food security, sustainability and inclusive socio economic growth. Researchers in this area can select proposed study topics from either of the listed subthemes;

a. Food security and economic growth
b. Climate-smart agriculture and environmental sustainability
c. Precision farming, Youth demographic and agricultural technologies
d. Agricultural value chains and agro-industrial development
e. Agriculture finance and rural transformation
f. Policy and institutional reforms for agricultural productivity

Thematic Area 2: Industrial Competitiveness and Value Creation

This thematic area shall focus on industrial capabilities necessary to transform the economy from agrarian models to modern production systems. Researchers in this area can select areas of study from any of the listed subthemes;

a. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises reforms, sustainability and scalability
b. Policy, business environment and enabler to industrialization
c. Green technologies and circular economies
d. Academia-industry collaboration for industrial growth
e. Robotics and emerging technologies for industrialization

Thematic Area 3: Innovation, Technology and Knowledge Economy

This thematic area shall focus on disruptions of modern socioeconomic systems driven by information, technology and demographic changes. The researchers in this area can select areas of study from any of the listed subthemes;

a. Artificial Intelligence and digital disruptions
b. Big data analytics
c. Digital skilling and transformation
d. Cyber risks and digital protection
e. Innovation ecosystems and entrepreneurship
f. Intellectual property and research commercialization

Thematic Area 4: Human Capital Capabilities and Skills of the Future

This thematic area shall focus on the development and investments towards building the required human capital to facilitate transition to a first world status. Specific areas of study shall prioritize the following subthemes

a. Agile and future-ready human capital
b. Talent management and workforce productivity
c. Creative, indigenous, tacit and knowledge management
d. Competency-based education and lifelong learning philosophies

Thematic Area 5: Governance, Security and Decentralization

This thematic area attracts discourse that transcends bureaucratic routine by embracing ethical leadership, support devolved citizen-

centric service delivery, and integrate security frameworks that protects national interests. The researcher shall focus on the following subthemes;

a. Ethics, values, and professionalism in public service
b. National security, conflict management and peacebuilding
c. Decentralised governance systems and citizen-centricity
d. Public sector reforms and institutional resilience

Thematic Area 6: Finance, Investment and Wealth Creation

This thematic area delves on wealth creation that demands the public service to orchestrate prudent fiscal policies, innovative financial engineering and aggressive investment promotion for generational economic prosperity. The study areas encompass;

a. Fiscal, monetary and tax policies
b. Public debt and multilateral geopolitics
c. Financial engineering: Public-private partnerships, project financing, securitizations and blended finance
d. Government spending: Public procurement, public waste and value for money
e. Investment promotion and country competitiveness
f. Financial inclusion and entrepreneurship culture

Thematic Area 7: Resilient Health Systems and Wellbeing

This thematic area focusses on approaches to build resilient and responsive health systems. The researcher should select a study area relevant to any of the following listed subthemes

a. Health financing
b. Human Resource for Health
c. Universal Health Coverage and equitable access
d. Digital health and health information systems
e. Public health emergency preparedness
f. Stakeholder relations