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**IIAS**  
International Institute  
of Administrative Sciences

# 2018 Congress of the INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

Tunis, Tunisia, 25-29 June

## Administrative Resilience

**CALL-FOR-PAPERS**

## Keeping the State Focused on the Most Vulnerable in Times of Economic Hardship: Lessons from the Past Decade

Chair:

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This call for papers focuses on the capacity of administrative systems to sustain delivery of basic services such as education, health, and actions targeted to vulnerable groups such as economic and social empowerment, in the face of macroeconomic shocks.

Macroeconomic shocks (for example, the financial crisis of 2007 and its ramifications across the globe) not only affect citizens directly (e.g. through unemployment), but also negatively impact governments' fiscal space. This adversely affects the capacity of administrative systems to deliver basic government functions, as shown by the period post-financial crisis in developed and developing countries alike. In time of economic downturns, the reflex is often to cut on public services, including those targeted at vulnerable groups in the population. Those groups are commonly found to be those who are most negatively affected by retreats of the public sector from the provision of basic services.

Given the emphasis of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development on reaching the most vulnerable, expressed as the imperative to "leave no one behind", and given the recurrence of economic downturns in a period of 15 years, in order to achieve this dimension of the 2030 Agenda, it will be important to ensure that public institutions and administrative systems are resilient to such shocks and can continue to provide basic services to the most vulnerable populations. In this context, has the past decade generated lessons that can help improve the resilience of administrative systems?

Papers submitted for this panel should be empirical and may consider, among others, the following indicative angles of interest:

- Have the reactions of governments in terms of adjusting the allocation of resources to public services differed during the past decade from what they were in previous economic crises?
- What importance do considerations of inclusiveness play in fiscal adjustments for the public sector in times of economic hardship? Are there different patterns between developing and developed countries in this regard?
- How have different vulnerable groups been affected by changes in the scope of intervention of the public sector after the financial crisis in different countries?
- Beyond mantras such as “doing more with less”, are there breakthroughs or new insights (in terms of management, technology, partnerships, etc.) on how governments can deliver basic services for vulnerable groups more efficiently and leanly, including in times of resource cuts?
- How have public administration science and public management discourse evolved in response to the financial crisis, and in particular, to what extent have they incorporated considerations of resilience?



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## CALENDAR – CALENDRIER

14 January 2018	Abstract submission deadline	Date limite pour l’envoi des résumés	14 janvier 2018
28 January 2018	Authors’ notification	Notification aux auteurs	28 janvier 2018
13 May 2018	Papers deadline	Date limite pour la soumission des contributions	13 mai 2018