

Specialised Breakaway Session

Practical Approaches to Changing Mindsets for Effective Governance: Advancing Responsive, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions in Africa

held in the context of the 44th Annual Roundtable Conference of the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), themed Agile Public Administration: Partnership and Digital Transformation for Citizen-Centric Service Delivery

3 December 2025 (15:30 – 17:00)

Esibayeni Lodge, Matsapha, Kingdom of Eswatini

This 90-minute session will highlight practical approaches to changing mindsets for effective governance in Africa, focusing on building responsive, accountable, and inclusive institutions. Through case studies and interactive dialogue, participants will develop a set of actionable approaches, a “toolbox” of mindset shifts, to strengthen public trust and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Opening (10 minutes)

- **Facilitator opening (2 mins):** Setting the tone
- Assign designated chair (call for volunteer) who will report back in Plenary 9
- **Icebreaker (5 mins):** Quick audience poll [linked to the presentation on new mindsets for the 21st century in the practical takeaways segment]

2. Showcasing Practical Approaches (30 minutes)

- Speakers (3–4 speakers, 1 moderator, 7–8 mins each) representing:

Moderator: Ms. Carmen Mateia, Founder and Leader Catalyst, Primeira Fila – Na Fila do Pão Angola



- **H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon**, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone (TBC)
- **Prof. Edward Maloka**, UN CEPA Member and Visting Professor, Institute for Pan-African Thought and Conversation, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
- **Dr. Tatu-Maureen Mnimbo**, Regional Manager for Community, Management and Development for Health, Tanzania
- **Mr. Vuyo Mbulawa**, Assistant Director, Directorate for Public Service, Botswana (UNPSA Winner 2017 Social Uplifting through Waste Management)

3. Interactive Exchange (20 minutes)

- **Panel-to-audience dialogue (10 mins)**: Moderator invites 2–3 reactions from the floor after each cluster of presentations.
- **Use live polls or colored cards (5 mins)**: *“Which of these approaches could work in your country?”*
- **Small groups (5 mins)**: Ask participants to turn to 2–3 neighbors and answer: *“What mindset shift is most needed in your institution?”* Then take 2–3 quick shares in plenary.

4. Practical Takeaways (25 minutes)

- **Presentation on new mindsets needed for the 21st century (5 mins)**
 - **Ms. Nosipho Dhladhla**, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) UN DESA
- **Interactive segment (20 mins)**:
 - Map on a flipchart/whiteboard the key “mindset shifts” raised (e.g., citizen-first, openness to digital, inclusivity, accountability).
 - Ask speakers + participants to contribute 1 concrete practice each.

Outcome: a mini “toolbox” of ‘Practical Approaches to Changing Mindsets’ for effective governance in Africa.

5. Closing (5 minutes)

- Moderator/Rapporteur summarizes **3 key insights + 1 challenge to participants** (e.g., *“Which mindset shift will you commit to championing when you return home?”*).