



IIAS2026 CONFERENCE

Seoul, South Korea

November 17-20

Growth for Society: Collaborative
Governance, Social Innovation, and Public Value



iias-iisa.org/iias-2026-conference/

Resilient and Adaptive Governance: Policy, Administration, and Recovery in Fragile States

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This track invites contributions that examine governance, public policy, institutional resilience, and state fragility through comparative and interdisciplinary perspectives, hereby contributing to the social innovation pillar of the conference theme. Rather than viewing fragility as an exceptional condition confined to low-income, fragile, or post-conflict states, this track conceptualises fragility as a persistent and multidimensional feature of statehood. In an era characterised by geopolitical uncertainty, technological transformation, environmental pressures, and recurring systemic shocks, manifestations of fragility are increasingly evident across the development spectrum — affecting not only countries of the Global South but also many states within the Global North.

The track makes four interconnected contributions:

- **Integration of policy and administration:** Repositioning public policy-making capacity (agenda-setting, coordination, strategic planning) alongside public administration as central to understanding fragility, recovery, and resilience.
- **Historicising and globalising fragility:** Presenting fragility not as a post-colonial anomaly, but as a recurrent condition shaped by wars, economic collapse, and systemic pressures across both the Global South and the Global North.
- **Operationalising adaptability:** Moving beyond static resilience to define adaptability through four governance functions: anticipation of risk, strategic coordination, political legitimisation, and institutional execution.



- **Empirical and inclusive analysis:** Offering comparative case studies that directly respond¹ to critiques of Western-centric public administration scholarship.

Contributions are invited on the following themes (non-exhaustive):

- **Conceptual foundations:** Rethinking fragility; legitimacy and capacity; resilience versus adaptability in public administration.
- **Core governance functions:** Policymaking under pressure; public administration, service delivery, and trust in fragile contexts.
- **Comparative experiences:** Decentralisation; service delivery reform; security sector governance; fiscal governance in fragile and recovering states.
- **Actors, architecture, and external engagement:** United Nations system engagement; foreign aid and policy space; non-state and hybrid governance arrangements.
- **Cross-cutting pressures:** Technology and AI in fragile states; environmental stress and migration; adaptive governance futures.

We especially welcome theoretically informed, empirically grounded, and comparative contributions that engage with questions of governance, institutional adaptation, policymaking, administrative capacity, legitimacy, crisis management, and recovery in fragile or rapidly changing contexts. The track is designed to be accessible to advanced postgraduate students (master's and doctoral) in public policy, public administration, development studies, and conflict and peace studies, as well as to established scholars and practitioners.

A selection of high-quality papers from this track will be considered for an edited volume, *Resilient and Adaptive Governance: Policy, Administration, and Recovery in Fragile States*, currently being developed for submission.

¹ More exclusively theoretical contributions should be proposed in the “Plural knowledge systems” track.



Practicalities

Key Links

- Conference website: <https://www.iias-iisa.org/iias-2026-conference/>
- Submission system: <https://www.conftool.org/iias2026/>
- Contact: iias-conference@iias-iisa.org

Important Dates

- Abstract / Panel submission deadline: **30 August 2026**
- Notification of acceptance and opening of registration: **30 August 2026**
- Full paper submission and registration deadline: **4 October 2026**

Submission Guidelines

- Unless otherwise specified in the track call, abstracts are limited to **500 words**. They should clearly outline the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, main findings (or expected findings), and implications.
- Accepted abstracts are expected to be developed into full papers.
- **Panels** are session proposals submitted under the main conference theme. A panel proposal includes a title, abstract, proposed chairperson(s), and a list of expected presentations. Panels are not required to produce full papers.

Evaluation

Proposals (papers and panels) are evaluated by the chair(s) (or co-chairs) of the track to which they are submitted. Evaluation criteria include:

- Academic quality and rigour
- Relevance to the track theme and overall conference theme
- Thematic fit and originality
- Clarity and quality of presentation

Paper Requirements

- Maximum length: **6,000 words** (all inclusive, including references).
- Structure: abstract, introduction, main body (developing the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, and implications), conclusion, and references.

