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Revival of State-Owned Enterprises

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In the 1980s, within the framework of neoliberalism, the widespread privatization of state-owned enterprises took place. Privatizations were justified under the argument that they were the only measure to improve public finances, which were burdened by the deep deficit of many public companies.

In Latin America specifically, the neoliberal concept of a "minimal" state was the framework for the privatization reform process in Latin America promoted by international organizations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the OECD, mainly as a structural adjustment process of the 1980s to address the problem of economic crisis.

However, on these days a different perspective has emerged regarding the presence of the state-owned enterprises. In recent years, a renewed presence of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) has been observed. This is reflected in the proportion of SOEs among the world's largest companies, which has quadrupled in the last two decades, rising from 34 in 2000 to 102 in 2017 and to 126 in 2023. Among the 500 largest listed and unlisted companies by revenue worldwide, 126 SOEs are included, representing approximately 25% of global wealth (OECD, 2024: 14).

However, new privatization trends are also evident, as SOEs have gained greater prominence in public stock markets over the last two decades. Many states have listed minority stakes in SOEs as a first step toward full privatization or as an alternative.

Thus, the public sector has become a major investor in public equity markets worldwide and, in 2023, accounted for US\$11.7 trillion of global market capitalization. OECD, 2024. At the same time, a different perspective has emerged regarding the presence of the State-owned enterprises (SOEs) on these days important international organisms like the OECD have recognizing that play an important role in many economies, and operate across a range of sectors, including infrastructure, natural resources, energy, logistics, transportation, financial services and manufacturing. SOEs can provide public goods and services that cannot be supplied by markets forces alone, generate revenue streams for



governments, make investments to achieve a policy objective, support development, and advance science and technological progress (Secretary-General, OECD, 2024: 3).

In this scenario, this track invites contributions about state owned enterprises regain relevance, and some of the lines of inquiry for their study are the following:

- Are state-owned enterprises nowadays a factor in the re-establishment of national priorities?
- Strategic participation of the State in economy to strengthen industrial and technological capacity
- State-owned enterprises as financial instruments
- The new discourse in politics and public administration as mechanism of gain power in the new multipolar world order
- The Quantitative Global Resurgence of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
- Modern Public Equity Trends and the Strategic Role of Contemporary SOEs



References

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Practicalities

Key Links

- Conference website: <https://www.ias-iisa.org/ias-2026-conference/>
- Submission system: <https://www.conftool.org/ias2026/>
- Contact: ias-conference@ias-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.

