



The 81st Annual Congress of  
the International Institute of Public Finance

# PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITIES

**AUGUST 20 - 22, 2025**

The United States International University - Africa, Nairobi, Kenya

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2025**

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Amos Njuguna (United States International University - Africa)  
Dina Pomeranz (University of Zurich)

### Chairs of Scientific Committee

François Gerard (University College London)  
Shafik Hebous (International Monetary Fund)





The 81st Annual Congress of the International Institute for Public Finance (IIPF) will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 20 - 22, 2025

Papers should be submitted through  
[www.conftool.pro/iipf2025](http://www.conftool.pro/iipf2025)

Deadline for submissions is  
**February 22, 2025**

The theme of the 2025 congress is **Public Sector Capacities**. Economic development is inevitably intertwined with the capacities of the state to design, implement, and enforce policies effectively (achieving intended objectives) and efficiently (at minimal cost). Recent research increasingly emphasizes how constraints on state capacities shape policies and their outcomes, and how institutional factors, as well as policy and administrative interventions, can alleviate these constraints.

For example, tax policies may balance potential trade-offs (between revenue, efficiency, equity, and simplicity) differently in face of different capacity constraints. Administrative capacity constraints may limit the ability of the state both to provide public goods or social benefits directly and to regulate private providers effectively. The potential for information technologies to relax capacity constraints, improve implementation, and enforcement may depend on the underlying incentives of government officials. The success of policy reforms ultimately relies on citizen engagement and trust in government. The 2025 IIPF congress aims to feature cutting-edge research on this theme, including successful collaborations between researchers and policymakers.

The keynote lectures of the conference will address these, and other, issues. **Keynote speeches** will be given by: **Niels Johannesen** (Oxford University) **Oyebola Okunogbe** (World Bank), **Ravi Kanbur** (Cornell University), **Rema Hanna** (Harvard University).

Furthermore, the congress features two panels on “Key fiscal challenges in African countries and how researchers could help inform current debates” and “New technologies and the future of taxation.”

While the theme of the congress is public sector capacities, **Prospective contributors, both practitioners and academics, are invited to submit papers on any topic within the field of public economics.**

The papers to be presented will be selected by the Scientific Committee. Non IIPF members must pay a €20 submission fee. The submission of a paper is considered a commitment to attend the Congress, subject to the condition that the paper is accepted. The papers submitted should include an abstract. Only full papers/pdf files will be considered.

Acceptance decisions will be communicated by **early April 2025**. Presenting authors of accepted papers are required to become members of the IIPF and to confirm their presentation by registering by **June 1, 2025**. Payment of the annual membership fee ensures a reduced registration rate. For more information about IIPF membership please visit [www.iipf.org/mbsbp](http://www.iipf.org/mbsbp). Presenting authors from African countries as well as other countries outside Africa classified as **lower-income**, may apply for travel grants

Selected papers from the 2025 IIPF Congress will be published in a special issue of *International Tax and Public Finance*. To be considered for publication in this issue, papers must be submitted to the journal by **September 15, 2025**.

Authors who wish to be considered for the IIPF Young Economists Award, the IIPF Peggy and Richard Musgrave Prize (both for authors under 40 years), or the International Tax and Public Finance PhD Student Award should indicate this when submitting papers for presentation. More information on the awards is available at [www.iipf.org/awards](http://www.iipf.org/awards).

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Dina Pomeranz (University of Zurich)

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