



**PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON VALUES
AND PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION**

THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (COSP)

*Theme: Leveraging Implementation of the African on Public Service and
Administration for Better Educational Outcomes*

**OPENING STATEMENT BY
MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION,
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Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address you as the Chairperson of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration.

On behalf of South Africa and in my capacity as the Chairperson of this esteemed body, I extend my gratitude to the African Union Commission for organizing this critical gathering and to all Member States and stakeholders for their continued commitment to the principles that underpin our shared vision for the public service across our beloved continent.

This year, as we convene under the theme on *Leveraging Implementation of the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration for Better Educational Outcomes*, we reflect on the indispensable role of an ethical and efficient public administration in driving sustainable development.

Education, as a cornerstone of our collective progress, demands our unwavering focus, for it is through quality education that we shape and empower future generations to lead Africa toward prosperity and unity.

Since the adoption of the African Charter in 2011 and its entry into force in 2016, significant strides have been made by Member States. To date, 38 Member States have signed the Charter, with 21 having ratified it – which ultimately demonstrates a growing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the harmonization of public service delivery across our diverse contexts.

The Charter also serves as a guiding framework for excellence in public service and governance across our continent. It is the same Charter that reminds us that the essence of public service lies in its ability to meet the needs of our citizens, to uphold transparency, and to build a resilient and ethical institutions.

As we conclude our deliberations which took place over three days, I wish to highlight the following key priorities for our collective and swift action aimed at promoting ratification and implementation of the African Charter.

Firstly, our responsibility is to ensure that the Charter is universally ratified and effectively implemented across all Member States. While significant progress has been made, however, the gaps remain as a challenge.

I would like to urge Member States to take this opportunity to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the status of ratification so that we are able to address the barriers that hinder full implementation. The State Parties Assessment Tool (SPAT) has proven instrumental in evaluating progress achieved. It is now time that the participation of Member States in this initiative be expanded.

We must therefore commit to actionable strategies that ensure no Member State is left behind in embracing the transformative values that are enshrined in the Charter.

Secondly, we need to strengthen our cooperation and solidarity as the strength of our partnership lies in our unity.

Most importantly, we must drive public service innovation and accountability so that public service evolves to meet the dynamic needs of our citizens.

I commend my country, South Africa, Tanzania, and Namibia for their leadership in piloting the State Parties Assessment Tools and encourage others to join these efforts.

As we align this year's deliberations with the African Union's broader focus on education, we must acknowledge the vital interplay between ethical governance and educational outcomes.

Public administration serves as the backbone of policy implementation, ensures that educational resources are allocated efficiently, infrastructure is developed equitably, and that reforms are inclusive.

Through the Charter, we are equipped to enhance transparency and accountability in managing educational systems, addressing corruption, and fostering an environment where no child is left behind.

Let us therefore commit to harnessing the tools provided by the Charter to ensure that Africa's education systems are resilient, adaptive, and capable of preparing our youth for the demands of the modern world.

My call to action therefore will be to accelerate universal ratification. I urge Member States that have not yet ratified the Charter to do so promptly. Universal adoption is essential for building a cohesive and united front in advancing public service reforms.

I also urge for strengthened implementation where we reinforce the mechanisms for assessing and supporting the implementation of the Charter. In this regard, collaboration, peer learning, and technical assistance are critical in addressing any gaps and ensuring sustained progress.

It should also be our priority to invest in capacity building. The success of public service reforms relies on the capacity of our institutions and personnel. I call upon Member States and partners to prioritize investments in training, technology, and innovation to enhance the delivery of services.

Equally, as we deliberate, let us remain focused on leveraging public service to improve educational outcomes. By aligning our strategies with the African Union's Agenda 2063, we can ensure that education becomes the driving force behind sustainable development across the continent.

Excellencies, we also need to remind ourselves that this conference is not merely a platform for dialogue but a call to action and a guideline to a call to action that also embodies our collective vision for a continent where public administration serves as a vehicle for transformation, equity, and sustainable development.

Together, we have the power to transform public service and administration into a catalyst for positive change, improving the lives of millions across Africa.

Let us explore innovative approaches that enhance efficiency, inclusivity, and responsiveness in service delivery. At the same time - we must remain steadfast in promoting accountability and combating corruption - which often undermine trust and progress.

Let us seize this moment to reaffirm our commitment to the values enshrined in the African Charter and to work collectively toward a brighter future for our continent.

As the Chairperson, I reaffirm South Africa's unwavering commitment to advancing the objectives of this Charter and in supporting all Member States in their journey toward its full implementation.

Collectively, let us strengthen the Conference of State Parties as a robust mechanism for driving progress and achieving the Africa we all desire.

I look forward to the fruitful deliberations ahead and concrete outcomes - and that the resolutions we will collectively adopt - propel us closer to our shared agenda forward.

Thank you