

11 June 2025

SUBJECT: Invitation to Participate in the Capacity-Building Program: Advancing Digital Governance for Policymakers in MENA

Dear Sir or Madam,

The United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV), in partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), is pleased to invite you to participate in the upcoming capacity-building program titled *Advancing Digital Governance for Policymakers in MENA*, to be held **virtually from 29 June to 3 July 2025**.

This training program is designed to strengthen institutional capacities and enhance the skills of policymakers in IsDB member countries to lead and implement digital transformation initiatives. Through expert-led sessions, regional case studies, and interactive discussions, participants will gain insights into:

- Core principles of digital governance and transformation;
- Emerging technologies and their impact on public service delivery;
- Legal and regulatory frameworks supporting e-government;
- Inclusive and user-centered service design;
- Regional priorities and sustainability in digital governance.

The program will also feature a special session led by IsDB highlighting the **Digital Inclusion Operational Strategy 2024-27**, alongside contributions from regional experts.

Who Should Apply?

We seek senior policymakers/technical leads/regulators/government officials from IsDB Member Countries in the MENA region currently developing digital transformation proposals with the following characteristics:

- High-value projects seeking financing (\$25-40 million range or above).
- Focus on digital inclusion, infrastructure, or governance.
- Potential for multi-stakeholder partnerships (enabling blended finance).
- Alignment with national digital strategies/masterplans (priority given to countries with robust frameworks).

Key Benefits for Participants

1. **Proposal Refinement:** Mentorship on “Designing Bankable Digital Infrastructure Projects.”
2. **Direct Mentorship: Top 2 proposals** selected by IsDB/UNU-EGOV will receive expert mentorship to:
 - Clarify project objectives & outcomes
 - Strengthen technical feasibility & logical structure
 - Enhance alignment with IsDB priorities
 - Optimize budget realism & sustainability

3. **Financing Readiness:** Strategies to structure projects for IsDB and other partners financing & blended finance opportunities.
4. **Network Access:** Engage with global digital governance experts and IsDB representatives.

Nomination Process

Interested officials are requested to:

1. Please nominate maximum two members from each IsDB Member Country (<https://www.isdb.org/isdb-member-countries>) with names, profiles (brief bio) and email addresses should be submitted to iditwg@isdb.org by **Thu, 19th Jun 2025**.
2. Submit a **one-page concept note/summary** of their digital project including:
 - Project title, value, and financing goals
 - Partners involved
 - Alignment with national digital strategy

Deadline

Nominations close: 19 June 2025. Early submission is encouraged due to competitive selection.

Program Details

- **Format:** Virtual (live sessions, interactive workshops)
- **Eligibility:** Government officials from IsDB MENA member countries
- **Cost:** Fully funded by IsDB & UNU-EGOV

Expected participants are senior officials and policymakers from the MENA region who play a strategic role in the digital transformation of public institutions. Attendees are expected to actively participate in the full five-day training and contribute to peer exchange and knowledge-sharing.

We strongly encourage nominations of officials leading transformative digital initiatives poised for financing. This is a unique opportunity to elevate project quality and access IsDB's funding ecosystem. For any clarifications/further information, you may reach out to the IsDB Coordinator, Mr. Shaharyar Jawaaid at sjawaaid@isdb.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to this collaborative initiative and remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Yours faithfully,



Idrissa Dia
Director, Economic & Social Infrastructure Department
Islamic Development Bank