

November 4, 2015

Middle East Transition Fund
Steering Committee

Subject: Endorsement of Application for Tunisia Broadband Internet and ICT for Education Acceleration Project


Dear Sirs,

The World Bank is pleased to endorse the Application for the Broadband Internet and ICT for Education Acceleration Project presented by the Government of Tunisia to the Middle East and North Africa Transition Fund Steering Committee and confirm that the World Bank agrees to act as the Implementing Support Agency for the implementation of this project.

The primary objective of the proposed project is to support the Government of Tunisia in accelerating access to high speed internet in Tunisia and to improving service delivery in Tunisia's education sector by the use of information and communications technologies (ICT). More specifically, the project would result in an actionable plan and design, with full government ownership, on (1) deepening reforms on telecoms liberalization and broadband regulation ; (2) examining the strategic options for the state-owned incumbent telecoms operator in the context of the plan for overall sector liberalization ; (3) introducing new models of broadband infrastructure supply ; (4) testing and evaluation of promising approaches and drafting a detailed implementation strategy including policy reforms at the macro level and training and investments at the school and classroom level for ICT4E (ICT for Education) ; and (5) conducting an Impact Evaluation (IE) to ascertain the effects of broadband infrastructure and accompanying e-education program on the economic and social outcomes of beneficiaries. This innovative proposed project would complement the Digital Tunisia Project currently under preparation by the Government of Tunisia and the World Bank. The project is aligned with the Government of Tunisia's new ICT strategy called "Digital Tunisia", approved on May 22, 2015 by the Strategic Council for Digital Economy (SCDE) headed by the Prime Minister.

We thank the Steering Committee for its consideration of this application, and look forward to the opportunity to support the Government of Tunisia in preparing this project to the benefit of the people of Tunisia.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly
Country Director for Tunisia
Middle East and North Africa Region