In this era of digital economy, it is imperative to scale up investment in human capital which is vital for successful implementation of economic transformation and to achieve sustainable development. In most of IDB member countries, however, there are multiple challenges hindering the prospects of advancing and upscaling human capital development in national strategies.

This event will discuss the challenges and opportunities of upscaling human capital, share experiences and best practices, identify solutions for advancing human capital agenda in IDB member countries.

Key issues to be addressed:
1- How important is human capital to an economy and where do member countries stand on this matter?  
2- What are the challenges facing human capital development in member countries?  
3- What are the tools and mechanisms needed to streamline human capital development in national development plans or strategies?  
4- What are the reforms needed to make education and training systems responsive to the job market requirements and contribute to the competitiveness of the economy?  
5- What are the international best practices and lessons to be learned from them?  
6- What kind of partnership should be built between different stakeholders (Government, private sector, NGOs, MDBs) to make the development of human capital an engine for sustainable development?

Speakers

H.E. Hatem Ben Salam is the Minister of Education and former Minister of State for European Affairs. He previously served as Ambassador Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the UN in Geneva and Ambassador of Tunisia to Senegal and Turkey.

Saida Lounissi is the Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship. She holds a PhD in political sociology.

Simeon Djankov is the policy director of the Financial Markets Group at the London School of Economics. He is the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Bulgaria. He also served previously as chairman of the board of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Chief economist of the finance and private sector vice-presidency of the World Bank and rector of the New Economic School in Moscow.

Diego Zorrilla is the Representative of the United Nations Program for Development and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Tunisia. He has 23 years of experience with UN in the political, humanitarian and development fields.

M. Abderrahman Beddi is a lead education expert at IDB and a former Manager of the Education Division at the Bank. He led several education reform projects and programs across IDB Member Countries. Prior to joining IDB, he served as a university lecturer, consultant and education expert.
Dalenda Bouzgarrou Larguèche is the General Director of the Center of Research, Studies, Documentation and Information on Women (CREDIF). She served previously as a University Lecturer of History and Women Studies, Faculty of Letters, Arts, and Humanities of Manouba.

Abdellatif Abid is the Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League and former Minister of Education of Tunisia. He taught Arabic Linguistics at the University. He served as President of the Federation of Arab Translators, a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Organization for Translation and a member of the Union of the Arabic Language.

Badr Mashari Abdullah Al-Hammad is the Head of the Complex of Financial Control for Annexed and Independent Bodies and former Assistant Under-Secretary for Financial Control Affairs in Kuwait. He served previously as an Executive Director of IDB and ICIEC and a member of the board of Directors of the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD).