

Dr. Nagwa Samak

Head of Economic Department, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University



Nagwa Samak is a Professor of Economics, Head of the Economic Department and former Director of the Center for Economic & Financial Research & Studies (CEFRS) at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University. Previously, she occupied various positions in different universities, including Professor of Economics and MBA director at the Faculty of Business Administration, Prince Sultan University, Saudi Arabia, and Vice Dean at Northern Border University, Saudi Arabia. Moreover, she worked at King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, Muta'h University, Department of Financial and Banking Sciences, Jordan and was a visiting professor at Andrew Young School at the Georgia State University, USA.

Prof. Nagwa got her Ph.D. from Cairo University, Egypt in 1994. She published more than 30 papers mainly on finance. She has a special interest in corporate governance and financial performance, fraud and income smoothing. She worked as an economic consultant in the UN Habitat program in Egypt, USAID, Ministry of Planning, Egypt, Industrial and Commerce Chamber, as well as Rafeah for Economic Consulting and Studies, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, she is the coordinator of the African Peer Review Mechanism in Egypt (APRM) project and the digital Arab agenda project.

Towards an Efficient Regulatory and Legal Framework for an Arab Digital Economy

Digital economy requires full support and political will at the highest level in any country. Successful digital transformation requires well-designed policies that encourage private sector participation in developing the infrastructure and utilizing the latest technologies to provide applications and services used in operating digital economies. Arab states should establish regulatory bodies to monitor and facilitate the establishment of service providers essential for the digital economy. Regulators should maintain a balanced, competitive and fair market that protects all players through establishing a sustainable healthy ecosystem.

The Arab States stand in different positions with respect to the required laws needed to achieve successful digital transformation. Legislators should urgently establish all the required laws and regulations that provide the efficient framework and enable its effective implementation necessary to digitalize the economy. Specialized plans will be designed for each Arab State. A policy framework for the mentioned goal will require the establishment of several regulatory bodies to cover all aspects of infrastructure development, e-government, e-commerce, competition and antitrust, intellectual property rights and consumer protection. Legislation for data protection, electronic signature and cybersecurity is also required to establish a healthy and stable ecosystem for the digital economy. These regulations and policies shall constitute the initial building block in the digital transformation.