

## Khaled Sellami

Director General, E-government Unit, Presidency of the Government of Tunisia



Khaled Sellami is Chief Engineer in Computer Engineering and Director General of the e-Government Unit at the Presidency of the Government of Tunisia since January 2011. He is in charge of the elaboration and follow-up of the national e-government and open government strategy «Smart Gov 2020».

Between 2015 and 2017, he served as acting Director General for Administrative reform at the Presidency of the Government. He also served as Director of studies at the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies from 1995 to 2010 and as project manager for wide area networks and Internet at the Regional Institute for Informatics and Telecommunications from 1987 to 1995.

In addition to his current responsibilities, Khaled Sellami is a lecturer at the National School of Administration, and conducts training sessions in the area of e-government and open government. He is a regular guest speaker in many national and international conferences in the area of e-government, open government, open data, e-participation and digital transformation. He also represented Tunisia in many meetings and international conferences, and is a permanent member of the MENA-OECD working group on open and innovative government. He recently was elected by the Tunisian Parliament as member of the council of the Authority for access to Information. He was member of the National Authority for Personnel Data Protection for six years. He is the focal point of the Open Government Partnership program in Tunisia.

He holds a B.S. degree in Computer Engineering from Syracuse University in 1984 and a M.S. degree in computer engineering from the University of Michigan in 1986.

### Data as a Vector to Digital Transformation: Opportunities and Challenges of Open Government Data

The capacity to access, publish and reuse data is reshaping today's social, political and economic environment and defining the future. Today, open government data is seen as an opportunity for growth due to the importance of data in creating innovative, value-added services and consequently in generating jobs and employment opportunities. In addition, open data helps build trust between governments and citizens by enhancing transparency and accountability in government work. The release of data by public institutions brings innovation within government and has a beneficial impact on the services it provides. In fact, while open data from government is mainly explored by private initiatives, there is a clear return for the public sector through the improvement in the quality and diversity of public service delivery.

Success of open data programs depend greatly on the existence of complete policies and legal frameworks that cover issues such as the right to access data, licensing and reuse of data, privacy and personal data protection. Such programs should aim to drive the development of a dynamic Open Data environment, rich in both the release and reuse of Open Data, and enabling to boost innovations by different stakeholders.