

New Regional Initiative

Open Government and Digital Transformation for the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region

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Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



The New Urban Agenda (NUA)

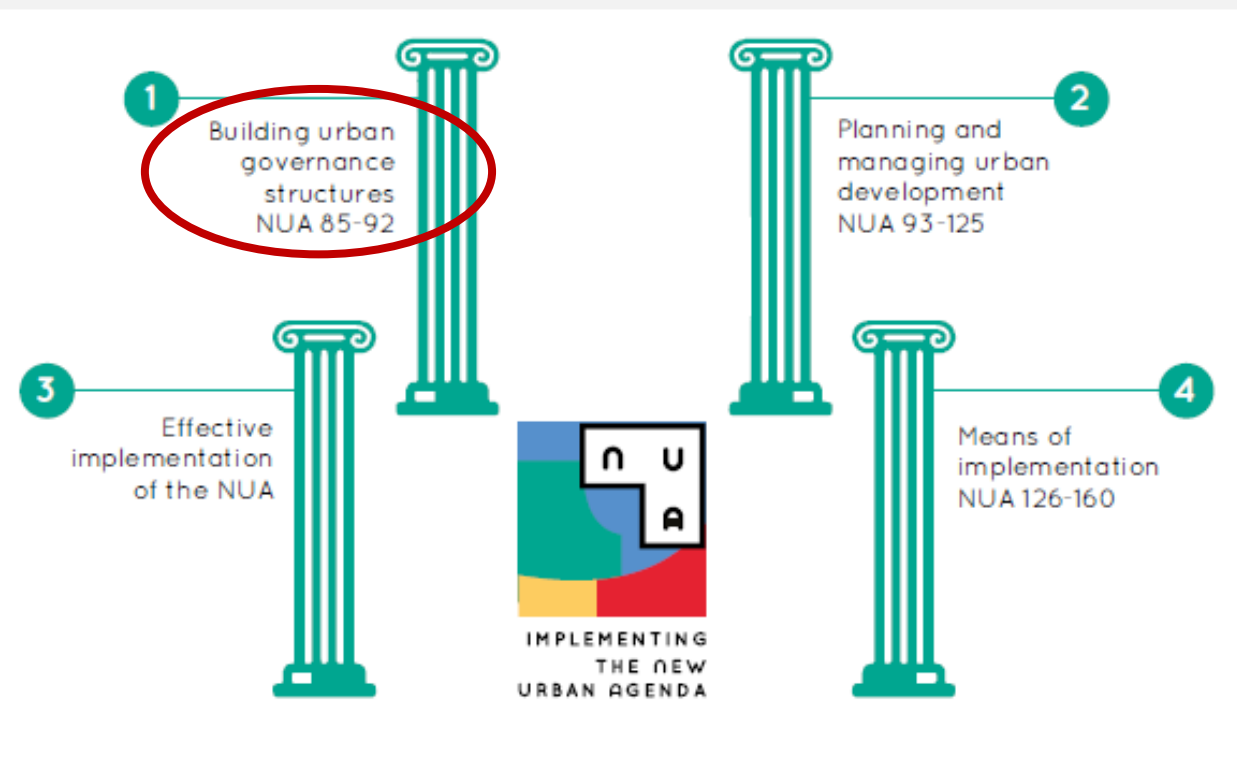
- The « **Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All** », as an extension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by 193 Member States of the UN in September 2015.

- 175 NUAs

Core dimensions

- **Social Sustainability**
- **Economic sustainability**
- Environmental sustainability
- Spatial sustainability

- Pillars of the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda



The New Urban Agenda (NUA)

- NUA 85: Strengthening of Local Authorities
- NUA 86: effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda in **inclusive**, implementable and **participatory** urban policies,... ensuring that they are adequately linked to **transparent and accountable** finance mechanisms
- NUA 87: stronger **coordination and cooperation** among national, subnational and local governments
- NUA 90: metropolitan governance that is **inclusive** and encompasses legal frameworks and reliable financing mechanisms... promote **women's** full and effective **participation and equal rights** in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments
- NUA 91: encourage appropriate regulatory frameworks and support to local governments in **partnering with communities, civil society and the private sector** to develop and manage basic services and infrastructure, ensuring that the **public interest** is preserved, and concise goals, **responsibilities and accountability mechanisms** are clearly defined...
- NUA 92: We will promote **participatory age- and gender-responsive approaches** at all stages of the urban and territorial policy and planning processes, from conceptualization to design, budgeting, implementation, evaluation and review, rooted in new forms of direct partnership between Governments at all levels and civil society, including through broad-based and well-resourced permanent mechanisms and platforms for **cooperation and consultation open to all**, using **information and communications technologies** and accessible data solutions.

Open Government and Digital Transformation for the New Urban Agenda

• The ESCWA 6 strategic objectives for **Open Government**

- Developing policy and strategy.
- Providing institutional frameworks
- Setting up legal and regulatory frameworks
- Upgrading government capacity
- Rolling out technology features and channels
- Improving public capacity

• The stages

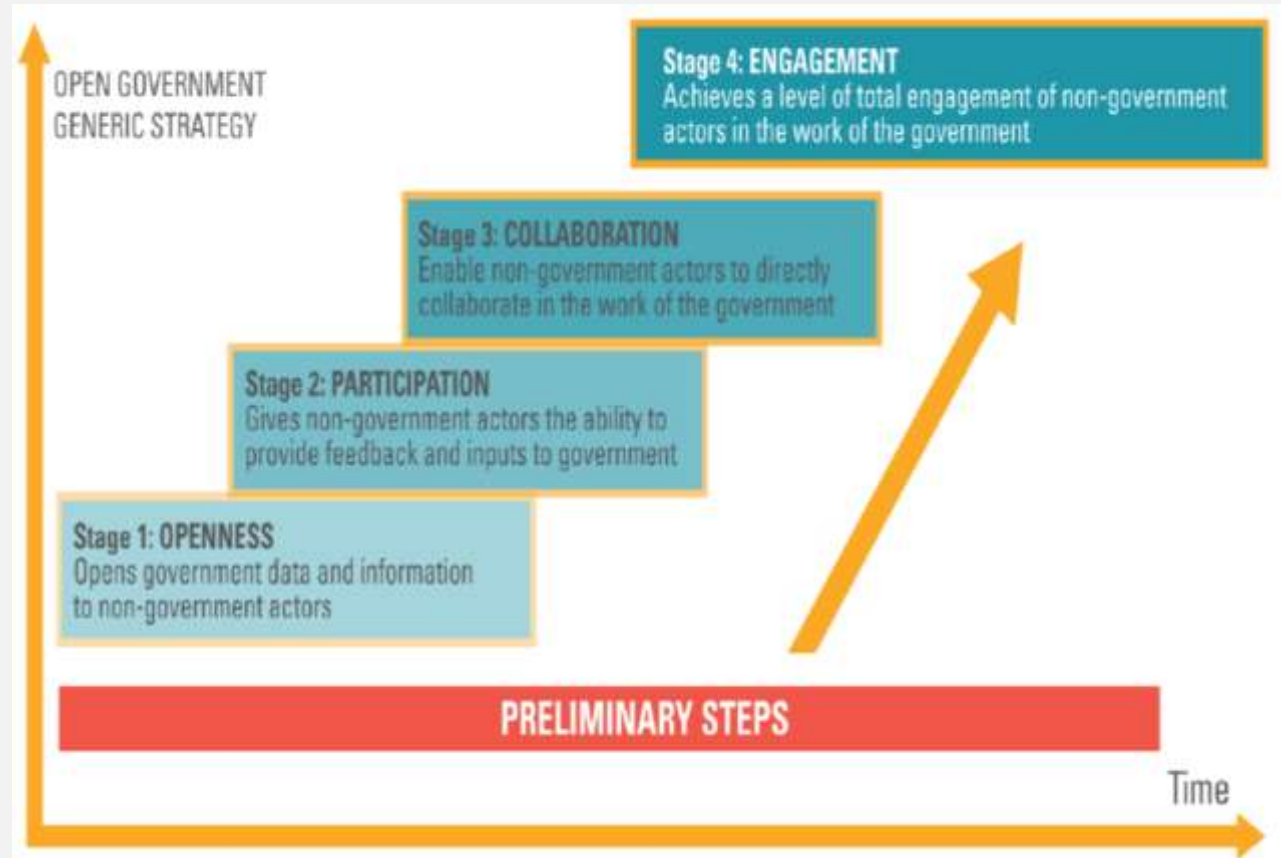
Supported by member States

- **Stage 1: Openness**
- **Stage 2: Participation**
- **Stage 3: Collaboration**
- **Stage 4: Engagement**

• Also at ESCWA and UN-Habitat:

- **Urban economic resilience** during and after **COVID-19**
- **Voluntary Local Reviews** to ensure local-national communication on **urban development**
- **Smart and digital solutions for urban resilience**

The Framework



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Open Government and Digital Transformation for the New Urban Agenda

Where to focus?

Core dimensions

- **Social sustainability**
 - Empowerment of marginalized groups
 - Gender equality
 - Planning for migrants, ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities
 - Age-responsive planning
- **Economic sustainability**
 - Job creation and livelihoods
 - Productivity and competitiveness
- **Environmental sustainability**
 - Biodiversity and ecosystem conservation
 - Resilience and adaptation to climate change
 - Climate change mitigation
- **Spatial sustainability**
 - Spatial sustainability and equity
 - Spatial sustainability and urban density

→ Resilience

Means of Implementation..... and Monitoring & reporting

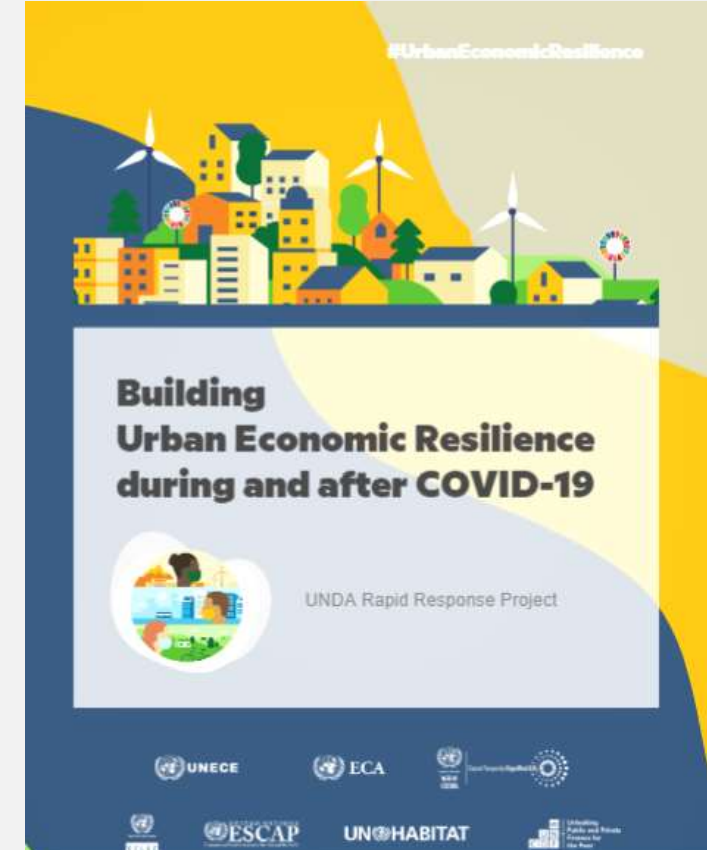
- **Intervention mechanisms**
 - National urban policies
 - Land policies
 - Housing and slum upgrading policies
 - Urban legislation and regulations
 - Urban design
 - Municipal finance
 - Urban governance
- **Hard measures for infrastructure and services**
 - Transport and mobility
 - Energy
 - Solid waste
 - Water and sanitation
- **Soft measures**
 - Culture... Education... Health... Urban Safety
- **Technology & Innovation**
 - Transportation... building technologies... Spatial data

Example of the SUD project in the Arab Region

Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19

- Implemented in 16 cities globally (3 Arab Cities: Alexandria, Beirut and Kuwait)
- Provides capacity strengthening for local governments through:
 - Diagnostic and Planning Tool
 - Online Training Programme and Workshops
 - Recovery and Resilience Strategies
 - Advice on Financial Support
 - Regional Policy Briefs
- With better Urban Economic Resilience, cities will develop and implement response and recovery plans to withstand shocks like the COVID-19 pandemic and other urban challenges.

Partners: UN-Habitat, UNCDF, all UN RCs



Project Portal : <https://urbanresiliencehub.org/economicresilience/>

Example of the SUD project in the Arab Region

Key Projects and Milestones in the Arab Region

Sustainable Urban Development
Projects

Knowledge Generation (Technical
Research, Studies and Policy briefs))

Technical Assistance

Policy Advocacy Tools

Urban Resilience

Smart Sustainable
Cities

Digital
Transformation
and Smart Digital
Solutions (4th
Industrial
Revolution)

NUA Capacity
Building

NUA Reviewing
Processed (VLR)

Urban Recovery
Frameworks

Safety and Equal
access to the city

Public Transport

GIS Spatial Data

Climate Change,
waste
management, water
sanitation and
clean energy

Under the umbrella of Goal 11 of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda

Example of the SUD project in the Arab Region

Key Projects and Milestones in the Arab Region



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Example on Economic & Social Sustainability issues for NUA

- **Job creation & livelihoods,**
- **Productivity & competitiveness**
 - Labour force, employment and informality in urban areas
 - + the impact of the Covid 19 crisis
- **Informal employment is less severe in urban areas... but increasing... how to address?**
 - **WIEGO: Grassroots' solutions for cities to make progress to SDGs and NUA**
 - Principle 1: Inclusive, accessible public spaces
 - Principle 2: Environmental sustainability
 - Principle 3: **Robust Civic Participation... How population expresses its needs?**
 - 5 focal cities: Accra (Ghana), Dakar (Senegal), Delhi (India), Mexico city (Mexico) & Lima (Peru).

References

- Martha Chen & Caroline Skinner: **The Urban Informal Economy: Achieving Prospering and Territorial Equality; contribution to the UCLG (United Cities & Local Governments) Gold Report...**
- Martha Chen & Victoria Beard: **Including the Excluded: Supporting Informal Workers for More Equal and Productive Cities in the Global South; WRI (World Resources Institute) Ross Center for Sustainable Cities**
- Michael Rogan: **Informal Workers in Urban South Africa: A Statistical Snapshot; WIEGO**
- **WIEGO: How women informal workers in Delhi spoke out for their needs?; <https://www.wiego.org/delhi-diary-march-2019>**
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URBAN GOVERNANCE in NUA

PRINCIPLES

Open Government



Accountable decision-making

Government officials should act openly and share criteria used to make decisions and mechanisms to report public misconduct.



Participation and inclusivity

All stakeholders should be involved in public decision-making.



Subsidiarity and proportionality

Legal frameworks should empower local and subnational authorities fiscal and jurisdictional autonomy to carry out urban functions and service delivery.



Cooperation and efficiency

Local authorities should cooperate and establish inter-municipal institutional arrangements for joint decision-making, service provision and public investment.



Digitalization and knowledge management

While utilizing e-governance tools, governments should ensure that the data collected promotes social inclusion in the decision itself and outcomes.

Digital transformation

URBAN GOVERNANCE in NUA

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIONS



Multi-level governance

Incorporate polycentrism, collaboration and networking between public authorities and other urban stakeholders.



Metropolitan governance

Enable urban inhabitants to access urban goods and services across the urban-rural continuum through inter-jurisdictional agreements and collective action.



Stakeholder engagement

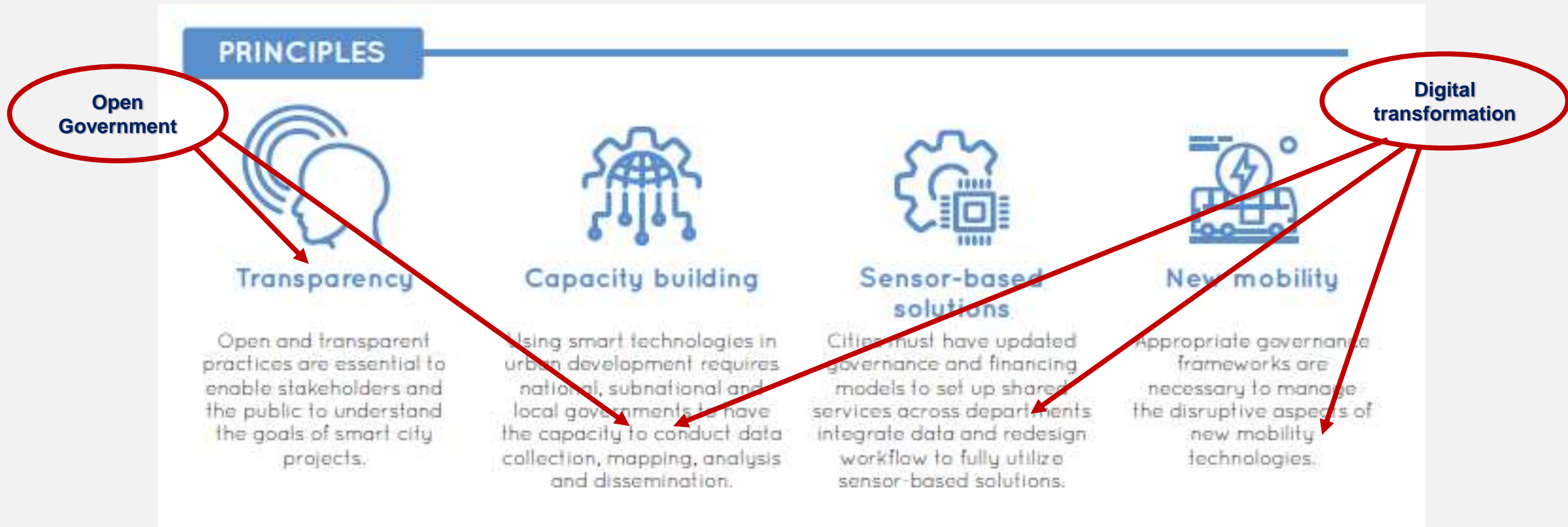
Involve all stakeholders (whole-of-civil society approach) in public decision-making to ensure that the outcomes do not deviate from the needs and priorities of the residents.



Fiscal and human resource capacity

Equip local authorities with the necessary resources and carry out appraisals of existing resources using a set of performance indicators, which might include total expenditure, degree of self-sufficiency, budget management performance, and service delivery performance.

URBAN TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION in NUA



URBAN TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION in NUA

ILLUSTRATIVE ACTIONS



Emerging mobility

Proactively regulate emerging mobility services to create a level playing field while promoting public transit ridership.



Resilient construction

Promote the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings.



Track waste

Establish requirements to report for track generation, reuse, recycling or disposal of construction materials.



Mobile sensing

Utilize city assets for data collection such as mobile sensing devices for traffic and environmental monitoring.



Satellite imagery

Identify the utility and value of remote sensing and artificial intelligence tools for image classification to establish evidence-based governance in land use management and environmental monitoring.

Possible Phasing of the New Regional Initiative

PHASE 1: REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Analytical aspects**
- Open Government for NUA... Economic & Social: Technical paper
 - Framework for Social & Economic Sustainability
 - Assessment of key challenges
- Open Government for NUA... Legal: Technical paper
 - Legal Framework issues for OG on local level
 - Assessment of challenges & opportunities
- → Expert Group meeting Digital Transformation and Open Government for the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region
- → Capacity building Workshops on the Regional framework

How to engage municipalities and local CSOs in the initiative?

PHASE 2: ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS

- Voluntary participation of x cities within the Arab countries
 - In partnership with relevant Ministries
- Review of cities' situations with the founding partners (UN-Habitat, ESCWA, OECD and CEA) in terms of:
 - NUA core dimensions
 - Open government principles
 - Digital transformation
- Identification of key priority needs for the selected cities:
 - Budget?
 - Employment?
 - Public space?
 - Transportation?

How to apply OG principles and use digital transformation to progress on key priority needs for NUA?

Possible Phasing of the New Regional Initiative

- **PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION PILOT PROJECTS**
 - **Action plans**
- **Towards an Arab Open local Governance and digital transformation partnership...**