Job Title: Governance Specialist – Digital Government

Appointment: International hire

The World Bank Group (WBG) is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. It uses financial resources and extensive experience to help our client countries to reduce poverty, increase economic growth, and improve quality of life. Key priorities include delivering measurable results, promoting openness and transparency in development, and improving access to development information and data.

Established in 1944, the World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for development solutions. It has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030: ending extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than $1.90 a day to no more than 3% and promoting shared prosperity by fostering income growth for the poorest 40% of people in every country. With more than 100 offices in client and partner countries, the World Bank Group consists of five specialized institutions: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). IBRD and IDA are commonly known as the World Bank, which is organized into regional vice presidencies, global practices, and cross-cutting solutions areas to help developing regions and countries fight poverty and improve living standards.

GOVERNANCE GLOBAL PRACTICE CONTEXT

An effective and accountable governance framework, in the form of functioning institutions, is a necessary precondition for sustainable poverty reduction. Fragile, ineffective or inexistent institutions have long been put forward as explaining the relative underperformance of economies. Furthermore, poor governance and structural deficiencies in public and private institutions are often prevalent in fragile and conflict affected states. On the other hand, cross-country empirics have confirmed that higher institutional quality is correlated with higher levels of per capita income and greater economic growth. Thus, governance mechanisms and institutions are critical to sustained growth and poverty alleviation.

The World Bank's Governance Global Practice (GGP) brings together professionals in procurement, financial management, taxation, public management, transparency, digital governance, law and development, anticorruption, and social accountability to develop innovative, integrated solutions to pernicious institutional problems. The practice utilizes a problem-driven, diagnostic approach, combining global comparative knowledge of reform successes and failures with keen understanding of the institutional challenges and opportunities of developing countries.

The GGP has the following thematic areas:

• Strengthening Public Policy Processes.
• Managing Resources Effectively.

• Supporting the Governance of Service Delivery.
• Strengthening the public-private interface.
• Understanding Underlying Drivers and Enablers of Policy Effectiveness.

The GGP interventions range from diagnostics, technical assistance, and advisory services, learning, innovation and knowledge management and sharing, creating peer learning platforms, lending and reform project implementation, and monitoring and reporting. An important part of its responsibilities is to deliver operational support to other Practices, including through inputs for policy-based operations, hands-on implementation advice and direct fiduciary due diligence of investment financing.

Since January 1, 2018, the GGP is implementing an integrated model. This involves the Public Sector (PS) and Financial Management (FM) staff coming together under two regional-facing directors – one each for AFR/ECA/MNA and EAP/LCR/SAR, who oversee several integrated governance units.

An increasing business line of the GGP is GovTech, a whole-of-government approach to digitization. It aims to transform core government systems, deliver digital public services and leverage public data assets. It operates at national and sub-national levels and across sectors. GovTech investments aim to have spillover impact on jobs by fostering local IT ecosystems. GovTech is about saving lives & money, increasing trust in government and fostering local tech ecosystems. The approach will directly address the poverty issue through efficient and effective public service delivery, by enhancing public transparency and accountability and by generating some new jobs.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Reporting to Manuel Vargas, the Governance Specialist, to be based in Washington DC, will undertake the following tasks:

- Contribute to the implementation of the World bank digital governance agenda including the GovTech initiative and the realization of regional programs, such as the Digital Economy for Africa (DE4A) Moonshot.
- Contributing to the design and/or implementation of lending operations in client countries, specifically addressing digital governance, digital transformation and application of digital solutions to address development and governance constraints in the public sector.
- Contributing and providing technical inputs to analytical work and advisory services, and other relevant technical and advisory reports to clients in the areas of digital governance and digital transformation in the public sector.
- Provide technical inputs and collaborate with relevant Country Management Units, Task Team Leaders and sector experts across projects on the application of digital innovative solutions in addressing governance issues in country and sectors;
- Contributing to the development agenda by knowledge generation through the publication of high quality analytical pieces.

- Mentor junior and new staff.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

The successful candidate will be a professional with solid operational and technical experience on public sector analytical and operational work, with strong focus on digital governance.

Technical Skills and Experience:

- Advanced degree [master's or PhD] in Economics, Public Administration, Public Policy, Digital Systems, Computer Science or Engineering, Digital Management, Business Administration or related field is required;

- At least 5 years of relevant professional experience, including management and implementation of substantive analytical and operational tasks on public sector and governance reforms, including digital governance, public sector digital transformation and application of digital solutions to address public sector and development issues. Familiarity with Bank instruments (including IPF, PforR, DPF, RAS and TF) will be an asset.

- A senior technical expert with cutting edge knowledge of 'best practices', trends, and emerging lessons in technology, digital governance, digital transformation and application of disruptive technology; experience in developing 'best fit' solutions adapting knowledge to client needs and local context. Specifically, knowledge and experience in IT solutions to Government Operations ("G2G"), Public Service Delivery to Citizens ("G2C") and Businesses ("G2B"), Public Data Platforms, and interoperability.

- Demonstrable ability to design, manage and deliver analytical work of high quality standards on public sector governance reforms and digital governance. A track record of publications relevant to the work will be an asset.

- First-hand analytic and operational experience in a low-income country setting, fragile states or transition context will be an asset.

- Fluency in English (written and spoken) required. Fluency in other World bank client country languages will be an asset.