



Call for Essays

Digital Identity as a tool for fighting financial crime & corruption

(Submission Deadline: January 31, 2020)

On the eve of the **International Anti-Corruption Day (December 9, 2019)**, New Development Bank (NDB) invites you to submit reflection pieces in the form of short essays on the topic, **“Digital Identity as a tool for fighting financial crime & corruption”**. Essays submitted shall be considered for awards for best three submissions.

Topics and possible perspectives

The recent draft guidance note released by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)¹ indicates that Digital Identity (ID) systems that meet high technology, organizational and governance standards hold great promise for improving the trustworthiness, security, privacy and convenience of identifying natural persons in a wide variety of settings, such as banking, health, and e-government in the global economy of the digital age. Reliable, independent digital ID systems can also contribute to the global fight against financial crimes and corruption.

In order to engage in an informed debate on the potential uses of digital ID in these areas, NDB invites you to submit original contributions that address any one of the following topics:

1. What are the innovative ways of conceptualizing and operationalizing digital ID systems?
2. How can Digital ID systems promote transparency and integrity in financial sector?
3. How do, features of trust and transparency often cited in favor of the digital ID, assist in fighting financial crime and corruption?

¹<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfrecommendations/documents/consultation-digital-id-guidance.html>

4. What role does public policy have to play in ensuring effective deployment of digital ID systems for fighting financial crime and corruption?

NDB is particularly interested in essays (authored either individually or jointly) in any of the above areas but with practical orientation demonstrating a) an existing use-case of a digital ID, b) a new proposal for digital ID conceptualization with possible technology features, or c) nature of policy, IT, and other measures required for leveraging digital ID for the stated purpose. This listing is not exhaustive, though the scope of essays should be with reference to the areas listed above.

Format Guidelines

1. The essays should:
 - Be written in English;
 - Represent the original work of the author(s);
 - Not exceed 2,500 words in length (can be of any length within this limit);
 - Use Harvard Referencing System (in-text citation with a reference list at the end viz., scholarly research, books, online articles);
 - Not infringe any applicable laws or regulations (including those relating to confidentiality or copyright aspects) in respect of the material used in the essay;
2. Submit your text for the competition as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx);
3. If you intend to use images in your essay, please make sure they are of good quality (high resolution). Please indicate in the text where the images should be placed and make sure you submit the images separately in the email together with your submission;

Eligibility and Submission

1. The competition is open to nationals of all BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and countries that are members of the EAG² (Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering viz., Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) but can be residing anywhere in the world.
2. The essays should be addressed to the email ID fintecgrity@ndb.int.
3. The name of the author, institutional affiliation and the nationality/residential status should be provided in the covering email. The covering email should also contain a declaration that the submission is the original work of the author(s) and does not infringe any applicable laws or regulations in respect of the material used in the essay.
4. All entries are final. No revisions are accepted once submitted for the competition.
5. The essays once submitted will become the copyright of NDB.
6. In case of any further questions, applicants can reach out to the email ID fintecgrity@ndb.int.

Awards

1. From the essays submitted, NDB will select three best essays for the awards. Authors of each of the three best essays shall receive USD 1,500. If a winning paper has more than one author, the prize will be split equally among the co-authors.
2. Awards will be announced in February 2020 on the NDB website. NDB will also inform all applicants whether or not their essay has won a prize.
3. Award winners shall be invited to a workshop to be organized by NDB during February / March 2020. Travel and stay expenses of award winners shall be borne by NDB.

² NDB is currently an Observer organization at the Plenary Meetings of the EAG – a regional FATF Style Body.