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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



**Expert Group Meeting (Hybrid Event)**  
**Open Government and Digital Transformation for the New Urban Agenda in the Arab Region**  
**Cairo, 18 November 2021**

Meeting Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_dcsqWtgCQLae6IUlaEt88w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dcsqWtgCQLae6IUlaEt88w)

Languages: English and Arabic

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

| <b>Time</b>  | <b>Session</b>  |
|--------------|---|
| 10:00 -10:15 | <p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Erfan Ali, Regional Director, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States</li> <li>- Mr. Tarik Alami, Director, Emerging and Conflict Related Issues Division, ESCWA</li> <li>- Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni, Head of the Open Government and Civic Space unit, OECD.</li> </ul>   |
| 10:15-11:00  | <p><b>Launch of the ESCWA-OECD report on “Economic and social impact of open government: Policy Recommendations for the Arab region”.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Nibal Idlebi, Chief of Innovation Section, ESCWA</p> <p>This session aims at summarizing the ESCWA-OECD report and highlight the main observations and policy recommendations.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Alessandro Bozzini, Policy Analyst, Open Government Unit, Directorate of Public Governance, OECD</li> <li>- Mr. Samir Aita, ESCWA’s Consultant, Président of Cercle des Economistes Arabes,</li> <li>- Ms. Nibal Idlebi, Chief of Innovation Section, ESCWA</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>  |
| 11:00-11:15  | <p><b>Introduction Session: Why “Open innovative government for the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of Goal 11 and Goal 16”?</b></p> <p>The session aims at highlighting the relevance of open government to Urban Development Agenda and the realization of Goal 11 in the Arab region. It will also clarify the concepts of e-government versus open government and show the linkage with smart and digital solutions.</p> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the linkages between open government and the New Urban Agenda?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Nagwa Lachine, Programme Officer, UN-Habitat</li> <li>- Mr. Younes Abouyoub, Chief of Governance Section, ESCWA</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> |
| 11:15-11:30  | Short break   |

| Time        | Session   |
|-------------|---|
| 11:30-13:00 | <p data-bbox="384 232 1382 297"><b>Session 1: Lessons learned and challenges of open government at local level from cities in the World and in the Arab region</b></p> <p data-bbox="384 338 1259 371"><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Younes Abouyoub, Chief of Governance Section, ESCWA</p> <p data-bbox="384 412 1426 689">This session aims at exploring the concept of open governments and showcasing different examples of best practices of good governance at city/local level. The session will also explore key challenges hindering the development at local level and reflecting on the potential obstacles for applying open government principles and strategies in Arab cities. This session will also discuss the role of technologies in strengthening participation, transparency and accountability and in improving interaction among local and national government entities for the achievement of NUA, Goal 11 and Goal 16 of the SDGs and their related targets.</p> <p data-bbox="384 696 1358 761">The priority areas of open government for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be identified during this session.</p> <p data-bbox="384 801 620 835"><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="435 842 1422 1402" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are examples of best practices of Open Government initiatives globally and in Arab cities?</li> <li>➤ What are the main challenges and opportunities confronting local governance in the context of the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region?</li> <li>➤ What differences exist between the implementation of Open Government at the national and local levels?</li> <li>➤ What are the main policy issues to be considered to enhance the openness, participation, collaboration and engagement of local governance structures?</li> <li>➤ How Open Government can benefit from the current significant progress in e-government?</li> <li>➤ What are the most important policies and actions needed to address the challenges and where focus should be made to drive urban open government progress?</li> <li>➤ What opportunities for partnerships exist to strengthen Open Governments in the Arab region?</li> <li>➤</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="384 1413 507 1447"><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="435 1453 1398 1872" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ahmed Laamoumri, Secretary General, Ministry of Digital Transition and Administration Reform, Morocco</li> <li>- Ms. Maria Pia Junquera Temprano, director-general for citizen participation, Madrid municipality</li> <li>- Ms. Anne Amin, Programme Management Officer, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat</li> <li>- Mr. Tarik Nesh Nash, Senior regional Coordinator for Africa and the Middle East, OGP</li> <li>- Ms. Hayet Bayoudh, Carthage Municipality, Tunisia</li> <li>- Mr. Abdelghani Aghzal, Vice Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco</li> <li>- Mr. Mariusz Jankowski, Head of the Investor Service Department, Katowice City Hall, Poland</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="384 1912 515 1946"><b>Discussion</b></p> |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch Break   |

| Time         | Session  |
|--------------|--|
| 14:00-15:15  | <p><b>Session 2: Digital Transformation for Urban Development Agenda in the Arab region</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Sustainable Urban Development Lead, ESCWA</p> <p>This session will highlight the role of smart and digital technology and innovation in local development for the realization of New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. It will also explore how technology could be exploited to foster urban resilience with focus on social and economic aspects.</p> <p>The priority areas of digital transformation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda will be identified during this session.</p> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the added values of digital transformation for local development?</li> <li>- How central is the link between the use of smart and digital technologies and urban resilience?</li> <li>- How digital technologies support Urban social and economic resilience?</li> <li>- What are the main challenges for developing digital solutions in Arab cities?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Sukaina Al Nasrawi, Sustainable Urban Development Lead, ESCWA</li> <li>- Ms. Dina Storey, Sustainability Operations director @ Expo 2020, UAE</li> <li>- Ms. Maysoun Ibrahim, President of the Palestinian Syndicate for Information Sciences and Technology, Palestine</li> <li>- Ms. Katja Schafer, Inter-Regional Advisor, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> |
| 15:15- 15:30 | <p><b>Short break</b></p>  |
| 15:30-16:15  | <p><b>Session 3: New regional initiative: Open Government and Digital Transformation for the New Urban Agenda in the Arab region</b></p> <p><b>Mentimeter Facilitator:</b> Ms. Yasmine Mostafa, Knowledge Management and Reporting Officer, Regional Office for Arab States, UN-Habitat</p> <p>This session will focus on discussing the scope and main objectives of this initiative and the targeted countries and/or cities in the Arab region. It will also discuss the main activities and actions needed and the involvement of Arab countries/cities during the life cycle of this initiative.</p> <p>Furthermore, the participants of this meeting will also converse about the estimated timeline for the implementation of this initiative considering other related initiatives in the region. The participating organizations will also discuss their respective role and the funding of this initiative.</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Samir Aita, Président of Cercle des Economistes Arabes</li> <li>- ESCWA</li> <li>- UN-Habitat</li> <li>- OECD</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>   |
| 16:15-16:30  | <p><b>Closing remarks</b></p>  |

