



**Expert Group Meeting**  
**“Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region:  
 A Fact or Illusion”**

**Beirut, Lebanon / 24-25 October 2018**  
*Proposed Agenda*

| <b>Day 1: Wednesday 24 October 2018</b> |   |
|---|---|
| <b>8:30 – 9:00</b>                      | <b>Registration</b>   |
| <b>9:00 – 10:15</b>                     | <b>Opening Session</b>  |
|   | Opening remarks and welcome   |
|   | Tour de table   |
|   | Setting the Scene   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Women’s situation in the Arab region</li> <li>– SDGs and technology/ICT in the Arab region</li> <li>– ICT and the global context</li> <li>– Overview of the study</li> </ul>   |
|   | The opening session will set the scene for the meeting by going through the rationale of implementing a study focused on ICT as a mean of implementation for Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region. It will also outline the study and highlight the main challenges to its preparation. |
| <b>10:15 – 10:30</b>                    | <b>Coffee Break</b>   |
| <b>10:30 – 12:00</b>                    | <b>Session 1: Technology as an Enabling Framework to Reduce Gender Based-Discrimination (Target 5.1)</b>  |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Presentation of chapter 2 of the study</i></li> <li>– <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>  |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
|                      | <p>This session will discuss how technology can contribute to reducing or increasing gender-based discrimination. It will discuss how to best use technology to contribute to the achievement of target 5.1 in the context of the Arab region. The session will be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How does ICT affect discriminatory gender norms and gender stereotypes in the Arab region?</li> <li>- Are there gender differences in access to ICT? Do these differences vary with the context?</li> <li>- How does the use of ICT affect men and women differently? Does it vary from one region to another?</li> <li>- What are the factors to consider when localizing a global initiative on combatting violence against women to the regional context?</li> <li>- What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving target 5.1 in the Arab region?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>12:00 – 13:30</b> | <b>Session 2: Technology and Violence Against Women and Girls (Target 5.2 and 5.3)</b>  |
|                      | – <i>Presentation of Chapter 3 of the study</i>   |
|                      | – <i>Discussion</i>   |
|                      | <p>This session will discuss the role of technology in combatting violence against women and girls and in introducing new forms of violence. The discussion aims to highlight good global and regional practices in the area and which could be encouraged to achieving targets 5.2 and 5.3 in the region. The session will be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the prevalent new forms of violence generated by ICT in the Arab region?</li> <li>- What challenges restrain the use of ICT for combatting violence against all women and girls?</li> <li>- How can ICT contribute to increasing women security in conflict situations?</li> <li>- What are the factors to consider when localizing a global initiative on combatting violence against women to the regional context?</li> <li>- What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving targets 5.2 and 5.3 in the Arab region?</li> </ul> |
| <b>13:30- 14:30</b>  | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |
| <b>14:30- 16:00</b>  | <b>Session 3: Technology and Women’s Socio-economic Empowerment (Target 5.4)</b>  |
|                      | – <i>Presentation of chapter 4 of the study</i>   |
|                      | – <i>Discussion</i>   |
|                      | <p>This session will discuss how ICT could be harnessed towards enhancing women’s social and economic status. The discussion will highlight how ICT can constitute an opportunity for women to engage in income generating activities, mitigate precarity of working conditions and increase access to financial/banking services. It will also</p>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>discuss how ICT can increase access to information and to natural resources such as water and energy. The session will be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can ICT contribute to recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work?</li> <li>- How can ICT-based innovation contribute to enhancing the economic status of women in the region?</li> <li>- How is access to modern, clean, affordable and sustainable energy at the household level a gender concern in the Arab region?</li> <li>- In what ways can ICTs contribute to enhancing women’s economic opportunities?</li> <li>- In what ways can ICTs contribute to enhancing women’s social status?</li> <li>- Are existing good practices at the global level fit to the regional context?</li> <li>- What are the challenges facing the use of ICT for women’s socio-economic empowerment? (What about the Arab digital gender divide?)</li> <li>- What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving target 5.4 in the Arab region?</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Day 2: Thursday 25 October 2018</b> |  |
| <b>9:00 – 11:00</b>                    | <b>Session 4: Technology and Women’s Effective Participation and Equal Opportunities for Leadership (Target 5.5)</b>   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Presentation of chapter 5 of the study</i></li> </ul>  |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Discussion</i></li> </ul>  |
|  | <p>This session will focus on how technology can foster women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership in decision making which is necessary to the realization of various SDGs including reducing inequalities, and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, increasing productivity and contributing to economic growth, improving health outcomes, participating to reducing climate change and sustainably managing natural resources. The session will be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can ICT be used by Arab women to make their voices heard in politics and decision making?</li> <li>- How can ICT promote the participation of Arab women in politics and decision making?</li> <li>- How can Arab governments improve services for women and girls using ICT?</li> <li>- How can ICT contribute to enhancing the educational status of Arab Women?</li> <li>- What good practices from the global and/or regional level are compatible with the context of the region? What are the factors to consider?</li> <li>- What are the challenges that may hinder the use of ICT to achieve target 5.5 in the Arab region?</li> <li>- What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving target 5.5 in the Arab region?</li> </ul> |
| <b>11:00 – 11:15</b>                   | <b>Coffee break</b>  |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>11:15 – 13:00</b> | <b>Session 5: Technology and Enhancing Women’s Access to Health Services (Target 5.6)</b>  |
|                      | – <i>Presentation of chapter 6 of the study</i>  |
|                      | – <i>Discussion</i>  |
|                      | <p>This session will study how technology can assist Arab women in accessing sexual and reproductive health services and know their rights. The session will be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can ICT help Arab women better access information related to sexual and reproductive health? What global good practices exist in this area? Any factors that hinder the possibility of localizing these practices to the regional context?</li> <li>• Can Arab Women use ICT for remote medical consultations and/or monitor health threats?</li> <li>• What are the challenges for using ICT as a mean to achieve target 5.6 in the Arab region?</li> <li>• What are the recommendations on using ICT for achieving target 5.6 in the Arab region?</li> </ul> |
| <b>13:00- 14:00</b>  | <b>Lunch Break</b>   |
| <b>14:00- 15:30</b>  | <b>Session 6: Conclusion and Recommendations</b>   |
|                      | – <i>Discussion</i>  |
|                      | This session will build upon the discussions of the preceding 5 sessions to reach a consensus on the conclusions and recommendations of the study on Goal 5 and technology.  |
| <b>15:30 – 16:00</b> | <b>Closing Remarks</b>   |