

## Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development Goals

### مؤتمر حول التكنولوجيات الرقمية من أجل أهداف التنمية المستدامة

UN-House, Beirut, 10-12 May 2017

Includes: High-level/Ministerial Track (11 May) and Arab WSIS Community Track: Partners for SDGs (11-12 May)

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

08:30-15:00 Registration and Badge Collection Entrance, GF

**09:30-11:00 Conf-1/2: Opening of the Conference** Main Hall, B1  
ESCWA Statements  
Government of Lebanon Statements

11:00-11:30 Break

**11:30-12:30 Conf-3: Plenary 1- Digital Technologies: Towards Reinforcing Sovereignty and Stability in the Arab States** Main Hall, B1

The WSIS Tunis Agenda in Articles 68-71 emphasized the role of Governments in global Internet Governance. The 2030 Agenda emphasized Peace and Strong Institutions in Goal 16. This plenary session will explore these intersections through tackling few States-related dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Issues to be explored include (a) Internet threats that may accompany the Digital Revolution (b) The role of State in International Political Landscape of the Internet, and (c) Digital technologies for Good Governance and Stability.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, UN-ESCWA

**Panellists:** Mr. Qusai AlShatti, Acting Director General, Central Agency for Information Technology, Kuwait (remotely by WebEx)  
Ms. Susanne El-Hajj Hobeiche, Head of Cyber Crime and Intellectual Property Bureau, Internal Security Forces, Lebanon  
Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria  
Mr. Hani Raad, General Manager, Cisco Systems, Levant and Lebanon  
Mr. Richard Hill, CEO, Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland (Remotely by WebEx)  
Mr. Adel Abdel Sadek AlGakha, Head of Media Studies, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt  
Mr. Gilbert Doumit, Managing Partner, Beyond Reform and Development, MENA region

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

12:30-13:00 Break

**13:00-14:00 Conf-4: Plenary 2 - Digital Technologies: Disruptive Business Models, Disruptive Ecosystems, New Economy** Main Hall, B1

This plenary session will explore the economic dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Issues to be explored include Digital Economy, Digital Industries, Competitiveness, the Comparative Advantages of ICT Sectors in Countries of the ESCWA region, Disruptive Technologies, Ecosystems and Platforms of eTrade and eCommerce.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France

**Panellists:** Mr. Ahmed Kamaly, Chief of Economic Governance and Planning, UN-ESCWA

Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

Mr. Karim Abdel Ghani, Program Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

**14:00 Group photo** Main Hall, B1

14:00-15:00 Lunch break Cafeteria, GF

**15:00-16:00 Conf-5 Main Plenary 3– Digital Transformation and Human Development: From Poverty to Prosperity** Main Hall, B1

This plenary session will explore the social dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Issues to be explored include Sustainable Communities, Smart Societies, Smart Governments, and Smart Sectors. The main focus of the discussion will be education, health, and social inclusion.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief of Participation and Social Justice, UN-ESCWA

**Panellists:** Mr. Antoni Vives Tomas, CEO, The City Transformation Agency SL, Spain

Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Acting Chair of Applied Informatics in Management, Technical University of Gdańsk, Poland (Remotely by WebEx)

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt

Mr. Amitabh Kundu, Regional Advisor on Poverty, UN-ESCWA

Mr. Maroun Karam, Regional IT Manager, WHO, Egypt

Mr. Paul Hector, UNESCO Cairo Office

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017

**10:30-12:00 Conf-6/7: High Level Roundtable on Harnessing Digital Strategies for achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Prospects and Challenges** Com Room I, B1

*Organised by the Lebanese Ministry of Telecommunications (By Invitation)*

Technology is universally identified as one of the main means of implementation (MoI) of the 2030 Agenda. In order to highlight the role of digital strategies in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the Arab region in general and In Lebanon in particular, distinguished ministers, ambassadors, directors and high-level representatives from the Arab region will discuss challenges and prospects of implementing digital strategies. This session will focus on main features and achievements of digital strategies in the Arab region, national plans to raise awareness on the use of digital technologies for SDGs, suggested mechanisms and business models to fund implementation initiatives and projects.

12:00-12:30 Break

**12:30-13:30 Parallel Sessions**

**12:30-13:30 Conf-8a: Smart infrastructure for digital transformation from Lebanese Operators perspective** Mezzanine, MZ

Organised by the Ministry of Telecommunications and OGERO (Open Session)

**Chairperson:** Mr. Bassel Al Ayoubi, Director General of Investment and Maintenance, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon

**Speakers:** Mr. Ali Atie, NNCC Director, OGERO Telecom  
Mr. Imad Hamed, Chief Technology Officer, Alfa  
Mr. Jad Kahi, Technology Director, Touch

**12:30-13:30 Conf-8b: Sustainable Smart Cities and Urban Transformation** Com Room I, B1

This session will offer for discussion the regional and national perspectives on smart cities. It will also provide an opportunity for a discussion on urban transformation and inclusive social development.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Abdulilah Dewachi, Independent Consultant, Iraq

**Speakers:** Mr. Antoni Vives Tomas, CEO, The City Transformation Agency SL, Spain  
Ms. Naela Haddad, First Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy Section, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt  
Mr. Amitabh Kundu, Regional Advisor on Poverty, UN-ESCWA

Mr. Ali Ataya, Director of E-Gov Programme, Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform - OMSAR, Lebanon  
Mr. Ahmed EL-Dorghamy, Energy and Environment Expert, CEDARE, Egypt

12:30-13:30 **Conf-8c: The Arab Top Level Domain Names Project and Implications on the ICT Industry** Com Room II, B1

The Arab Domain Names Industry has been one of the breakthrough industries that emerged with the inception of the Internet in the mid-nineties, and with the invention of the Domain Names System (DNS). Top Level Domain Names are either country-code TLDs (ccTLDs) such as ".lb" or ".eg"; or generic TLDs (gTLDs) like ".com" and ".org". These TLDs used to be only in Latin script letters and numbers (ASCII). At the beginning of the century, a global notion of internationalised Domain Names came into the forefront of the scene. UN-ESCWA played a major role in setting the international standards for the use of Arabic script in the DNS; and jointly with LAS, UN-ESCWA defined the Arab Top Level Domain Names Project in 2009, which is now set to see the light in few months. This session provides an update on the ".arab" and "عرب" ATLDs and their implications on the Domain Names Industry. It also unveils the profitability of the Industry at large as one of the most untapped segments of the Digital Economy.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Christine Arida, Executive Director, Telecom Services and Planning, NTRA, Egypt

**Speakers:** Mr. Michael Palage, Consultant, Pharos Global, United States  
Mr. Charles Sha'ban, Executive Director, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property, Jordan  
Mr. Khaled Fouda, Director of ICT Development, League of Arab States

13:30-14:00 Break

**14:00-15:00 Parallel Sessions**

**14:00-15:00 Conf-9a: Operational and Regulatory Challenges of Next Gen Digital Infrastructure in the Arab Region** Mezzanine, MZ

This session will focus on a paper that covers the following subjects: a) Linkages between WSIS action line 2 and SDG 9 (Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); b) Strengthening this linkage and the achievement of SDG 8 in the Arab region; c) Identifying and analysing Arab region priorities and challenges with regard to the achievement of SDG 9; d) Proposing sound, practical and strategic recommendations; e) Mainstreaming gender and highlighting impacts and challenges.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Christine Arida, NTRA, Egypt

**Speakers:** Mr. Mohammed Al Hashimi, Senior Systems Engineer, CISCO Systems, Levant and Iraq

Mr. Yousef Torman, Managing Director , ASREN, Jordan  
Mr. Marco Carugi, Senior Consultant, ICT and Standards, NEC Cooperation, Japan

**14:00-15:00 Conf-9b: Digital Technologies in the Health, Water and Transport Sectors** Com Room I, B1

This session will include discussions on the transformation towards smart transport sectors in the Arab region. It will examine how new digital technologies (cloud computing, IoTs,..) can be used to achieve related sustainable development goals in the water, transport, and health fields as well as for adaptations to climate change.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

**Speakers:** Mr. Ahmed EL-Dorghamy, Energy and Environment Expert, CEDARE, Egypt  
Mr. Yarob Badr, Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Tarek Sadek, RICCAR, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Maroun Karam, Regional IT Manager, WHO, Egypt

15:00-16:00 Lunch break Cafeteria, GF

**16:00-17:00 Parallel Sessions**

**16:00-17:00 Conf-10a: Emerging Business Models in Digital Economy** Com Room II, B1

This session will focus on policies for competitiveness in the digital economy and new business models aimed at achieving sustainable development and will take into consideration e-payment, cloud computing, other emerging trends and the role of the ICT industry.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Marco Carugi, Senior Consultant, ICT and Standards, NEC Cooperation, Japan

**Speakers:** Mr. Azzam Alameddin, Government Relation, Visa Inc.  
Mr. Moez Chakchouk, CEO, Post Tunisiene (Remotely by WebEx)  
Mr. Michael Lapage, Consultant, Paros Global, United States  
Mr. Gabriel Deek, President of the Internet Society - Lebanon Chapter

**16:00-17:00 Conf-10b: Big Data for Development** Mezzanine, MZ

The huge volumes of generated data from different classical and new sources and the need to analyse them and deduct value in shorter times have given rise to big data technologies and data science techniques. Globally, this has been accompanied by severe transformations in the business and industries that necessitate new strategies throughout the whole value chain; business model innovation, organization structure as well as governance. In the Arab region, big

data applications have recently started infiltrating businesses. Their main sources of data are derived from social media and mobile phone operators. How will big data impact job creation in the Arab region? What are some of the challenges facing the rise of Big Data in the Arab region? How can the Arab region boost capacity building in this field? What can governments in the Arab region do to creating enabling environments for Big Data? More importantly, how can governments promote the use of Big Data for Development particularly to improve decision making by policy makers? These are some of the questions that this session will seek to answer.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Karim Abdel Ghani, Program Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

**Speakers:** Mr. Juraj Riecan, Director, Statistics Division, and Mr. Rami Zaatari, Head of Data Dissemination Unit, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Ayman Ali-Maher Ibrahim, Managing Director, swiftways and Adjunct Professor, Nile University -Egypt  
Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

**16:00-17:00 Conf-10c: Youth between Internet Pitfalls and Social Inclusion** Com Room I, B1

Youth are an underestimated but growing force on the international stage, especially in our modern societies where mobile phones and the Internet are increasingly available. In that context, this session will reflect the areas where ICTs are emerging as potentially powerful elements for the social and economic development of youth. From another side, the session will discuss how the social networks have become used as a "tool for changing behaviour" among Arab youth whether. Many topics will be discussed at this level, including: - the contribution of social networks to the internalization of social, cultural and family values, - The impact of that change on the behaviour and attitudes of young people, - The main patterns of negative use of social networks among young people, and - How we can address this misuse of ICT technologies in our region?

**Chairperson:** Ms. Hanane Boujemi, Senior Manager IG Programme, Hivos-Morocco

**Speakers:** Ms. Rita Karam, Secretary General, Higher Council for Childhood, MOSA, Lebanon  
Mr. Adel Abdel Sadek AlGakha, Expert at Security and Strategic Studies Unit and Head of Media Studies Program, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt  
Ms. Rouda Alamirali, Program Officer, ITU Arab Office (Remotely by WebEx)  
Mr. Ayman Itani, Digital Strategist, Lebanon (Remotely by WebEx)



FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017

**09:00-10:00 Parallel Sessions**

**09:00-10:00 Conf-11a: Empowering Women through ICT** Com Room II, B1

The use of innovative new technologies has expanded worldwide for social, economic and political use and contributed to the development of societies. This session will demonstrate how ICTs can positively empower women in the Arab region. It will focus on the linkages of the WSIS action lines with SDG 5 entitled "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", and the means of strengthening the impact of ICTs in achieving this goal in the Arab region. Additionally, it will identify the priorities and challenges facing the Arab region in the context of ICT for achieving SDG 5, and propose sound, practical and strategic recommendations addressing them.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Mirna EL-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, UN-ESCWA

**Speakers:** Ms. Hanane Boujemi, Senior Manager IG Programme, Hivos-Morocco  
Mr. Raidan Al-Saqqaf, Social Affairs Officer- Women, Peace, and Security, UN-ESCWA  
Ms. Mona Itani, Founder, Riyada for Social Innovation, Lebanon  
Ms. Shourouq Shatnawi, National Manager, UNSCr 1325, Women, Peace and Security, Jordanian National Commission for Women - Jordan  
Ms. Nada Hamzeh, Communications and Digital Media Strategist, Lebanon

**09:00-10:00 Conf-11b Digital Strategies in the Arab Region - Regional and National Perspectives (1/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

This session is one of two sessions that will review the status of ICT strategies and digital agendas in the Arab region, at both the national and regional levels. This will establish discussion for a vision for the future and will encourage other governments to devise or update their national strategies.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant -Jordan

**Speakers:** Ms. Nagwa El-Shenawy, Under-Secretary for Information and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt  
Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria  
Mr. Suleiman Al-Zuhairy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Telecom and IT, Palestine  
Mr. Riadh Oueslati, Head of e-Services Department, e-Gov Unit, Presidency of Government, Tunisia  
Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan

**09:00-10:00 Conf-11c: Enhanced Cooperation Process for Proper Internet Governance: Where does the world stand 12 years after WSIS?** Com Room I, B1

Tunis Agenda in 2005 stipulated that the UN Secretary General should launch by the beginning of 2006 two processes related to Internet Governance: One is the so called "Enhanced Cooperation" process that is predominantly governmental in nature, and the other is called the "Internet Governance Process" that is UN led and multistakeholder in nature. After 12 years, it is worth questioning why one process saw the light, while the other went into a tunnel; and whether or not the tunnel has any sort of light at the end of it. The session will seek to understand the dilemma and to unveil the forces that hindered the UN to undertake its mandate to the fullest, and discuss how the world can come with innovative approaches to implement Tunis Agenda in this respect.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Speakers:** Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria  
Ms. Yvonne Sleiman, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon  
Mr. Qusai Al-Shatti, Acting Director General, Central Agency for Information Technology, Kuwait  
Mr. Richard Hill, President, Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland (Remotely by WebEx)

10:00-10:30 Break

**10:30-11:30 Parallel Sessions**

**10:30-11:30 EGM-10: From Measuring the Information Society to Measuring the Digital Economy** Com Room II, B1

Since the inception of the WSIS Process in 2003, the ESCWA Region has been using frameworks and indicators for measuring the Information Society. With the extension of the WSIS Process from 2015 until 2025, the inception of the 2030 Agenda, and the conception of the ISDEHAR Framework that introduced the notions of Digital Economies and Smart Societies, the measurement, follow-up and review of progress will need new indicators to gauge the progress of rapidly emerging phenomena and disruptive technologies. This session will discuss how to devise new ways of gauging progress of ICT4SDGs.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nagwa El-Shenawy, Under-Secretary for Information and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Communications and IT, Egypt

**Speakers:** Mr. Rami Zaatari, Head of Data Dissemination Unit, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria  
Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France  
Mr. Nawar Al-Awa, Regional Advisor, UN-ESCWA

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA



**10:30-11:30 Conf-12b: Digital Strategies in the Arab Region - Regional and National Perspectives (2/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

This session is the second of the two sessions dedicated to review the status of ICT strategies and digital agendas in the Arab region, at both the national and regional levels. In this particular session, the League of Arab States, through its Working Group on Arab ICT Strategy will present ongoing efforts to devise and launch a new Arab ICT Strategy 2017-2024.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant -Jordan

**Speakers:** Mr. Nouredine Lasfar, Head of Division of Information Technology - Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Morocco  
Mr. Baha Khasawneh, Director General, National Information Technology Center (NITC), Jordan  
Mr. Mohammad Abd El Naby, Arab Working Group on ICT Strategy, League of Arab States

**10:30-11:30 Conf-12c: Capacity Building Pillar - Implementation of the AIGLE project: Success Stories at the National Level** Com Room I, B1

This session will provide a progress report on the AIGLE project and will include successful implementation and deployment stories.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Mirna EL-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA /Mr. Nawar Al-Awa, Regional Advisor, UN-ESCWA

**Speakers:** Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan  
Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria  
Ms. Laila Al Hardhrami, Executive Government e-Services, Information Technology Authority, Oman  
Ms. Fatna Farsi, General Engineer, Ministry of Civil Service and Modernization, Morocco  
Mr. Walid Taieb, Assistant Director, Presidency of Government, Tunisia  
Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt

**11:30-12:00** Break

**12:00-13:00 EGM-11: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 (1/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

This session will provide decision and policymakers from all stakeholders in the region with strategic frameworks, regional information society priorities/objectives customized for the Arab region and Internet governance. These frameworks will guide policymakers in their process to identify the regional/national priorities and develop their national digital agendas.

**Chairman:** Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association - Tunisia

**Speaker:** Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

13:00-13:30 Break

**13:30-14:30 EGM-12: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 (2/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

This session will provide decision and policymakers from all stakeholders in the region with the strategic frameworks, regional priorities/objectives customized for the Arab region in the fields of information society, ICT sector and Internet governance. These frameworks will guide policymakers in their process to identify the regional/national priorities and develop their national digital agendas.

**Chairman:** Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Speakers:** Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association, Tunisia  
Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant, Jordan

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

14:30-15:30 Lunch break

Cafeteria, GF

**15:30-16:30 Stocktaking and Closing of the Forum**

Main Hall, B1