WTDC 14 Regional Initiative
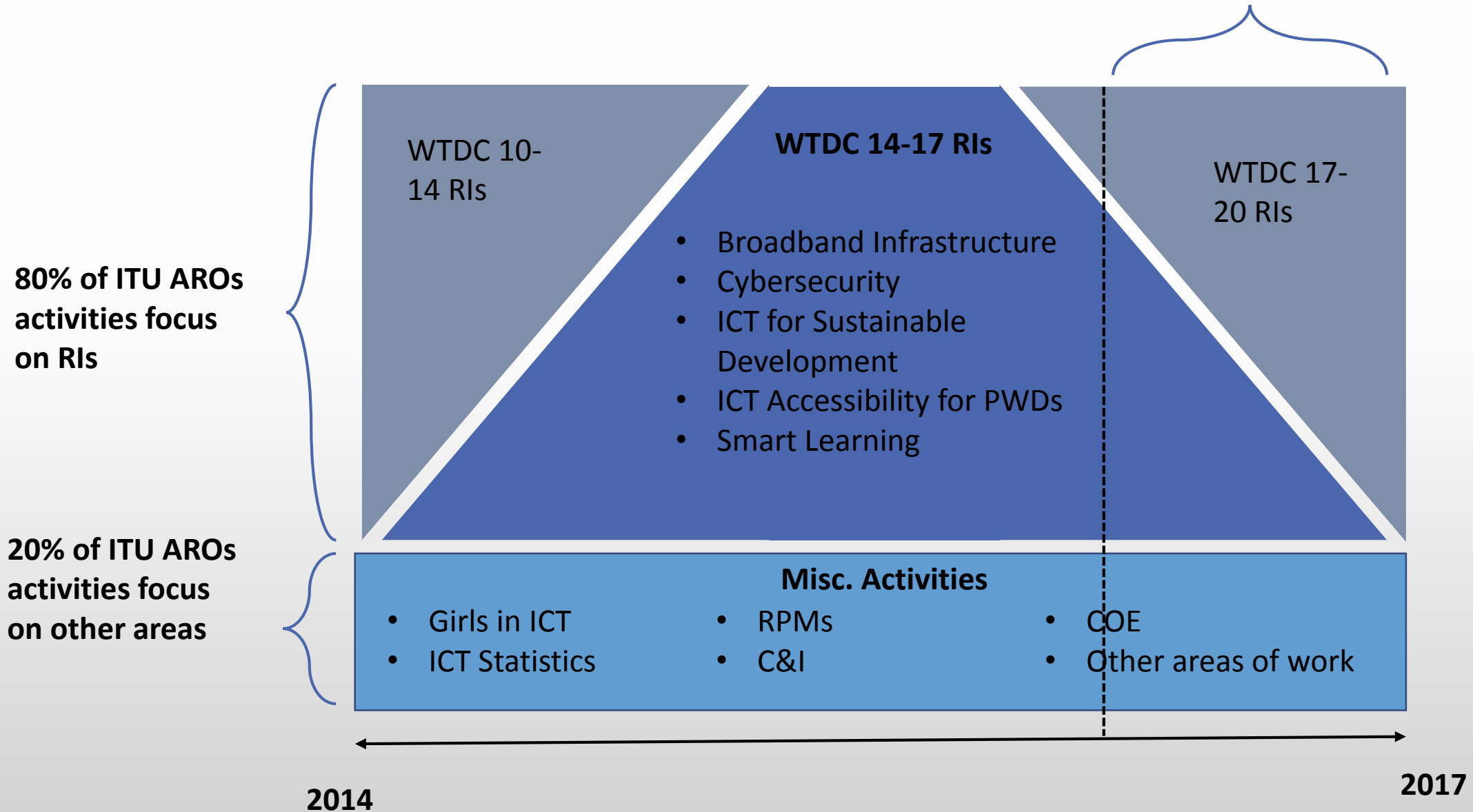
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ITU-ARO Areas of Work

2017: a year that will map out the Arab Region's work for the following four years

WTDC 10-14 RIs

WTDC 14-17 RIs

- Broadband Infrastructure
- Cybersecurity
- ICT for Sustainable Development
- ICT Accessibility for PWDs
- Smart Learning

WTDC 17-20 RIs

80% of ITU AROs activities focus on RIs

20% of ITU AROs activities focus on other areas

Misc. Activities

- Girls in ICT
- ICT Statistics

- RPMs
- C&I

- COE
- Other areas of work

2014

2017

RI 1:Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

Objective:

To assist Arab States (particularly least developed countries) in the implementation and development of broadband infrastructure in urban and rural areas, and to develop, facilitate and spread access to broadband networks and services in the Arab States, including issues related to conformance and interoperability.

Expected results
Assistance to the countries in the following:

- Establishment of national and regional strategic plans and work programmes for the telecommunication/ICT sector to meet the needs of the Arab countries in this field

- Improving broadband network infrastructure, including the deployment and connection of optical fibre cables

- Development of human resources, through training programmes and workshops

- Implementation of national programmes on conformance and interoperability, establishing cooperation agreements with regional laboratories to assist in this regard, and setting guidelines in accordance with international best practices

- Development of guidelines and recommendations with regard to regional cloud computing taking into consideration regulatory frameworks.

RI1: 2014-2015 Outcomes

Assistance

- to four countries in the Arab region for the establishment of their national broadband master plan.
- development of broadband policy, strategy and regulatory framework for building and financing broadband
- Libya and Sudan on the establishment of their national broadband master plan.
- Continue implementing Broadband Wireless Networks in Djibouti.

Training

- on the implementation and management of Internet exchange points (IXPs) for Arab countries
- on conformance and interoperability (C&I) for Arab Countries..
- on infrastructure sharing and local loop unbundling.
- on concepts and opportunities of cloud computing technology.
- 12 C&I experts from 6 Arab countries have been trained in selected areas on C&I.60 participants from Arab Countries trained on new trends for building broadband taking in consideration the development of the OTT services
- 30 participants from Arab Countries trained on new trends for financing broadband.
- on C&I was provided to five Syrian technicians from the Syrian Regulator (SYTRA).

Sudies:

- Assessment study for Maghreb Countries to promote the establishment of a common C&I programme.

RI1: Actions for 2016

Assistance

- to develop innovative investment models for minimizing barriers to Broadband adoption including infrastructure Sharing adoption and Market Competition
- Palestine in developing its National Broadband plan.
- Arab Academia on the Use of Cloud Computing Technology to improve Education in Arab countries
- Establish IXP Interconnection roadmap

Events:

- Organize a Forum on New Technologies for Development in the Arab Region in Cairo, Egypt from 23 and 24 November. Assist Arab countries.

Studies:

- Develop guidelines on the establishment of cloud computing platforms for Education in collaboration with ALECSO.

Projects:

- Implemented a project on Human Capacity Building on IPv6 which aimed to build the institutional capacity on IPv6 of Arab LDCs including Palestine.

Training:

- on C&I for Arab Countries. The training covers the areas of the organizational aspects of the Conformity Assessment from the administrative perspective: roles and relationship between the Designating Authorities, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Certification Bureaus and Test labs.

Misc.:

- Develop cooperation to establish Mutual Recognition Agreements on C&I between Arab Countries.
- Enhance Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Map in the Arab countries.

RI1: Actions for 2017

Analysis of the Broadband development in the Arab region.

Assist countries to implement and interconnect Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)

Assistance on the development of building C&I Labs and establishment of MRA Agreements in the Arab region

Assist Arab Countries in development of broadband policy, strategy and regulatory framework for building and financing broadband

Assist countries on development of cloud computing services and Data centers taking into consideration regulatory frameworks

RI2: Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

Objective: To build confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and e-commerce in the Arab region and combat all forms of cyberthreats, including the misuse of ICTs.

Expected results
Assistance to the countries in the following:

- Formulation of national and regional regulatory and technical policies and frameworks and legal measures to ensure data privacy and combat the different forms of cyberthreats in the Arab region, thereby ensuring optimal and secure use of the Internet and its various applications and building confidence in the Internet.

- Establishment of national computer incident response teams (CIRTs) in the Arab region (in particular in least developed countries) and optimal coordination both among them and between them and CIRTs in the other regions.

- Protection of Arab children and youth from harmful and abusive content on the Internet and making them aware of its risks, through the launch of awareness-raising campaigns and workshops, training curricula and study of the possibility of establishing a regional centre to prepare special awareness programmes to protect Arab children and youth from the risks of ICTs.

RI2: 2014-2015 Outcomes

Assistance:

- was provided to Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Comoros, Mauritania and Djibouti in cybersecurity readiness assessment for the establishment and implementation of national CIRTs.
- Within the framework of the Least Developed Countries Infrastructure Protection Project, assistance was provided to Mauritania and Comoros in strengthening their cybersecurity capabilities.

Sudies:

- Guidelines on the regional legal framework for child online protection in the Arab region were developed in addition to a Model Law to be used by Arab countries when developing and amending laws on children's safety.

Events:

- COP Strategy framework workshop and COP challenge in Bahrain from 14-16 September 2014 were organized under the umbrella of the regional cybersecurity centre.
- Co-organized the Child Online Protection (COP) challenge in Aswan, Egypt on 21 February 2015, in partnership with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Ministry of Education of Egypt and mobile operators and private sector companies. The workshop resulted in raising awareness among the participating schools, children and parents on issues related to cyber safety.
- ITU Arab Regional Cyber Security Center (ITU-ARCC) conducted the Cybersecurity Regional Summit in March 2015. The summit was held to foster the cooperation among the experts in the Arab region in issues related to Cybersecurity and the new trends and threats.

RI2: 2014-2015 Outcomes (cont'd)

Events:

- Regional Cyber Drill for the Arab Region was held from 17-19 May 2015 in Hurghada, Egypt. The drill resulted in enhancing the cooperation between Arab CIRTs and shared knowledge with those countries who do not have CIRTs yet.
- Capacity Building Programme on the protection of critical infrastructure in the Arab region was organized from 20-21 May 2015 in Hurghada, Egypt. The result of this programme was to build capacities on issues related to the protection of critical infrastructure.
- ITU Regional Strategy Workshop on (COP) for the Arab Region: Empowering the future digital citizens was held under the umbrella of the League of Arab States, and in cooperation with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt during the period 25-26 October 2015 in Egypt.

Assitance:

- Assistance was provided to Mauritania to develop its National Cybersecurity Strategy.
- Within the framework of the Least Developed Countries Infrastructure Protection project, assistance was provided to Djibouti in strengthening their cybersecurity capabilities. The technical cybersecurity training was conducted during 1-5 November 2015 and the Management training was conducted during 22-26 November 2015.

Studies:

- A study was conducted in November 2015 on the legal aspect related to the legislation of cloud security in the Arab region with benchmarking with Europe

RI2: Actions for 2016

Events:

- ITU participated in the Child Helpline International (CHI) Policy Dialogue and Regional Consultation in MENA which was held in Cairo, Egypt from 15-17 February and organized by CHI, National Council for Childhood & Motherhood, and League of Arab States.
- ITU participated in WeProtect Regional meeting that was held on February 18th 2016.
- Workshop for Arab CIRTs to strengthen and develop cooperation as part of the Regional Cybersecurity Summit to be held on 30 November in Egypt.
- Child Online Protection Challenge was held in April 2016 in Egypt and benefitted some students, parents and teachers from local schools.

Training

- Training and capacity building programme on formulating model policies on data privacy to be done in December 2016.

Assistance

- Technical assistance to Arab countries in the development of their respective national COP strategy.

RI2: Actions for 2017

Establish regional online portal on cybersecurity capacity building

establish and promote a regional strategy for regional cooperation among CIRTs in Arab region

Coordination and preparation with involved stakeholders for the development of awareness materials on COP for the Arab region

RI3: Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment

Objective: To raise awareness of the importance of sustainable development and environmental protection, and formulate legislation and regulatory frameworks in order to achieve smart and sustainable development.

Expected Results
Assistance to the countries in the following:

- Formulation of strategic plans and regulatory frameworks for the transition to smart and sustainable development in various relevant spheres

- Exchange of expertise between Arab countries in the field of smart and sustainable development in various spheres, and study of the negative effects resulting from e-waste and finding appropriate solutions to deal with it

- Addressing the challenges of scarce resources, for example water, in the Arab region by means of smart management of those resources using telecommunication/ICT applications

- Use of telecommunications/ICTs to confront the consequences of climate change for the Arab region, formulation of mechanisms to control emissions of harmful gases, and gradual transitioning to clean and sustainable energy

- Exchange of expertise in the field of policy of smart, sustainable and green cities in the Arab region, ensuring the gradual transformation of Arab cities to smart and sustainable cities.

RI3: 2014-2015 Outcomes

Events:

- Organized the kick-off meeting to launch this regional initiative in cooperation with UNESCWA, LAS and UNEP. The event took place in Manama, Bahrain, 6 May 2015. More than 30 participants attended the event from relevant organizations.

- Organized the Regional Forum on Smart Sustainable Cities for the Arab region in cooperation with TSB, hosted by the TRA of UAE in Abu Dhabi, UAE, 3-4 May 2015. The forum was attended by more than 60 participants from regional smart cities and members and adopted ICT roadmap for the transition to smart sustainable cities in the Arab region

RI3: Actions for 2016

Projects:

- Signed project with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt on Smart Groundwater Management. This two year project aims at showcasing the opportunities of utilizing ICTs to efficiently manage groundwater resources.

Events:

- Regional Forum on Use of ICTs for transition to Smart and Sustainable Development for the Arab Region will be organized in cooperation with SUDACAD during 11-12 Dec,2016. The Forum aims to raise awareness on the importance of the Telecom/ICT in smart and sustainable development, the roles of the national ICTs strategies on sustainable development and how the ICT could be used for climate change and disaster risk mitigation and adaptation.

Studies:

- A Model Policy and case studies report on ICTs generated E-waste in Arab Region will be developed and expected to be delivered by mid of Dec,2016. The report is to develop model polices and case studies on ICT generated e-waste management in Arab region
- A regional study on Regulatory Framework of ICTs for the transition to smart and sustainable development in Arab Region will be conducted and delivered by mid of Dec,2016. The study aims to formulate a Model of Regulatory Framework using Telecom/ICT for the transition to smart and sustainable development in Arab Region.
- A Model of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans for the Arab Region will be developed and delivered by mid of Dec,2016. The study is to develop a model national plan on Emergency Telecommunication (ET) to be used by Arab countries to develop their own national telecommunications emergency plans.

RI3: Actions for 2017

Regional Capacity Building Workshop on implementation of the Roadmap of Smart, Sustainable and Green Cities in Arab Region. The workshop is aiming to Enhanced skills, exchange of expertise in the field of policy of smart, sustainable and green cities in the Arab region.

Evaluation of the Pilot Project on Smart Water Management. This action is to develop and implement a portal/Web-based application to raise the awareness of the "Smart Groundwater Management.

Regional Training Workshop on use of ICTs and Climate Change Adaption in Arab Region. The workshop is aims to enhanced skills, exchange of expertise in the field of using ICT for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the Arab region

Regional Training workshop on Deployment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) for Disasters Management. The workshop is to improve skills and capacity of countries and share experiences and lessons learnt and good practices in the role of the early warning systems in disaster and emergency situations.

RI5: ICT for Persons with Disabilities

Objective:

To ensure the right of access to telecommunications/ICTs for persons with disabilities in the Arab region.

Expected results

Assistance to the countries in the following:

- Formulation and updating of national and regional regulatory policies and frameworks to ensure access for persons with disabilities of all kinds to telecommunications/ICTs, facilitating their involvement in the community and enabling them to enjoy their full rights

- Development of ICT applications and software that enable persons with disabilities to access information, references and other resources for education and leisure, and provision of specialized national and regional applications for libraries, databases and other purposes via the Internet and other telecommunication/ICT media

- Participation of persons with disabilities in Arab workshops, training courses and conferences, by providing all the requirements and facilities and removing all the obstacles.

RI5: 2014-2015 Outcomes

Events:

- Organized a kickoff workshop for the Arab Regional Initiative on ICT Accessibility that aimed at raising awareness on the importance of ICT accessibility and the goals of the regional initiative to buy in, seek comments and adopt the implementation framework (Cairo, Egypt, 20-21 April 2015). Around 200 participants attended the workshop.

Studies:

- Translated and published the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report into Arabic.
- Developed an advanced draft of a manual on ICT accessibility in meetings, workshops and conferences organized by regional organizations of the Arab region.

Assistance:

- Started assistance to Egypt to develop its national policy on ICT Accessibility.

Projects:

- Formulated a project to establish a regional innovation centre for accessibility with Egypt.

RI4: Actions for 2016

Project:

- Launch a project to establish a regional innovation centre on ICT Accessibility with the aim of assisting countries in the region in promoting innovations in ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities.

Event:

- Organize a regional workshop on ICT Accessibility for employment with the aim of raising awareness on some of the opportunities that could be seized by policy makers in the region for youth employment in the field of ICT Accessibility.

Assistance:

- Finalize assistance to Egypt to formulate its national policy on ICT Accessibility.

RI4: Actions for 2017

Assist countries in formulating national policies in ICT Accessibility

Promote regional center on ICT Accessibility

Organize training workshops for web accessibility

Assist regional organizations on how to organize accessible meetings, workshops and conferences

Thank You

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