ESCWA Regional Preparatory Conference for WSIS

TENTATIVE AGENDA

First day (Tuesday 4 February 2003)

1. **Plenary** session
   - Opening session
   - Election of officers and adoption of the agenda
   - Overview of the information society in the ESCWA/Arab region
   - Ministerial debate on policies
   - General debate

2. **Parallel thematic working group sessions** including presentations, thematic debates and roundtables covering the following issues:
   - Regional and national ICT infrastructures (Assessment and direction)
   - ICTs for socioeconomic development (MDG) and universal access
   - Capacity building, human resources, education and training in ICT

Second day (Wednesday 5 February 2003)

3. **Parallel thematic working group sessions** including presentations, thematic debates and roundtables covering the following issues:
   - Arabic digital content and cultural/language barriers
   - E-government
   - E-commerce
   - E-learning
   - E-health
   - Security of ICT applications
   - Policies and regulatory frameworks for the digital economy (international rules and agreements of WTO, WIPO, ITU, etc.)
   - Partnership among stakeholders of the information society and financing of ICT development projects
   - Regional collaboration and integration.

   A drafting group will be working on the Conference document (including a declaration of principles and action plan) in parallel and in coordination with the thematic groups during the second day.

Third day (Thursday 6 February 2003)

4. **Plenary session**:
   - Submission of thematic working group sessions' reports
   - Discussion and adoption of final Conference document
   - Closing remarks