|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-3_transparent.png | **World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17)**  **Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-20 October 2017** | C:\Users\ponder\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.Word\BDT-25th_anniversary_2017-Logo_411959-1_transparent.png |
|  | |  |
| PLENARY MEETING | | **Addendum 33 to Document WTDC-17/21-E** |
|  | | **8 September 2017** |
|  | | **Original: Arabic** |
| Arab States | | |
| revision of resolution 18 | | |
| ARAB STATES REGIONAL INITIATIVES | | |
|  | | |
| **Priority area:**  Regional initiatives  **Summary:**  –  **Expected results:**  –  **References:**  – | | |

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

ARAB STATES REGIONAL INITIATIVES

**SUP** ARB/21A33/1

# ARB1: Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

**ADD** ARB/21A33/2

# ARB1: Environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications

**Objective:** To raise awareness of and provide support concerning major challenges in the field of environment, climate change and emergency telecommunications; establish regulatory frameworks and take necessary measures to cope with the challenges in this field.

Expected results

Assisting countries to:

1) issue policy guidelines, regulatory and technical frameworks and necessary measures and provide information to meet their needs pertaining to this Initiative, specifically in the area of exposure to electromagnetic fields, emergency telecommunications and the management of electronic waste;

2) launch training programmes on emergency telecommunications and the adverse effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields and electronic waste, find appropriate solutions to deal with these and formulate a model for making use of electronic waste in a developmental manner;

3) develop ICT applications on the basis of which awareness campaigns and programmes can be launched concerning the risks of exposure to electromagnetic fields and the recycling and processing of electronic waste.

**Reasons:** Development of guidelines and recommendations with regard to regional cloud computing, taking into account regulatory frameworks.

**SUP** ARB/21A33/3

# ARB2: Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

**ADD** ARB/21A33/4

# ARB2: Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

**Objective:** To promote confidence and security in the use of ICTs, child online protection and combatting all forms of cyberthreat, including the misuse of information and communication technologies.

Expected results

Assisting countries to:

1) issue policy guidelines, regulatory and technical frameworks and necessary measures and to provide information to meet their needs pertaining to this Initiative, specifically in the area of child online protection and combatting all forms of cyberthreat;

2) continue to sharpen awareness of the strategies to be followed with regard to the technical teaching and research materials which Arab university students are to be provided and taught to build confidence and security in the use of ICTs;

3) protect Arab children and young people from offensive and harmful content on the Internet, particularly by helping to enact laws, legislation and strategies in this area and raising the awareness of children and young people of the risks by launching awareness campaigns, workshops and training programmes and making use of the Arab Regional Cybersecurity Centre;

4) develop ICT applications to help protect children online and combat all forms of cyberthreat, in collaboration with relevant bodies;

5) organize training courses and seminars on protecting critical telecommunications/ICT infrastructure;

6) prepare training programmes and provide experts to specialized academic institutions to educate and instruct university students and academics in building confidence in the use of ICTs; exchange information in this regard;

7) establish national computer incident response teams (CIRTs) in the Arab region with optimum coordination among them and between them and CIRTs in the other regions.

**SUP** ARB/21A33/5

# ARB3: Use of telecommunications/ICTs for smart and sustainable development and protection of the environment

**ADD** ARB/21A33/6

# ARB3: Digital financial inclusion

**Objective:** To support and enable access to and use of digital financial services, using telecommunications and information technology, and achieving high levels of digital financial inclusion.

Expected results

Assisting countries to:

1) prepare studies to evaluate the digital financial inclusion situation and determine needs at national and regional levels and to benefit from international experience and best practices, while clarifying the link between financial inclusion, financial stability, financial integration and consumer protection;

2) raise awareness of the concept, practice and benefits of digital financial inclusion, in addition to presenting the dimensions of digital financial services in terms of ensuring and facilitating access to all financial services, and how to use them, as well as the quality of services, confidence, security and reliability;

3) provide advisory and technical support and the necessary training programmes to foster coordination between ICT service regulators and providers, on the one hand and financial service regulators and providers, on the other hand to achieve integration and convergence between the two sectors;

4) develop guiding regulatory and legal frameworks to stimulate and encourage the adoption of digital financial inclusion and establish public/private sector partnerships to ensure the protection of user privacy and data confidentiality and promote confidence and security in digital financial services;

5) attract financial and technical support from donor and funding entities and regional and international stakeholders to help achieve the objective and results of this Initiative, at the request of those Arab States that so wish.

**SUP** ARB/21A33/7

# ARB4: Smart learning

**ADD** ARB/21A33/8

# ARB4: Internet of Things, smart cities and big data

**Objective:** To raise and spread awareness of the importance of future challenges in the era of Internet of Things and big data and how to address such challenges; establish regulatory frameworks, take measures to help cope with the rapid changes in the field of telecommunications and information technology and work to ensure the transition to smart cities and communities.

Expected results

Assisting countries to:

1) formulate strategic and operational plans and regulatory frameworks to cope with Internet of Things and big data technology and formulate a road map for the Arab region for the transition to smart cities and communities by developing the telecommunications infrastructure to deliver the broadband services to support their various applications and services;

2) promote technical cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the Arab countries in the area of the Internet of Things, big data and smart cities and communities, study the impact thereof, whether positive or negative, and take advantage of global experience;

3) organize a high-level forum on the Internet of things and big data to discuss the main challenges, such as security, privacy and system compatibility and the most prominent solutions, including digital object architecture; invite experts from industry to address the forum and hold a side meeting on the fringes of the forum with industry and the private sector;

4) get access to key studies, research and expertise on the Internet of Things and smart cities, including the big data for Arab States, on a page devoted to the Initiative on the website of the Arab Regional Office, and to help those Arab States that wish to obtain advice in this area;

5) build Arab capacities in the uses of big data as a supplementary or alternative method and low-cost resource for measuring sustainable development goal indicators, while enhancing the capacities of stakeholders to implement and analyse big data to measure key development indicators;

6) construct secure infrastructures to store the enormous amounts of data needed to create a smart environment;

7) identify and make use of existing centres of excellence and research and study centres in the Arab States to provide experts and expertise in the areas of the initiative; enter into cooperative partnerships and agreements to help raise the level of availability of broadband services in the Arab States; and use the Internet of Things and big data for development, formulate smart city indicators and measure progress on a regular basis.

**SUP** ARB/21A33/9

# ARB5: Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

**ADD** ARB/21A33/10

# ARB5: Innovation and entrepreneurship

**Objective:** To build capacities and raise awareness concerning the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, in particular for youth and women’s empowerment, with the aim of harnessing ICT tools to launch projects and undertake economic activities that focus on job creation.

Expected results

Assisting countries to:

1) formulate national and regional mechanisms and strategies to stimulate and enrich the culture of innovation in telecommunications/ICT in the region, including relevant best practice;

2) while creating centres of creativity and new institutions, encourage and develop the role of existing institutions and incubator programmes that support micro, small and medium enterprises in the telecommunications/ICT field to enable young people to set up their own enterprises; take advantage of best practice in this area;

3) train young people of both sexes to take advantage of ICTs to promote the culture of innovation and entrepreneurship;

4) stimulate young people and students to be creative and innovative in developing Arabic language applications;

5) develop innovative ways of holding regional meetings, workshops and conferences electronically;

6) build and reinforce a core group of staff and help to coordinate between training centres, research centres, incubators, institutions and institutes, while encouraging the exchange of expertise at regional and international levels.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_