



## Annex 3

# ITU Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB)

## Accelerating the digital development in Arab Region

Organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the

Bahraini Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

6-8 November 2023 - Kingdom of Bahrain

## Draft Agenda

### Day 1, 6 November 2023

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Registration   |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Ceremony   |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Group Photo + Coffee Break   |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | <b>Opening Executive Panel:</b><br><b>Digital development in Arab Region: Trends, opportunities &amp; challenges</b><br>This is a multi-stakeholder executive panel, with the objective to present the current state of digital development in Arab States, planned projects and actions to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab States. The panel will also report the progress of the Kigali Action Plan and an overview of outcomes of WTDC 2022. |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch  |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | <b>Panel One:</b><br><b>Multistakeholder cooperation and digital development</b><br>This panel will present an overview of digital cooperation actions promoted by different international multilateral organizations and other stakeholders to achieve digital development in the Arab States. It will also present the progress report of some joint initiatives between ITU and other agencies will be presented.   |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | Coffee Break   |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | <b>Panel Two:</b><br><b>P2C Matchmaking</b><br>The session will highlight the Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into scaled-up impact: Digital for sustainable development in Arab Region through Partner2Connect Coalition.   |



**16:00 – 17:30**

**Panel Three:**

**Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development**

This panel will present innovation and digital entrepreneurship as an enabler for digital development in the Arab States. The ITU will provide information about its activities in implementing the World Telecommunication Development Conference relevant outcomes, particularly the fourth Arab regional initiative titled "Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight." In addition, to shedding light on support provided to countries of the region to establish digital innovation ecosystems through the newly launched BDT global initiative: "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development."



## Day 2, 7 November 2023

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 9.00 – 9:15  | Summary of the day 1   |
| <b>PARTNER 2 CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES:</b><br><b>Fostering partnerships and project execution to accelerate digital development in the Arab Region</b><br><p>The Partner2Connect regional roundtable is a multistakeholder platform for matchmaking between regional and country needs and pledges that have been announced so far and new pledges. The matchmaking is aligned with the topics of WTDC-22 adopted Regional Initiatives for the Arab region. Through engagement among pledging partners and the Member States, the roundtables will aim to transform pledges into concrete commitments ready for implementation.</p> |  |
| 09:15 – 10:15  | <b>P2C Matchmaking Panel one (1)</b><br><p>The Panel will showcase the Initiatives and programs of digital transformation in the Arab region. In particular, partnerships and collaboration on digital government services, digital health and digital agriculture by different stakeholders will be presented.</p> <p><b>ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation.</b></p>  |
| 10:15 – 10:30  | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| 10:30 – 11:30  | <b>P2C Matchmaking Panel two (2)</b><br><p>The Panel will discuss how to enhance confidence, security, and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the efficient means for support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and safe and reliable services that ensure the protection of privacy and personal data for all groups of society.</p> <p><b>ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/Information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies.</b></p> |
| 11.30 – 12.45  | <b>P2C Matchmaking Panel Three (3)</b><br><p>The session will focus on the development of resilient and synergistic infrastructure and the creation of an enabling environment that ensures universal coverage and meets the requirements of new and emerging technologies, and the necessary measures that need to be taken to ensure a rapid transition to smart sustainable cities and communities (SSCCs).</p> <p><b>ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities.</b></p>   |
| 12.45 – 14.15  | <b>Lunch</b>   |
| 14.15 – 15.15  | <b>P2C Matchmaking Panel Four (4)</b>  |



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
|                      | <p>The session aims to provide a platform for discussing strategies for developing digital regulation methods in the Arab world with the aim of promoting economic and social development.</p> <p><b>ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation.</b></p>                   |
| <b>15:15 – 15:30</b> | <b>Coffee Break</b>  |
| <b>15:30 – 16:30</b> | <p><b>Network of Women (NoW) meeting</b></p> <p>Provide women delegates in the Arab region the opportunity to exchange views on how to develop gender mainstreamed policies to facilitate the meaningful participation and engagement of Arab delegates in the ITU work.</p> |
| <b>16:30 – 17:00</b> | <b>Closing Ceremony</b>  |



### Day 3, 8 November 2023 Digital Regulation Training Workshop

| Time         | Sessions/Topics covered  | Key learning points  |
|--------------|--|--|
| 09h00-11h00  | <b>Session 1: Introduction to the training and ITU's regulatory tools and frameworks</b> | This introductory session will provide an overview of digital regulation, collaborative governance and regulatory tools developed by ITU to assist policy makers and regulators in making informed and evidence-based decisions.   |
| 11h00-12h00  | <b>Session 2: Developing a digital transformation strategy</b>                           | This session examines the necessary steps and essential elements to be considered when developing a national digital transformation strategy by examining what needs to be achieved, why it is important, and how to do it. The purpose of this session is to provide concrete guidance in implementing the 4 phases of the digital transformation development cycle.  |
| 12h00-13h00  | <b>Lunch Break</b>   |  |
| 13h00-14h00  | <b>Session 3: Innovative approaches to regulation: ICT Regulatory sandboxes</b>          | This session will examine the establishment and management of an ICT regulatory sandbox, explaining the different steps and stages of the process from conceptualizing a sandbox, to its operationalization, and implementation. The session will further provide participants with the opportunity to learn from the benefits and risks of sandboxes, and from the roles of the different stakeholders.   |
| 14h00- 15h00 | <b>Session 4: Emerging technologies and evolving regulation</b>                          | Artificial intelligence (AI), big data, blockchain, machine learning, Industry 4.0, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are not just buzzwords: they impact agriculture, communications, energy, healthcare, infrastructure, social welfare, and transportation. While emerging technologies may contribute to positive social change, they can also pose risks and dangers if left unchecked. This session will examine the implications of these digital technologies (e.g., AI, big data, IoT, blockchain, etc.) on regulation and policy, the role of regulators, and the impact of emerging technologies on business, access, and use. The session will cultivate the critical skills necessary for assessing emerging technologies' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and introduce frameworks for developing regulatory responses tailored to particular contexts. |
| 15h00- 16h00 | <b>Session 5: Competition and Economics in the Digital Economy</b>                       | This session will examine how the new digital environment is challenging traditional models of competition regulation and creating new market dynamics that require different approaches to  |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  |  | <p>economic regulation. The session will address market definition and analysis in a digital environment, including determining significant market power, adopting appropriate ex-post and ex-ante remedies, addressing network effects of digital platforms, and establishing rules for mergers. Key topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tools for measurement and analysis</li><li>• Examples of KPIs for competition</li><li>• Retail price regulation</li><li>• The concept of “dominance”</li><li>• Authorization/licensing models</li><li>• Price discrimination</li><li>• Mergers and acquisitions</li><li>• Online dispute resolution</li></ul> <p>Case studies</p> |
|--|--|---|