



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DIR/ARB/DM/027

Geneva, 22 July 2026

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from the Arab region
- State of Palestine (Resolution 99)
- ITU-D Sector Members from the Arab region
- ITU Academia from the Arab region
- Regional Telecommunication Organization from the Arab region
- Intergovernmental Organizations operating satellite systems
- The United Nations and its Funds and Programmes
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations
- TDAG Bureau members
- Chairs and Vice-Chairs of ITU-D Study groups

**Subject: Regional Development Forum for Arab States (RDF26-ARB) – Postponement to 2027**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your continued engagement and support of the activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in the Arab Region.

As you are aware, the Regional Development Forum for Arab States (RDF-ARB) serves as an important platform for dialogue and collaboration among ITU Member States, Sector Members, Academia, development partners, and other stakeholders. The Forum provides an opportunity to discuss regional priorities, advance the implementation of the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference, and strengthen partnerships to accelerate digital development across the Arab Region.

Following the consultations conducted by the ITU Arab Regional Office with Member States in the region regarding the organization of the 2026 RDF-ARB, stakeholders were invited to express their views on two possible options: holding the Forum virtually during 2026 or postponing it to 2027 to allow for an in-person meeting.

I am pleased to note the strong engagement of Member States throughout this consultation process. The majority of responding countries expressed a preference for postponing the Forum to 2027 in order to ensure a physical gathering that would facilitate broader participation, enhance networking opportunities, and maximize the impact of the discussions and outcomes.

Taking into consideration the views expressed by Member States, ITU has decided to postpone the Regional Development Forum for Arab States to 2027.

Preparations are currently underway, in close coordination with interested host countries and regional stakeholders, to confirm the venue and dates of the Forum. Further information regarding the hosting arrangements, programme, and registration process will be communicated in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Member States and stakeholders in the Arab Region for their valuable contributions to the consultation process and for their continued commitment to the work of ITU-D. We look forward to working closely with you over the coming months to ensure that RDF-ARB 2027 becomes a highly successful and impactful regional event that reflects the priorities and aspirations of the Arab Region.

Yours faithfully,

*(signed)*

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava  
Director