



منظمة المرأة العربية  
ARAB WOMEN ORGANIZATION

**ITU Regional Conference**  
**ICT for Women in the Arab Region: ICT@ Women's Empowerment**  
Beirut- Lebanon, 26 - 27 November 2018

**Organized by the**  
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

At the kind invitation of OGERO Telecom

**Under the Patronage of the**  
Ministry of Telecommunications of Lebanon

**In collaboration with**  
The Arab Women Organization (AWO), Internet Society (ISOC), World Bank Group and the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)

**Monday  
26 November 2018**

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Registration**

**09:30 – 10:30**

**Official Opening Ceremony**

- Welcome remarks by **Ms. Zeina Bou Harb, Ogero**
- Welcome remarks by **Mr. Ebrahim Al-Haddad, ITU ARO**
- Welcome remarks by **Ms. Yvonne Sleiman, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon**
  
- Keynote Speech by **Mr. Andrew Sullivan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Internet Society (ISOC)
- Keynote Speech by **Mr. Saroj Kumar Jha**, Regional Director of the Mashreq Department, World Bank
- Video Address by **Dr. Fadia Kiwan**, Director General, Arab Women Organization (AWO)

**10:30 – 10:35**

**Video LLWB “Girls got IT “**

**10:35 – 11:00**

**Group Photo and Coffee Break**

**11:00 – 13:00**

**Session 1: Where do Arab Women stand in ICTs: Setting the scene**

ICTs are becoming more and more vital to all aspects of the economy. There is a rising demand for highly-qualified labor and women constitute a pool of potential candidates.

However, regional and global research indicate a persistent gender gap in access and use of (ICTs) tools which could prevent them from reaping digital dividends – in turn hindering their economic as well as political empowerment. This gap is more obvious in the Arab region & the digital divide in terms of accessibility and inclusivity in the global community is very vivid.

In addition, SDG 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of women highlights the link between ICTs and women and how to better utilize their potentials and empower them.

The Arab governments have recognized the strategic importance of (ICTs) and the involvement of the “first generation of digital natives”, who encompass individuals that are born in the digital era. While this by itself adds to the pressure on governments to rapidly adapt to digital economy principles, there are as well the

pressure on how can they ensure that women and girls are qualified enough to compete with their fellow men & boys in the labor market.

This panel will highlight the gaps and gender divide in terms of:

- Arab women access/ownership to ICT device, services and networks;
- Country experiences from the region would reflect this pressing need and showcase practical experiences for the direct impact of how empowering women would affect creation of new jobs
- Structural disadvantages/ challenges that prevent women from starting and up scaling businesses;
- Digital literacy and women in STEM education and careers.
- Core Indicators for women in ICT: regional and country level data
- Opportunity costs of gender gap in ICT on Arab economies

**Moderator: Ms. Abir Chebaro**, Advisor to Prime Minister for Women's Affairs at The Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon

**Keynote Speaker: Ms. Ingrid Veling**, Co-Founder and Board Member of Polaris

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Hoda Dahroug**, Director of Social Development, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt
- **Dr. Nibal Idlebi**, Chief of Innovation Section, UN-ESCWA
- **Dr. Lama Moussawi**, Associate Professor in Operations Management, Suliman S. Olayan School of Business, AUB

#### Discussions (15 mins)

**13:00 – 13:10**

**Ms. Samia Melhem**, Lead Digital Development Policy Specialist, World Bank (by Video-recording)

**13:15 – 14:15**

**Lunch Break**

## Session 2: Unleashing Women potential in the Arab Region: Entrepreneurial Perspective

As per the World economic forum recent articles, one of three start-ups in the Arab region is led by women. This is much higher than even the Silicon Valley, and the reason is simple; lots of entrepreneurs in the region believes that Internet and online platforms are new and innovative means of work that makes everything possible and there is no male dominancy on those platforms, which makes it more attractive to Arab women and girls

Moreover, one of the challenges women face in the region is that fact that necessitate them to stay at home. Online platforms offer new opportunities from young businesses to work from home and find solutions to join workforce and keep themselves culturally secured and safe.

It is expected that by 2025, women participation in the work force could add around \$2.7 trillion to the region's economy. How to tap on those facts could be a game changer for the region, and our panel will tackle this issue and draw some practical experiences.

**Moderator: Ms. Zakie Karam**, Co-Founder & General Manager, Don Telecom

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Hoda Daou**, Assistant Professor, Olayan School of Business, AUB

### Panelists:

- **Ms. Rula Abou Daher**, Chief Corporate Management Officer, Touch
- **Ms. Sana Ghenima**, CEO, Sanabil Med
- **Ms. Rasha Manna**, Independent Advisor- Scaling Businesses and Expanding Social Impact

14:15 – 16:15

Discussions (15 mins)

Tuesday

27 November 2018

## Session 3: Role of Private Sector: best practices and special initiatives

No doubt that the role of the community and private sector is key when we address how to overcome the challenges of women's access to ICTs and How can we remove the barriers so that women become more involved and able to fully participate in the digital world whether at the technical, infrastructural, economic or technological development level.

The aim is to share experiences around how to make sustainable women's

9:30 – 11:30

participation in digital economies, allowing gender inclusion and appropriation of technology by women.

The session will focus on the following:

- How to incorporate Gender into the plans of private sector?
- How are current ICT initiatives led by the private sector contributing to gender equality?

**Moderator: Ms. Leila Serhan**, Regional Director for Public Sector for Microsoft Corporation in the Gulf Region, Microsoft

**Keynote Speaker: Mr. Oliver Rowntree**, Senior Insights Manager, GSMA

**Panelists:**

- **Ms. Aline Karam**, Chief Communications Affairs Officer, Alfa Telecom
- **Ms. Cynthia Abou Khater**, Board Member, Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)
- **Ms. Monique Morrow**, President and Co-Founder, The Humanized Internet
- **Ms. Monia Jaber Khalfallah**, ITU's African Girls Can Code Initiative (AGCCI)

**Discussions (15 mins)**

**11:45 – 12:00**

**Coffee Break**

#### **Session 4: Future Jobs and Education Challenges**

The gap between the working skills required and those that the employees have is crystal clear globally. This global “talent shortage” as per UN Women is currently at 38 per cent, with the top ten hardest jobs to fill in STEM professions.

Although women are larger in numbers than men graduates, this is not reflected in job opportunities.

**12:00 – 14:00**

To bridge this skills gap, capacity building is required to raise the capacities of women to fully benefit from the newly emerging technology trends, and ICTs are key in that regard. It is a tool and a goal at the same time.

**Moderator: Mr. Raul Echeberria**, Vice President for Global Engagement, Internet Society

**Keynote Speaker: Ms. Darine Amayed**, CEO and Co-founder, NYX-R

**Panelists:**

- **Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali**, Programme Officer, ITU Arab Regional Office
- **Ms. Suha Osman**, Head of Women and Technology Unit, Arab Women Organization (AWO)
- **Dr. Mirna Barbar**, Programme Management Officer, UN-ESCWA
- **Ms. Haneen Sayed**, Lead Social Protection, Jobs and Gender Specialist at the World Bank, Mashreq Region

**Discussion (15 mins)**

**14:15 – 14:45**

**Closing Remarks**

**14:45 – 16:00**

**Lunch**