



Ref. 2020/DIW-INV

Cairo, 14 September 2020

To: All relevant Digital Inclusion stakeholders in the Arab region

Subject: **ITU-UNESCO Regional Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab States, 25 - 31 October 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Building on the success and interest generated over the past years, we are pleased to announce that the fourth edition of the annual ITU-UNESCO Regional Digital Inclusion Week for Arab States will be held from 25 to 31 October 2020 under the theme *“Serving the underserved in times of crisis: No one left behind”*.

Digital Inclusion Week is an opportunity for sharing experiences and knowledge, fostering new collaborations and supporting problem-solving and innovation amongst stakeholders working in the digital inclusion space. As in past editions the Week will bring together policy-makers, practitioners, researchers as well as beneficiaries. The Week will also raise visibility of UNESCO's International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

In line with our overarching theme, the Week will highlight and address the foregoing challenges. It will enlarge the space for participation and support efforts to enhance individual and societal well-being and the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Week will raise attention around Sustainable Development Goal Target 9.c. which aims to:

“Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of this commitment. If we are to truly ensure “no one left behind”, now, in this time of crisis, we must redouble efforts to digitally include the underserved.

We invite all stakeholders in the Arab region to organize at least one activity during the Week, to shed light on their key activities in this domain. Stakeholders are free to design the nature, scope and location of activities and associate them to the Week. It should be noted that virtual events are encouraged in light of

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the circumstances imposed by the current COVID-19 pandemic. Activities should reflect the theme of “Serving the underserved in times of crisis: No one left behind” or other areas relevant to Digital Inclusion in the Arab region. To raise the visibility of all stakeholder activities during Digital Inclusion Week, a promotional campaign will be organized with regional press and on social media. A dedicated webpage will promote all activities associated with the Week. Participating stakeholders should also promote their activities and Digital Inclusion Week through their media channels.

Kindly provide us with information on the event(s) that you will be organizing during Digital Inclusion Week by completing the attached form and submitting it to Mr. Karim Abdelghani Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office (karim.abdelghani@itu.int) and Mr. Paul Hector, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States & Cluster Office for Egypt and Sudan (p.hector@unesco.org) by latest **8 October 2020**.

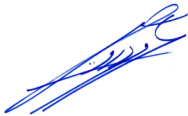
Please submit any queries to Mr. Abdelghani and Mr. Hector whose contacts are mentioned above, with “2020 Digital Inclusion Week” as the subject line.

All the information related to Digital Inclusion Week including events organized by all stakeholders, will be available on the dedicated website at:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2020/DIW/DIW.aspx>

We look forward to receiving your positive feedback and more importantly to collaborating with you to ensure the success of Digital Inclusion Week.

Yours sincerely,



Adel Darwish
Regional Director
ITU Arab Regional Office



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Encl. As indicated