I-CoDI Workshops
Crystallizing Regional Priorities in the Arab Region to prepare for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)

30th March 2021, 1000h-1330h | 31st March 2021, 1000h -12h00 (CET)

Innovation is identified as a priority area within the ITU-D Regional Initiatives and as a core objective of the 2017 Buenos Aires Action Plan. To further support the definition of regional priority areas in the Arab region for WTDC21, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will facilitate a special workshop series.

The workshops will have the following objectives:

- To support Member States to collect regional and national problem areas as a basis for potential future regional priorities
- To cluster and harmonize existing problem areas
- To prioritize key problem areas for future regional initiatives in view of their alignment with SGGs/WSIS action lines, regional needs and the potential for impactful demonstration projects and partnerships.

Day 1 of the workshop will start with an introduction and an onboarding exercise on the online collaboration tools. After an impulse session on regional drivers and gaps, we will start work in groups. Each group will collect all national and regional problem areas. In a second step, we will discuss relationships between different problem areas, establish potential overlaps and cluster them in areas for regional priorities. In a third step, the identified problem areas will be mapped on a timescale, to differentiate between short-, medium- and long-term opportunities. Finally, each group votes on 3-5 areas that they think most important.

The ITU team will review the contributions from the groups and further cluster them if needed for our "gallery of regional priority areas" **on Day 2.** Participants will be invited to review areas collected and

add their feedback in the plenary session. In a second step, participants will be asked to vote for those areas presented that they favor most. The results will be summarized, and the end of the workshop will be dedicated to mapping the results per selected areas on a Regional Priority Framing Canvas.

The resulting initial list of key regional priority areas will be validated and discussed in the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Arab Region on the 8th and 9th of April. It is planned to further refine the selected priority areas in deep dive sessions taking place from May to September 2021. The workshops will only include rrepresentatives of all ITU Membership.

As input to the workshop, participants are kindly asked to prepare **2-4 problems on national or regional level** that they would like to further discuss and analyze. Problem areas ideally have a clear connection to ITU´s mission and a set of defined beneficiaries in a particular geography [example: *"**gap in rural connectivity** for **women** in **Somalia**"].* More information on inputs required as well as technical onboarding and set up of collaboration tools can be found in the onboarding document shared with participants.

Agenda – Prioritization Workshops (CET)

30th of March

10:00 Welcome & Introduction
10:10 Introduction – Trends & Drivers
10.50 Warm-up exercise & Methodology
11:10 Break
11:20 Problem Discovery (**Groups**)
11:40 Priority area Clustering (**Groups**)
12:50 Priority area Horizons and voting (**Groups**)
13:20 Wrap up & Outlook Day 2
13:30 End

31st of March

10:00 Welcome & Introduction
10:15 Gallery walk and group feedback (Plenary)
10:45 Voting on 5 regional priorities (Plenary)
11:00 Summary of results (Plenary)
11:15 Regional Priority Area Framing canvas (**Groups**)
11:45 Wrap up & next steps
12:00 End

The workshops are facilitated by the newly established **International Center of Digital Innovation** (I-CoDI) and the ITU Office for the Arab region. The International Center of Digital Innovation experiments with new tools, processes and methods to create original approaches to complex development challenges, future-proofing ITU programs, products and services.

International Telecommunication Union