ITU Regional Workshop Towards Universal and Meaningful Connectivity for Arab Region

Algiers-Algeria, 11-12 November 2024

Time zone: GMT+1

Venue: Ecole Supérieure D'hôtellerie et de Restauration (ESHRA)

Agenda

Day 1: 11 November 2023

Time	Agenda Item
8:30 – 9:00	**Registration**
9:00 – 9:20	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** • **Mr. Adel Bentoumi, Président Directeur Général, Algérie Télécom SPA** • **Mr. Khaled Zarat, Chief Executive Officer, Télécom Algérie Group** • **Mr. Adel Darwish, Regional Director of ITU Regional Office for the Arab States** • **H.E. Mr. Karim Bibi Triki, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria**
9:20 – 9:24	**Keynote speech: Enabling environment for meaningful connectivity** • **Delivered by:** Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director General for Communication and Information, UNESCO and BB Commission member (Video Recorded Message)
9:24 – 9:40	Video on Infrastructure Development in Algeria
	Overview on BDT Connectivity Initiatives • **Mr. Walid Mathlouthi,** Head of Future Networks and Spectrum Management, ITU (Remotely) (Presentation)

Session 1: 09:40 – 11:00	**Setting the scene: ICT Infrastructure Development in the Arab Region** The session will provide an overview of ICT infrastructure development across the Arab region, bringing together perspectives from international and regional organizations as well as representatives from Arab countries. Panelists will share the current state of ICT infrastructure development within their countries, discuss key challenges, and present insights through case studies and lessons learned from large-scale ICT projects. This comprehensive overview aims to highlight diverse experiences and foster collaboration to address regional connectivity needs. **Moderator:** Ms. Adeleh Mojtahed, Programme Coordination | Giga, UN and Swissecosystem Lead **Panelists**: - **Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali**, Programme Officer, ITU (Presentation) - **Ms. Suha Osman**, League of Arab States (LAS): Regional strategies and policies - **Ms. Naima Dimbil**, Director of Interconnection, Pricing and Universal Access Department, National Communications Authority, Somalia (Remotely) (Presentation) - **Ms. Marwah M. Azzam**, Head of the Technical Standards Division-Universal Services Directorate, Communications and Media Commission (CMC), Iraq - **Mr. Lakhdar Hamdaoui**, Head of Access Network Division, Algérie Télécom, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Dahmani Habib,** Advisor to the CEO, Algérie Télécom, Algeria **Q & A**
11:00 – 11:30	*Coffee break*
Session 2: 11:30 – 13:00	**Evidence-Based Strategies and Policies for Broadband Deployment in Developing Countries** Broadband infrastructure, applications and services are fundamentally transforming the way we live and offer important opportunities for boosting economic growth, enhancing communications, improving energy efficiency, safeguarding the planet and improving people's lives. Broadband access has had a significant impact on the world economy. This session will discuss regulatory frameworks and policies to promote meaningful connectivity and broadband deployment. A focus will be on the digital divide, infrastructure investment, and best practices on cross-border connectivity. **Moderator**: **Mr. Mohamed Amine Benziane,** Head of ITU Standardization**,** Algérie Télécom, Algeria **Panelists**: - **Mr. José Luis Cervera-Ferri**, Senior Project Manager "Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity", ITU (Remotely) (Presentation) - **Mr. Pavel Mamchenkov**, ITU consultant (Presentation)

	- **Mr. Zeid Al Kadi**, Director of Licensees and Consumer Affairs, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan (Remotely) (Presentation) - **Mr. Smail Berrabah**, Director of Statistics, Studies, and Prospective, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Ayhane Benbouzid**, Director of the Telecommunications Systems Operations Center, Algeria Space Agency, Algeria **Q &A**
13:00 – 14:00	*Lunch break*
Session 3: **14:00 – 16:00**	**Co-Creating Solutions for Connecting the Unconnected** Broadband access for all is critical to achieving universal connectivity and digital inclusion. However, many developing countries lack automated tools that can easily be used to identify areas with inadequate or no access, making it difficult to prioritize funding and connectivity efforts. This session will present ITU tools for creating sustainable connectivity in underserved areas. It will serve to demonstrate the potential and impact of adopting evidence-based analysis, and more particularly mapping of infrastructure, to identify connectivity gaps. Further, to demonstrate how tools can assist the government, investors, and network providers in making quicker and more precise decisions. **Moderator**: **Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali**, Programme Officer, ITU **Panelists**: - **Mr. Ihar Shchetko**, Project Officer (Connectivity), ITU (Presentation) - **Mr. Sebastien Peytrignet**, Consultant, Data Scientist, ITU (Presentation) - **Ms. Zohra Yermeche**, Head of Connect To Learn, Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson (Presentation) - **Mr. Hani El Arja**, VP Connectivity Sales, MENA & Central Asia, Eutelsat ONEWEB - **Ms. Kenza Chettabi**, Deputy Director of the Universal Service for Electronic Communications, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria (Presentation) - **Ms. Nassima Chibani,** Director of Network Quality and Customer Perception, Mobilis - **Mr. Amir Kahli,** Head of Interconnection and International Relations, Algérie Télécom, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Amir Benidir**, Head of Sales, Marketing, and Innovation Division, Algérie Télécom, Algeria **Q&A** (How governments and investors can use these tools to prioritize funding and connectivity efforts.)

Day 2: 12 November 2024

Time	Agenda Item
09:00 – 09:10	*Recap from Day 1* **Mr. Mohamed Amine Benziane, Algérie Télécom**
Session 4: **09:10 – 10:30**	**A Multifaceted Approach to Achieving Sustainable and Meaningful Connectivity** The talk will focus on the different approaches for achieving sustainable connectivity through coordinated action. Case studies of meaningful connectivity initiatives will be presented, highlighting key services like e-health, e-government, and e-education. Speakers will share insights on sustainable connectivity projects. **Moderator**: Mr. Ihar Shchetko, Project Officer (Connectivity), ITU **Panelists**: - **Mr. Désiré Karyabwite**, Senior Coordinator (IP), ITU (Remotely) (Presentation) - **Mr. Muatasem Khairaddeen**, Head of Middle East and North Africa Service, Cullen International (Presentation) - **Ms. Adeleh Mojtahed**, Programme Coordination | Giga, UN and Swissecosystem Lead - **Mr. Abdelghani Khelladi**, Director of the National Center for the Integration of Pedagogical Innovations and the Development of Information and Communication Technologies in Education (CNIIPDTICE), Ministry of National Education, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Abdelwaheb Galizra**, Deputy Director, Infrastructure Security, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Hocine Allahoum**, Advisor to the CEO, Algérie Télécom, Algérie Télécom, Algeria (Presentation) **Q&A**
10:30 – 11:00	*Coffee break*
Session 5: **11:00 – 12:10**	**Panel discussions** **Multistakeholder Approaches to accelerate the Co-Deployment and Sharing of Infrastructure** This session aims to foster collaboration between operators, regulators, and service providers to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment, particularly for e-education, e-health, and telework. **Moderator:** Mr. Ali Abbassene, Chief Technology & Information Officer, Digital Development Support Enterprise (EADN) **Panelists:** - **Ms. Imme Philbeck**, Chief Economist and Director for Sector Development, SAMENA Telecommunications Council (Remotely) - **Ms. Zohra Yermeche**, Head of Connect To Learn, Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility, Ericsson

	- **Mr. Kamel Eddine Haragmi,** Director of Networks and Digital Development, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Algeria - Mr. Rimouche Mohamed Lamine, Director of Regulations and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria - Ms. Zoulikha Saidi**,** Director of Studies, responsible of managing the International Relations Unit, Regulatory Authority of Post and Telecommunications (ARPT), Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Rafik Bouachri**, Head of legal affairs and dispute settlement division, Algérie Télécom, Algeria - Mr Ismail Cherragui, Regulatory Affairs Director, Ooredoo, Algeria (Presentation) **Q&A**
Session 6: **12:10 – 13:00**	**Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities around implementing impactful digital connectivity projects** This session aims to review the status of ongoing projects, sharing of experiences and lessons learnt from among the membership and partners. **Moderator:** **Ms. Soumeya Benbertaoui,** Strategy Director, Group Telecom Algerie (GTA) **Panelists:** - Mr. Amar Ould Isselmou, Project Manager of Digital Transformation, Innovation and Modernization of Administration, Mauritania (Presentation Arabic - French) - Ms. Aissa El Bey Mounira, Head of Core Network Division, Algérie Télécom, Algeria (Presentation) - **Mr. Chikh Chafik**, Advisor to the CEO, Algérie Télécom, Algérie Télécom, Algeria - **Mr. Samir Takh**, Access Network BSS Senior Manager, Djezzy **Q & A**
13:00 – 14:00	*Lunch*
Session 7: **14:00 – 15:15**	**Roundtable** **Resilient Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies** This session will discuss emerging technologies and their ability to contribute to resilient infrastructure deployment. Initiative: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructure, connectivity and emerging technologies. **Moderator(s)**: Mr. Pavel Mamchenkov**, ITU consultant** **Panelists**: - Mr. Thomas Switala, ITU Consultant, and free space optic (Remotely) (Presentation) - Mr. Amr Ashour, Senior Manager, Market Access, MENA, Eutelsat Group (Presentation)

	- **Mr. Mohamed Dounane**, Strategic Partnerships & Business development Director, Algérie Télécom Group (GTA) ([Presentation](#)) - **Ms. Nacima Rachedi**, Ministry of Knowledge Economy and Startups, Algeria ([Presentation](#)) - **Mr. Jaber Babaammi**, Project Manager, Algérie Télécom Satellite, Algeria - **Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali**, Programme Officer, ITU ([Presentation](#)) **Q & A**
Session 8: **15:15 – 16:25**	**Smart Connectivity - Enabling Access to Online Services to Bridge the Digital Divide in the Arab Region** This session will explore how to enable increased access to achieve meaningful connectivity and digital transformation in the Arab Region. Discussions will emphasize sustainable connectivity solutions, energy-connectivity synergies, and infrastructure mapping. **Moderator**: **Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali**, Programme Officer, ITU **Panelists**: - **Mr. Ali Morsi**, ICT Development and Wireless Solution Manager, Huawei ([Presentation](#)) - **Mr. Hani Iskandar**, Project Implementation Lead, ITU (Remotely) ([Presentation](#)) - **Ms. Mariana Alcalay**, Education Programme Specialist, Regional Office for the Maghreb, UNESCO (Remotely) - **Ms. Maria Zervaki**, Senior Counsel, INTELSAT (Remotely) ([Presentation](#)) - **Mr. Stefanus van der Merwe**, Senior Manager, Operational Excellence (TMT), Deloitte (Remotely) ([Presentation](#)) - **Mr. Sofiane Bouzid**, Head of the Data Center Network Infrastructure Department, High Commission for Digitalization - **Mr. Nabi Ali**, Deputy Director, General Directorate of the Information Society, Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Algeria - **Ms. Mariama Benlaksira**, Head of Corporate and IT integration solutions, Algérie Télécom, Algeria ([Presentation](#)) **Q & A**
16:25 – 16:30	**Closing Session** **ITU & Host Country:** closing remarks and steps forward.