ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region (RDF-ARB)

Information and Communication Technologies for accelerating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals

Organized by the ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau
Hosted by Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Jordan

3 February 2025
Amman, Jordan

Public Webcast accessible via the RDF-ARB 2025 website

RDF-ARB 2025 is held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Arab Region
(4-5 February 2025)

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 3 February 2025

08:30 – 09:30	**Networking Coffee**
09:30 – 10:00	**OPENING CEREMONY**

- **H.E. Eng. Sami Smeirat,** Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava,** Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU
- **Dr. Khalid Wali,** Director, ICTs Development Dept., LAS
- **Ms. Barbara Manzi,** Regional Director for Arab States**,** UN Development Coordination Office
- **H.E. Eng. Bassam Al-Sarhan,** Chairman of the Board/CEO, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan

Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region

10:00 – 11:00	**ROUNDTABLE ONE:** State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges & Opportunities

This is a high-level roundtable, with the objective to discuss regional and country specific challenges and opportunities arising from digital development and transformation. The focus will be on the Arab States and how the region could accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab States through digital.

Setting the Stage: Presentation by BDT, ITU

Moderation: Regional Director**,** ITU Regional Office for the Arab States

Panellists:

· **H.E. Dr Mohamed Al Kuwaiti,** Head, Cybersecurity, United Arab Emirates
· **Mr Mustafa Y. Sheik**, Director General, National Communications Authority (NCA), Somalia
· **Mr. Mohamed Ben Amor**, Director General, Arab ICTs Organization (AICTO)
· **Mr. Muath S. ALRUMAYH,** General Manager of International Affairs, Communication, Space and Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia
· **Mr. Jawad Abbassi**, Head of MENA, GSMA
· **Dr. Chafic Chaya,** Regional Manager for Public Policy and Government Affairs – Middle East, Regional Internet Registry for Europe, Middle East and Central Asia (RIPE NCC)

	Signing & Announcement of Cooperations
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee Beak and the Official Photograph**

11:30 – 12:30   **ROUNDTABLE TWO:** Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships on Infrastructure Development for Universal Connectivity

This roundtable will explore strategies to accelerate digital infrastructure development, leveraging the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) to advance universal and meaningful connectivity. Speakers will share insights on innovative solutions, financing models, and policy frameworks, highlighting progress on P2C pledges and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive digital transformation.

Moderation: ITU Regional Office for Arab States

Panellists:

· **H.E. Dr. Nooh Alshyab,** Member of the Board of Commissioners, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Jordan
· **Ms. Maysa Monayer,** General Director for Spectrum and Transmission Administration, Ministry of Telecommunications & Digital Economy, Palestine
· **Mr. Jawad Abbassi**, Head of MENA, GSMA
· **Mr. Mohamed Boubacar,** Technical Advisor, Ministry of Digital Transformation and Modernization of Administration, Mauritania
· **Mr. Khaled Naguib Ahmed,** Advisor, Djibouti Telecom, Djibouti

12:30 -13:30   **NETWORK OF WOMEN ARAB STATES:** Building Connections, Empowering Futures

The Network of Women in ITU-D will delve into the profound impact of fostering strong professional networks among women in the telecommunications and information technology sectors. Discussions will focus on strategies to create inclusive environments that support women's growth and leadership, the significance of mentorship and sponsorship in empowering female professionals, and the ways in which collaborative efforts can drive innovation and transform the industry. Attendees will share experiences, best practices, and actionable insights to build connections that not only empower individual careers but also shape a more equitable future for all.

Moderation: **Mrs. Noha Gaafar,**
Chair, NoW Arab States and Head of International Policies Department, National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt
Panellists:

- · **Ms. Ava Nadir,** Chairperson**,** GEN Iraq
- · **Ms. Zena Bo-Harb,** Head of International Cooperation, OGERO, Lebanon
- · **Ms. Naima Hassan Dimbil,** Manager, Interconnection, Prices, Services & Universal Connectivity, NCA, Somalia
- · **Ms. Huda Rabayia,** Cloud Solution Sales Lead, Microsoft, Jordan
- · **Ms. Reem Al-Shammari,** Chairperson, Women in Cybersecurity Middle East (WiCSME), Kuwait
- · **Ms. Maha Ziad Mouasher,** Studies and Research Engineer, TRC, Jordan

Closing intervention and group photo:
- - **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava,** Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

13:30 – 14:30	**Lunch Beak**

14:30 – 15:30	**ROUNDTABLE THREE:** **P2C Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships for Capacity Development**

This roundtable will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful collaboration and strategic partnerships aimed at skills development across the Arab region. By aligning resources with real-world needs, the session will highlight innovative approaches to building sustainable, high-value partnerships that unlock transformative opportunities. It will focus on catalyzing impactful initiatives to accelerate the region's skills development agenda, driving inclusive and impactful capacity-building efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.

Moderation: ITU Regional Office for Arab States

Panellists:

- · **Mr. Ahmed Said** – Sector Head, International Policies & Relations Department, National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt
- · **Eng. Naima Hassan Dimbil**, Director of Interconnection, Wholesale, and Universal access and service department at the National Communications Authority of Somalia
- - **Mr. Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaid**, Senior ICT Specialist, Economic & Social Infrastructure Dept., Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- - **Mr. Samer Qubain**, Senior Advisor, GovTech Program, World Bank (WB)
- · **Ms. Nora Abdalla Hassan Basher**, Director, Infrastructure and Interconnection Department. Telecommunication and Post Regulatory Authority (TPRA), Sudan
- · **Mr. Fahd Batayneh**, Stakeholder Engagement Director - Middle East, ICANN

15:30 – 16:30	**ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Roundtable on the Implementation of ITU Regional Initiatives for the Arab States**

In WTDC-22 held in Kigali Rwanda, five regional initiatives were adopted on themes relevant to digital transformation, cybersecurity, infrastructure, innovation and digital regulation. Over the past three years the ITU Arab Regional Office collaborated with a spectrum of stakeholders on projects and activities across the region in implementation of these regional initiatives. This session will shed light on some of the key achievements in implementing these regional initiatives. Moreover, as we prepare for the upcoming WTDC-25 the Arab region has already started shaping the new Arab Regional Initiatives. This session will also discuss regional priorities that could contribute to the new Arab Regional Initiatives.

Presentation of the Implementation of RIs by Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Arab States

Moderation: ITU Regional Office for Arab States

Panellists:

- **Mr. Jaafar Al Manaseer**, Head of International Cooperation & Strategic Partnerships, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan
- **Mr. Abdulla** Jaber, Broadcasting Service Engineer, Telecommunications and Digital Government Authority, UAE
- **Eng. Ahmed Abdel Aziz**, Executive Vice President for National Projects, National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, Egypt
- **Eng. Mustafa Al – Bahbahani,** Head of International Relations Affairs Department, Communications and Media Commission (CMC) of Iraq
- **Eng. Qusai Saleem,** Acting Executive Director – MeemAin

16:30 – 17:00	Coffee Break

17:00 – 17:30	**GENERATION CONNECT EVENT: Intergenerational dialogue on challenges and opportunities in the field of digital development in the Arab Region**

The Generation Connect Event: Intergenerational Dialogue on Challenges and Opportunities in the Field of Digital Development in the Arab Region will serve as a pivotal event for Arab youth in the lead-up to the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) for the Arab States as part of the preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25), This event will focus on fostering dialogue between youth, ministries, ITU leadership, and other key stakeholders to reflect on regional priorities and initiatives.

Moderation: **Mr. Ali Reyad Ali Dwairi**, Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Arab Group, Jordan

Panellists:

- **Mr. Ibrahim Al-Shibli,** Spectrum Monitoring Engineer, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan
- **Mr. Hosam Atef Mohmmad Shawaqfeh,** Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Arab Group, Jordan

- **Ms. Nada Bennouri,** Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Arab Group, Tunisia
- **Mr. Sayed Husain Mohamed,** Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Arab Group, Bahrain
- **Mr. Sami Mohammed Sa'ed,** Generation Connect Youth Envoy, Arab Group, Jordan

Closing intervention and group photo:
- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava,** Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

17:30 – 18:00	**Closing Ceremony**

· **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava,** Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau
· **H.E. Eng. Bassam Al-Sarhan,** Chairman of the Board/CEO, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan and, Chair of the RDF-ARB 2025

END of RDF

| **18:15- 18:45** | **Regional Preparatory Meeting – Informal Heads of Delegation meeting (by invitation only)** |
| **20:00** | **Gala Dinner offered by Host Country (Movenpick Hotel)** |