# *BEIRUT DECLARATION*

**TOWARDS AN  INFORMATION SOCIETY  IN WESTERN ASIA**

**(**DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES)

# Declaration Structure

- **PREAMBLE**
- **REGIONAL VISION OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY**
- **OBJECTIVES**
- **DEVELOPING AN INFORMATION SOCIETY**
- **ICT PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**
- **TOWARDS AN ICT STRATEGY**
- **FOLLOW-UP**

# PREAMBLE

- Region's characteristics: Political instability, sanctions, embargo

- Impact on technological development:
    - Infrastructure penetration below World average
    - Uneven distribution of services and facilities
    - Low utilization of ICTs and applications
    - Deprivation of unprivileged segments

# REGIONAL VISION

- Far-reaching commitments and policy measures
- Sustainable and equitable transformation
- UN Millennium Development Goals
- Turning point: opportunity to harness ICTs for shaping of the future without risking the loss cultural identity
- ICT threats and challenges, plus globalization transformed into opportunities

# OBJECTIVES

- **Promoting a common vision for the information society both at the national and regional levels;**

- **Formulating innovative policies and ICT strategies that benefit socio-economic development, reducing poverty and increasing growth and employment;**

- **Facilitating attainment of UN Millennium Development Goals;**

- **Formulating an agenda for action to bridge the digital divide, stressing the needs of youth, women and underprivileged groups;**

- **Promoting a framework for national, regional and international partnerships;**

- **Adopting modalities for policy/strategy implementation with emphasis on achieving tangible objectives.**

# DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

- **1. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ICT POLICY FORMULATION, AND THE ENABLING REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT**

  - Formulating clear national and regional policies
  - Removing social and cultural barriers that impede transformation into the Information Society
  - Legal, regulatory and policy reform taking into consideration the need for building the Information Society
  - Adopting and enforcing standards and norms

# DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

## 2. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Enhancing and integrating the infrastructure to narrow the digital divide**

- **Ensuring governance of Internet and ICT resources**

- **Developing appropriate ICT indicators**

- **Securing national domain names**

# DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

## 3. ICT APPLICATIONS

- **Implementing and standardizing e-government applications**

- **Promoting e-learning programmes and projects**

- **Applying e-health**

- **Restructuring for e-business**

- **Developing Arabic e-content, applications and tools**

# 4. ICT PRODUCTION AND SERVICE SECTOR

- **Developing ICT production capabilities, including software development**

- **Improving ICT services**

- **Increasing research and development**

- **Promoting investment and financing in the sector**

# DIRECTIONS FOR DEVELOPING THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

## 5. ICT CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Developing human resources through education and training**
- **Building institutions for information and knowledge management**
- **ICT university programme and post graduate studies**
- **Promoting research, development and innovation**

## ICT PRIORITIES

- **ICT Policy and the creation of an enabling environment**
- **ICT Infrastructure expansion**
- **Government applications**
- **e-business**
- **e-learning and e-education**
- **Arabic (regional) content**
- **ICT production and service sector**
- **Capacity building**

# TOWARDS AN ICT STRATEGY

- Funding to aim the regional capital markets
- Government spending on R and D and higher education
- Regulatory schemes to the enhance private sector in terms of human resource development, infrastructure and institution building
- Stakeholders' needs to be taken into consideration in the process of transformation to the Information Society
- Effective measures for monitoring performance
- Building partnerships
- Organizational approaches
- Investment promotion strategy