



ITU Regional Development Forum for the Arab States (RDF-ARB)

ICT④SDGs: Towards the implementation of WTDC17 outcomes

**Organized by the
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

**At the kind invitation of the
Ministère de la Poste, des Télécommunications, des Technologies et du
Numérique
Algeria**

12-13 February, 2018

Algiers, Algeria

Recognizing

- Resolution 25 (Rev. Guadalajara 2010) on the regional presence
- Resolution 71 (Hyderabad, 2010) on the strengthening of cooperation between Member States and Sector Members, including the private sector;

The Regional Development Forum for the Arab Region (RDF-ARB) 2018 will be organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Algiers, Algeria, from 12 to 13 February 2017, at the kind invitation of the Ministère de la Post, des Télécommunications, des Technologies et du Numérique of the Republic of Algeria. Its overall theme echoed the WTDC-16's focus on "ICT④SDGs".

Objectives:

The objective of the ITU Regional Development Forum is to provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the BDT and decision-makers, governments and regulators, of ITU Member States and Sector Members. RDFs serve as a privileged platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between world telecommunication development conferences. In this context, the forum aims at reporting on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on regional initiatives in order to get feedback from membership to adjust BDT's work in the regions.



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Draft Agenda

Day1: 12 February 2018

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:50 Welcome Addresses

09:50 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker

10:00 – 10:30 Group Photo and Coffee Break

Session 1: WTDC 17 Outcomes

10:30 – 11:00 Presentation

- ITU-D Objectives
- BaAP18-21
- WTDC 17 Regional Initiatives

11:00 – 12:00 Introduction to Arab Regional Initiatives 2018-2021 (RIs-ARBs)

12:00 – 12:30 Discussions

Session 2: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB1 - Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Communications.

Climate change and disasters pose serious adverse impacts on the environment. The impact of human activities on the environment and on climate change in particular are issues of growing concern confronting life on Earth. However, ICTs offer new opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate change. ICTs help to monitor and analyze short- and long-term climate trends, raise awareness, help protect the environment and reduce carbon emissions and disasters. Among other issues related to environment, emergency telecommunications and climate change, the session will cover the following issues:

- What are the environmental framework in the areas of ICTs and climate change?
- The critical role of Emergency Telecommunications in all phases of disasters.
- The positive contribution of ICTs in climate change mitigation and adaption

Session 3: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB2- Building Confidence and Security in the Use of Telecommunications/ICTs

The Internet evolved from an information exchange platform to the backbone of business engines, critical services and infrastructures, social networks, and the global



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economy. In today's emerging knowledge society, information security became the biggest challenge in all sectors. Some of the questions the session will tackle are:

- What are the emerging security threats that will surface in the near future?
- How to enhance dialogue and coordination among Member States, as well as engage private sector, academia, civil society and relevant international organizations on mechanisms to enhance cooperation on cybersecurity?
- How to secure national critical infrastructures in order to instigate confidence for the world citizens and unleash the potential of the safe use of ICTs?
- What are the new trends in cybersecurity?

Day 2: 13 February 2018

Session 4: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB3- Digital Financial Inclusion

Globally, impressive gains in the development of digital financial services (DFS) for financial inclusion have been made in recent years. However, progress has been slow in most of the Arab region for various reasons including legal and regulatory challenges, lack of awareness on the opportunities among stakeholders, and lack of coherent coordination among the financial and ICT sector. This session will shed light on some country experiences in the Arab region and focus on the challenges, opportunities and prospects for Digital Financial Inclusion (DFI) in the Arab region, particularly in light of the relevant global initiatives. Moreover, a four-year plan for the period 2018-2021 will be presented as the ITU Arab Regional Office's proposal to implement the new Arab Regional Initiative on DFI as adopted in the last WTDC 2017. In specific, the session will touch upon the following issues:

- What is Digital Financial Inclusion? And how can access to financial services through ICTs benefit societies?
- What is the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative and how can the Arab region benefit from it?
- How have some Arab countries benefited recently from Digital Financial Services and what are some of the challenges they are facing hindering further benefits?
- What are the prospects for Digital Financial Inclusion globally and regionally?

Session 5: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB4 - Internet of Things (IoT), Smart Cities, and Big Data



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As the Internet of Things expands, its potential is being explored to boost the urban ecosystem. The huge volumes of generated data from different classical and new sources have given rise to big data technologies and data science techniques.

In this regard, the concepts of IoT and Big Data are being promoted as a key enabler for paving the way to smart sustainable cities. Smart sustainable cities are able to reap the benefits of a secure Internet of Things infrastructure to create safer, more efficient and environmentally conscious living corridors for the growing urban population.

This session will reimagine the implementation of the IoT and Big Data paradigm and address the current urban challenges by creating countless smart and sustainable solutions for advantage of the future generations.

Main Discussion Points:

- Adopting the IoT Paradigm: Challenges and Opportunities
- Introduction to ITU-T Study Group 20 “IoT and its applications”
- Fostering IoT innovation in smart sustainable cities
- Resilience of the IoT Infrastructure in smart sustainable cities
- Impact of IoT on Development in the Arab region
- Technology trends in big data and data science
- Big data case studies in different developmental projects and verticals
- The big data transformations

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

Session 6: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB5- Innovation and entrepreneurship

Youth unemployment is one of the world’s key development challenges.

It is pertinent how ICTs can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 entitled “Promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all” as a key objective.

ICTs offer promising solutions-digital jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities. The ongoing information technology revolution is transforming established sectors from agriculture to health and creating new ones from microwork to apps development. This requires people with the skills to both use and develop the computer, mobile phone and internet applications that are powering these changes.

This session will discuss:

- The opportunities that digital skills represent for employment in all sectors as ICTs continue to infiltrate nearly all aspects of our lives.



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- Which regional mechanisms and strategies to stimulate and enrich the culture of innovation in the ICT in the region.
- The opportunities for partnerships between all stakeholders.

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

Session 7:

- 15:00 – 15:30:**
- ITU-D Study Groups Cycle 2018-2021
 - ITU Special Initiatives
 - ITU Centres of Excellence, Membership/Academia

15:30 – 16:00 Closing Remarks