



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**

Agenda

Day1: 12 February 2018

08:30 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:55 Welcome Addresses

- Mr. Fouad Belkessam, Secrétaire Général, Ministère de la Poste, des Télécommunications, des Technologies et du Numérique, Algeria
- Mr. Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

09:55 – 10:00 • Video "A Brighter Future for All" #ICTS4SDGS

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

Session 1: Review of Implementation of the Arab Regional Initiatives 2014-2017 & Lessons Learned
10:30 – 11:15

Implementation of Arab Regional Initiatives by Mr. Ebrahim Al Haddad, Regional Director, ITU ARO
Open discussions and feedback

Session 2: WTDC 17 Outcomes
11:15- 12:30

Presentation by Mr. Ebrahim Al Haddad, Regional Director, ITU ARO

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

Introduction to Arab Regional OP 2018-2021: by ITU-ARO
Discussions



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Session 3: 12:30- 14:00 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

Speakers:

- Dr. Keith R. Dickerson, Director, Climate Associates Ltd. (**Remotely**), *The positive contribution of ICTs in climate change mitigation and adaptation*
- Eng. Mohamed Amine Benziane, Algérie Télécom, Algeria, *Emergency communications and Climate change*
- Ms. Aryg Ahmed, NTC, Sudan, *Role of ICTs in all phases of disaster as well as the importance of National Emergency Telecom Plans*

Regional Initiative ARB1 – proposed four-year action plan for the Arab region by Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU ARO
Discussions

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break

Session 4: 15:00- 16:30 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 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?



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- 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?

Speakers:

- Dr. Sid-Ahmed Berrani, ICT Expert, Algeria, *Confidence and Security in the Use of ICTs: A Holistic Approach is Required*
- Dr. Mohammed A. Alam, Supervisor General of Cybersecurity Program, Dean of ITC, Naif Arab University for Security Science (NAUSS), Saudi Arabia, *The Role of Universities in Cyber Security*
- Dr. Shiv K. Bakhshi, Vice President, Industry Relations, Ericsson, Inc., *Security and Networks Creating a secure business in a hyper connected world*

Regional Initiative ARB2 – proposed four-year action plan for the Arab region by Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU ARO

Discussions

Day 2: 13 February 2018

Session 5:
09:00- 10:30

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?

Speakers:



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- Ms. Rajalakshmi Devarajan, MBA, PMP, BCCE, Information Technology Authority, Oman (**Remotely**), *Digital Financial Inclusion: An Economic Game Changer*
- Mr. Vijay Mauree, Programme Coordinator, Standardization Bureau, ITU (**Remotely**), *Digital Financial Services*
- Dr. Riad Hartani, Global Technologist, Algeria, *Financial Technologies intersecting Internet Technologies – Trends, challenges and multi-dimensional socio-economic impacts*
- Ms. Aziza Khalil, Economic Affairs, NTRA, Egypt, *Digital Financial Inclusion in Egypt*
- Mr. Fazil Bouaiach, Government Affairs Director, Djezzy (VEON Company in Algeria), *Mobile Financial Services*

Regional Initiative ARB3– proposed four-year action plan for the Arab region by Mr. Ebrahim Al Haddad, Regional Director, ITU ARO

Discussions

Session 6:
10:30- 12:00

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

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

Speakers:

- Mr. Ali Abbassene, Expert at MPTTN, Algeria, *ITU-T SG20 standardization activities - involvement and interests of the Arab region (SG20RG-ARB)*



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- Dr. Brahim Ghribi, Head of Government Relations, MEA, Nokia, *Capitalizing on IoT*
- Dr. Bharat Vagadia, Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs, Ooredoo Group (**Remotely**), *Building an ecosystem for a digital nation*

Regional Initiative ARB4– proposed four-year action plan for the Arab region by Mr. Slaheddine Maaref, Programme Coordinator, ITU ARO

Discussions

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

Session 7: WTDC 17 Regional Initiative ARB5- Innovation and entrepreneurship
12:30- 14:00

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.
- 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.

Speakers:

- Dr. Nibal Idlebi, Chief, Innovation Section, ESCWA (**Remotely**), *Fostering Entrepreneurship Eco-System in the Arab region*
- Mr. Yacine Hidouche, Directeur des Systemes d'Informations, National Agency for the Promotion and Development of Technology Parks, Algeria, *The Agency's role in the emergence of a national ICT ecosystem*
- Mr. Osama Ghanim, CEO, INNOVABIA, *Innovation & Entrepreneurship Status in the Arab World*

Regional Initiative ARB5– proposed four-year action plan for the Arab region by Mr. Slaheddine Maaref, Senior Advisor, ITU ARO

Discussions

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch Break



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Session 8:

15:00 – 15:30

- ITU-D Study Groups Cycle 2018-2021 by Mr. Slaheddine Maaref, Senior Advisor, ITU ARO
- ITU Digital Inclusion by Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali, programme Officer, ITU ARO
- ITU Academy and Centres of Excellence by Ms. Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU ARO
- Academia Membership by Mr. Slaheddine Maaref, Senior Advisor, ITU ARO
Discussions

15:30 – 16:00

Closing Remarks
ITU representative
Algeria representative