Arabic Domain Names System (ADNS) and the Arab Internet Governance Forum (AIGF)
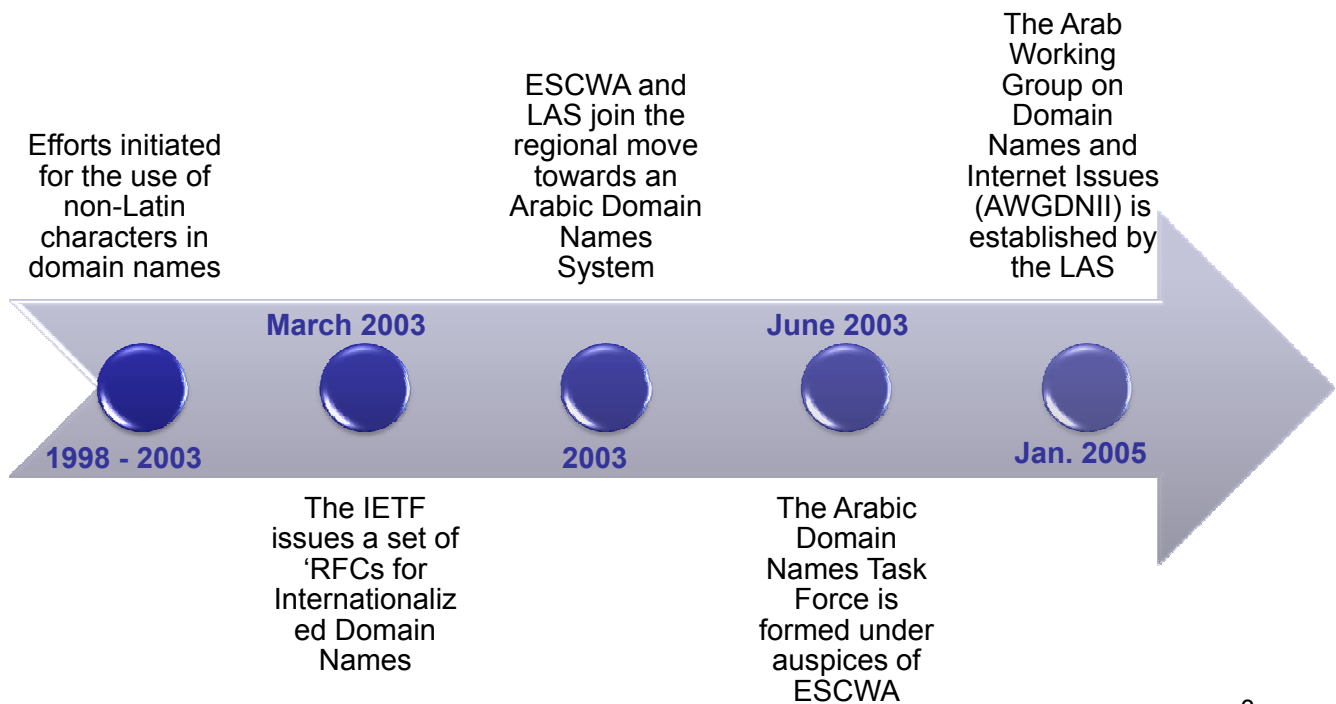
Ayman El-Sherbiny & Team
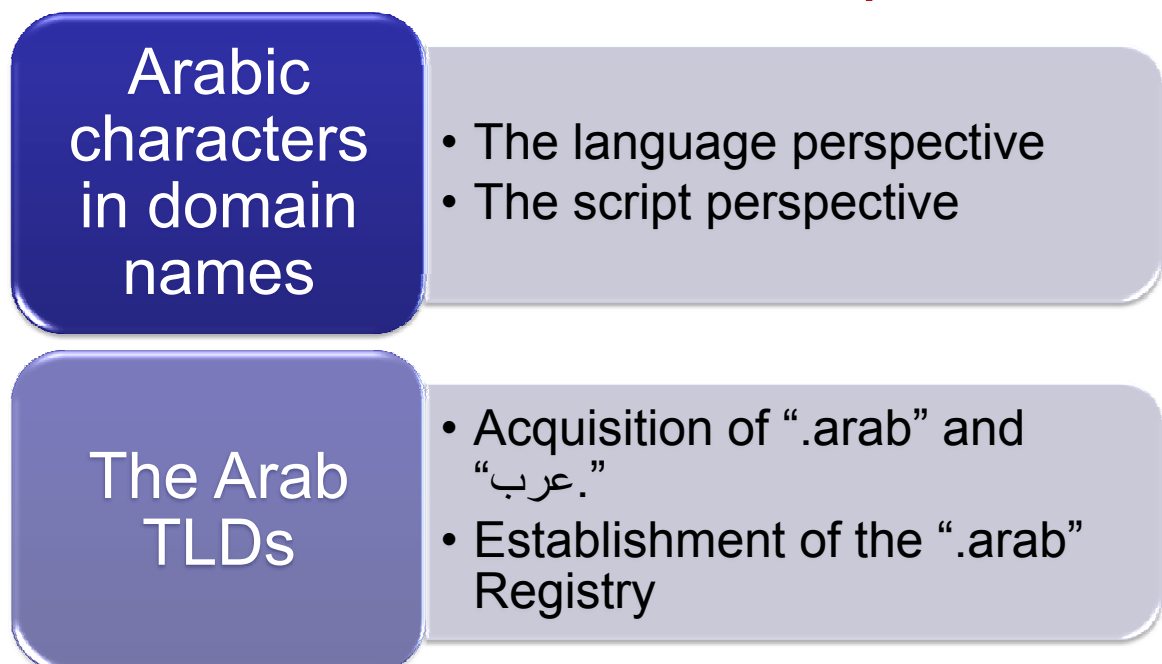
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Part I
Arabic Domain Names System (ADNS)

ESCWA and the ADNS: Early Involvements

Efforts initiated for the use of non-Latin characters in domain names

ESCWA and LAS join the regional move towards an Arabic Domain Names System

The Arab Working Group on Domain Names and Internet Issues (AWGDNII) is established by the LAS

1998 - 2003

March 2003

2003

June 2003

Jan. 2005

The IETF issues a set of 'RFCs for Internationalized Domain Names

The Arabic Domain Names Task Force is formed under auspices of ESCWA

3

ESCWA's Activities & Components

Arabic characters in domain names

- The language perspective
- The script perspective

The Arab TLDs

- Acquisition of ".arab" and "عرب."
- Establishment of the ".arab" Registry

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ESCWA's Activities & Components

Arabic characters in domain names
- The language perspective
- The script perspective

The Arab TLDs
- Acquisition of ".arab" and ".عرب"
- Establishment of the ".arab" Registry

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Arabic Characters in Internet Domain Names

Overview

- In 2005, ESCWA published its first study on "Development of an Arabic Domain Name System" which addressed technical, linguistic and operational aspects.

- The position of ICANN evolved during the years from earlier reluctance to implement IDN at the root level towards more acceptance of IDNs;

- In 2006, ICANN announced its intentions to consider the use of IDN strings in the TLD and planned for a laboratory test → **the test showed no negative impact on involved systems.**

The Language Perspective (1/2)

- ICANN launched another test for IDN in October 2007. This test allowed for the use of IDN strings in live root servers, the domain example.test was tested for 11 different languages.

- An Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project (ADNPP) was launched; Implemented between 2005 and 2007, the ADNPP evaluation had the following conclusion:

"In light of the current status of the Arabic pilot project, and given the tests carried by ICANN which confirm the results achieved, the pilot project constitutes a valid "proof of concept" on the use of Arabic characters in a full IDN.IDN implementation";

The Language Perspective (2/2)

- Publishing RFC-5564 entitled "Linguistic Guidelines for the Use of the Arabic Language in Internet Domains";
- Specificities of the Arabic language:
  - <u>Diacritics and Shadda</u>: not permitted in the zone file.
  - <u>Kasheeda (Tatweel):</u> not permitted;
  - <u>Character folding</u>: which is folding multiple letters which have the same shape into one letter is not permitted. Such as folding (ي and ى) or (و and ؤ).
  - <u>Numerals</u>: the following sets are both supported, however, numeral homogeneity is required in the domain label:
    - 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9;
    - ٠, ١, ٢, ٣, ٤, ٥, ٦, ٧, ٨, ٩

The Script Perspective

(2/2)

The Arabic Script Perspective

- Formation of the Arabic Script in IDNs Workgroup (ASIWG):
  - Arabic script is used by many languages other than Arabic: Urdu, Persian, Kurdish, Pashto, etc.
  - ASIWG was formed in March 2008 as a self-organizing group. It aims to harmonize efforts on the use of Arabic script in IDNs by different community groups.

- ASIWG communication means:
  - four face-to-face meetings;
  - online mailing list;
  - Posting technical material and information on its wiki site: http://www.arabic-script-domains.org/wiki/Main_Page

Outcomes of ASIWG Discussion

Highlights of main discussion outcomes

- Numeral homogeneity is required for the case of the Arabic script (no mixing at the protocol level);
- Disallow characters such as honorific signs and TATWEEL;
- The use of the <SPACE> character in the Arabic script is considered an "Application Layer" issue, and will be either resolved at a later stage or by a different group;
- Diacritics (Harakat) currently pose security and operational issues, ASIWG recommended implementing IDNs without diacritics. Once concrete solutions that assure security, implementation, usability and stability exist, ASIWG will recommend appropriate guidelines.

ESCWA's Activities & Components

Arabic characters in domain names

- The language perspective
- The script perspective

The Arab TLDs

- Acquisition of ".arab" and ".عرب"
- Establishment of the ".arab" Registry

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The Top Level Domain Names Space

Why expand?

TLD Industry Overview

- At the end of the second quarter of 2011, there were over 215 million domain name registrations across all of the TLDs. This represents a 8.6% growth over one year;

- The base of ccTLDs was 84.6 million domain names, a 3.6% increase in one year; the rest 130 million domain names are gTLDs

- **.com** remains the leader in the total number of registrations (base size) followed by .de (Germany), .net, .org, .info, .nl (Netherlands), .cn, .eu (European Union) and .ru (Russian Federation) .
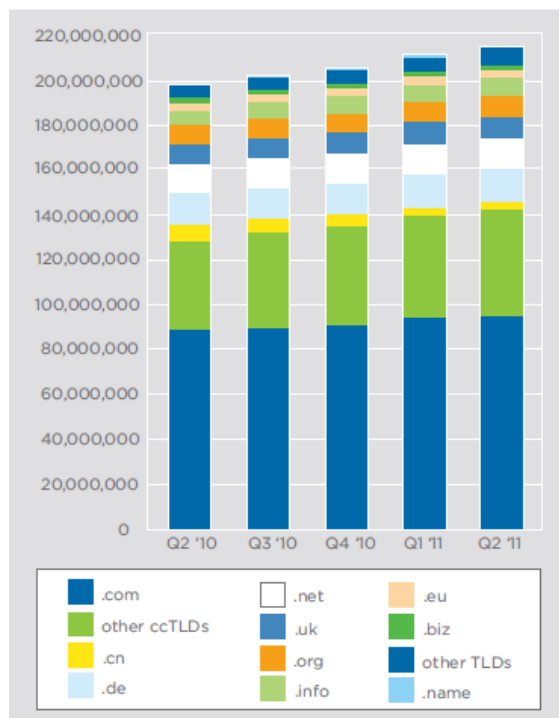
Source: Verisign. Aug. 2011. The Domain Name Industry Brief.

Growth of New Registrations

- Almost 13 million new domain names were registered in all TLDs in Q2 of 2011.

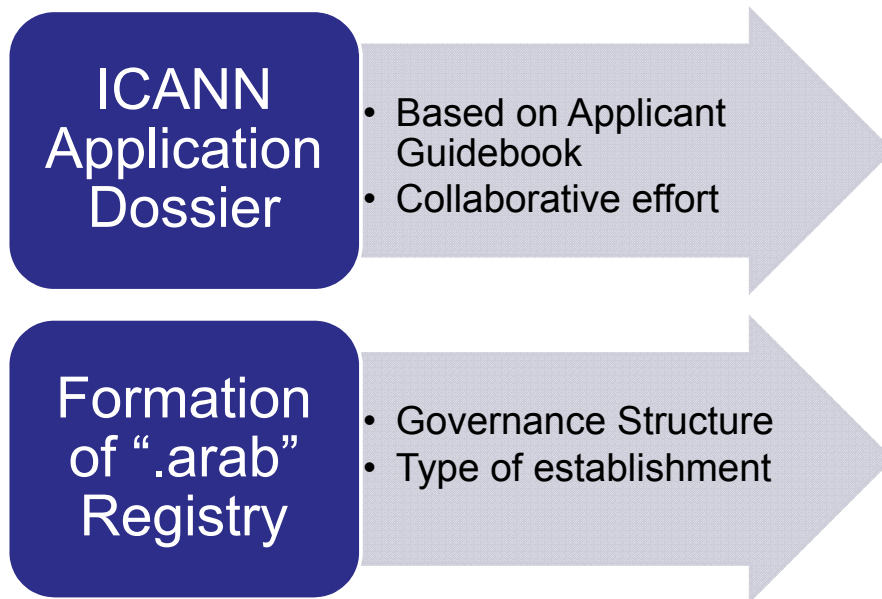- Leading the way are **.com** and **.net**.
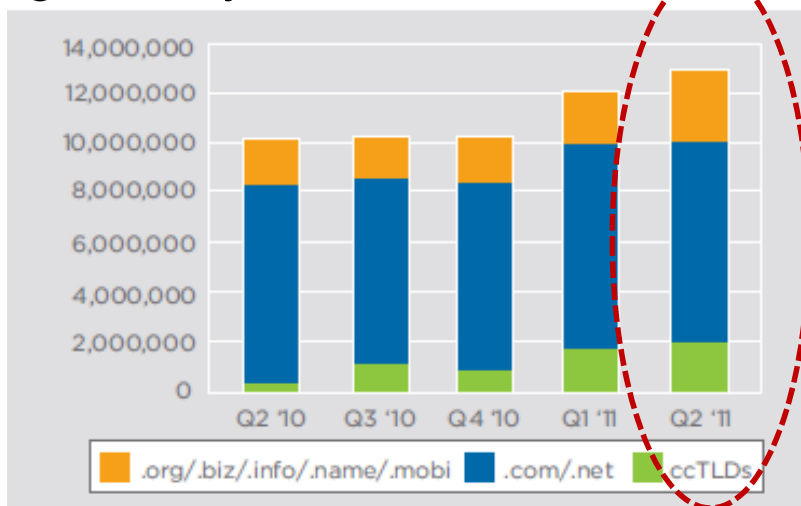
Source: Verisign. Aug. 2011. The Domain Name Industry Brief.

The Arab TLDs
.arab and عرب.

Opportunity for the Arab Region

- The need to reserve the **.arab** has *a cultural and regional dimension*.
- In their meeting of July 2008, AWGDNII decided to proceed with the necessary steps to acquire the Arab gTLDs "**.arab**" and "عرب.".
- **ESCWA developed a Preliminary Feasibility study on *Establishment of the Domain Name Registry for the ".arab" and "عربي." Generic Top Level Domains*:**
  - an initial assessment of the feasibility of establishing a registry for the "**.arab**" and "عرب." TLDs;
  - analysis of relevant technical and operational requirements;
  - overview of business, marketing, legal, financial and capital funding aspects.

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Practical Steps Towards ".arab"

ICANN Application Dossier

- Based on Applicant Guidebook
- Collaborative effort

Formation of ".arab" Registry

- Governance Structure
- Type of establishment

The Dot Arab Steering Committee

- Formed by the LAS in collaboration with ESCWA as a necessity to:
  - discuss and undertake the means for acquiring the Arab TLDs;
  - build the associated global Registry.
- Convenes regular, periodic meetings.
- Involved organizations: ESCWA, LAS and ITU.

The ".arab" Registry (1/2)

> **Mission statement**: to promote the Arab community's identity as well as the use of the Arabic language on the internet, by providing access to domain name registration systems that support the Arabic community and provide the members of this community with effective means to communicate with each other as well as other users of the internet using their own identities, brand names, trademarks and proprietary TLDs.

- The governance structure and implementation modality of the ".arab" Registry raised considerable controversy during DASC meetings:
  - private or not-for-profit;
  - operations outsourced or built in-house.
- A Request for Information exercise was designed and launched by DASC in 2010.

The ".arab" Registry (2/2)

The Arab TLD Charter - A Strategic Framework for Defining, Implementing and Managing the Arab gTLDs

- A very comprehensive document covering 2010-2012;
- Developed by ESCWA upon the request of DASC;
- Defines the vision, strategy, rules, and guidelines for all organizations, stakeholders, participants, registrars and registrants who will participate in the ".arab" project.

Concluding Remarks

- Application dossier will go through ICANN's evaluation process once the application period opens *from12 January to 12 April 2012.*

- ESCWA will continue to provide technical support and advice to LAS in upcoming.

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Summary(1/2)

- Evaluation of the Arabic Domain Names Pilot Project (ADNPP): *In light of the current status of the Arabic pilot project, and given the tests carried by ICANN which confirm the results achieved, the pilot project constitutes a valid "proof of concept" on the use of Arabic characters in a full IDN.IDN implementation*

- RFC-5564 entitled "Linguistic Guidelines for the Use of the Arabic Language in Internet Domains" - globally acknowledged;

- Regional discussions through *Arabic Script in IDNs Workgroup (ASIWG)* with non-Arabic languages.

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Summary (2/2)

- Preliminary Feasibility study on Establishment of the Domain Name Registry for the ".arab" and "عربي." Generic Top Level Domains;
- The Arab TLD Charter - A Strategic Framework for Defining, Implementing and Managing the Arab gTLDs;
- *Submission of the application dossier successfully completed with ICANN.*

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Part II
Arab Internet Governance Forum (AIGF)

Background

- Internet Governance is the "development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet";
- It has been the subject of an open, bottom-up multi-stakeholder process known as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF);
- Five global IGFs were held between 2006 and 2010 in its first mandate.

IGF Themes from Athens till Nairobi

IGF-I, Athens, 2006	IGF-II, Rio de Janeiro, 2007	IGF-III, Hyderabad, 2008
-Access -Diversity -Openness -Security	- Access - Diversity - Openness - Security - Critical Internet Resources	- Reaching the next billion; - Promoting Cyber-Security and Trust; -Managing Critical Internet Resources.

IGF-IV, Sharm el Sheikh, 2009	IGF-V, Vilnius, 2010	IGF-VI, Nairobi, 2011
- Managing critical Internet resources; - Security, openness and privacy; - Access and diversity; - Internet governance in the light of WSIS principles;	- Managing critical Internet resources - Security, openness and privacy - Access and diversity - Internet governance for development - Cloud computing	- Managing critical Internet resources -Internet governance for development - Access and diversity - Security, openness and privacy - Emerging issues: mobile use

ESCWA Internet Governance Activities

Concept

- As the IGF process was reaching its closure date, a regional initiative had to be launched.
- It was essential to harmonize efforts between the LAS, ESCWA and other relevant organizations, covering all Arab countries.

→ "**Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance (ADIG)**".

- **Goal**: the development of a regional roadmap and the establishment of an Arab IGF - both would set the path for IG activities in parallel with the extension of the IGF process.

Major Components of the
Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance

Study on Internet Governance	**Collaborative Roadmap on IG**	**A proposed Arab IGF concept**
Call of Arab Stakeholders	**Joint Public Meetings and Open Consultations**	**Interactive Portal**

ESCWA Study on Internet Governance

Objectives

- Provide a general overview of the IG debate focusing on critical Internet resources, access, and diversity.
- Provide a better understanding of common challenges and prospects of Internet governance and how to respond to those challenges.
- Provide a set of recommendations for the Arab region to launch key initiatives to enhance its position vis-à-vis the global community as far as Internet governance is concerned.
- Assist in formulating opinions and positions on selected issues related to IG from an Arab perspective.
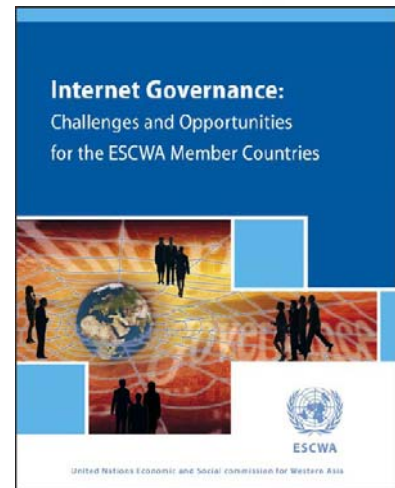
The study was used as an input to the fourth IGF (November 2009)

Internet Governance:
Challenges and Opportunities
for the ESCWA Member Countries

ESCWA

United Nations Economic and Social commission for Western Asia

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Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance:

Framework, Principles and Objectives

Arab Regional Roadmap
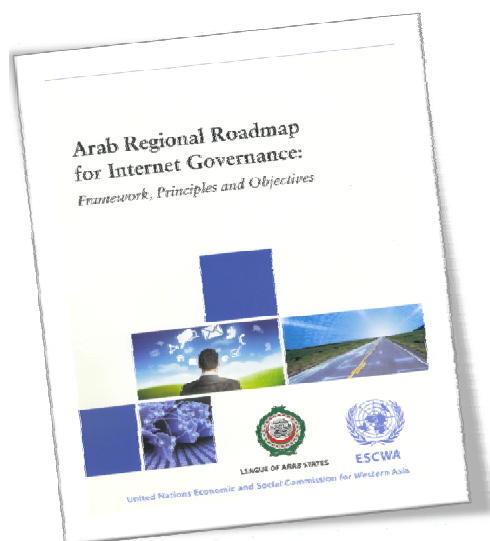
- Sets the path for IG activities during the coming 5 years in parallel with the extension of the IGF process.
- Represents a clear strategic framework that:
  - Serves as a guideline for decision- and policy-makers in the Arab countries;
  - Provides a first step to launch a future follow-up process;
  - Enables Arab countries to effectively act on their views and needs within the global arena, hence proactively participate in an optimal global policy structure for Internet Governance;
  - Promotsthe role of Arab countries as effective players in the global Internet society.

A Regional Shared Vision

- The Arab countries are required to take **far-reaching commitments and policy measures** to ensure an appropriate position of the Arab region in the Internet governance arena.
- The regional vision of Internet governance aims at providing a turning point where countries will have the opportunity to **participate in Internet governance and reap its benefits** for shaping their future without the risk of losing cultural identity.
- A shared understanding should help these countries towards transforming the threats and challenges of the Internet into opportunities for development.

Without the Roadmap: Risks

- Dispersed, and possibly duplicated, efforts in all Internet governance issues;

- Weak representation of the region in international policy-making bodies;

- Minimal or even lack of regional partnerships for Internet governance;

- Absence of a point of reference for formulating national policies, projects and initiatives.
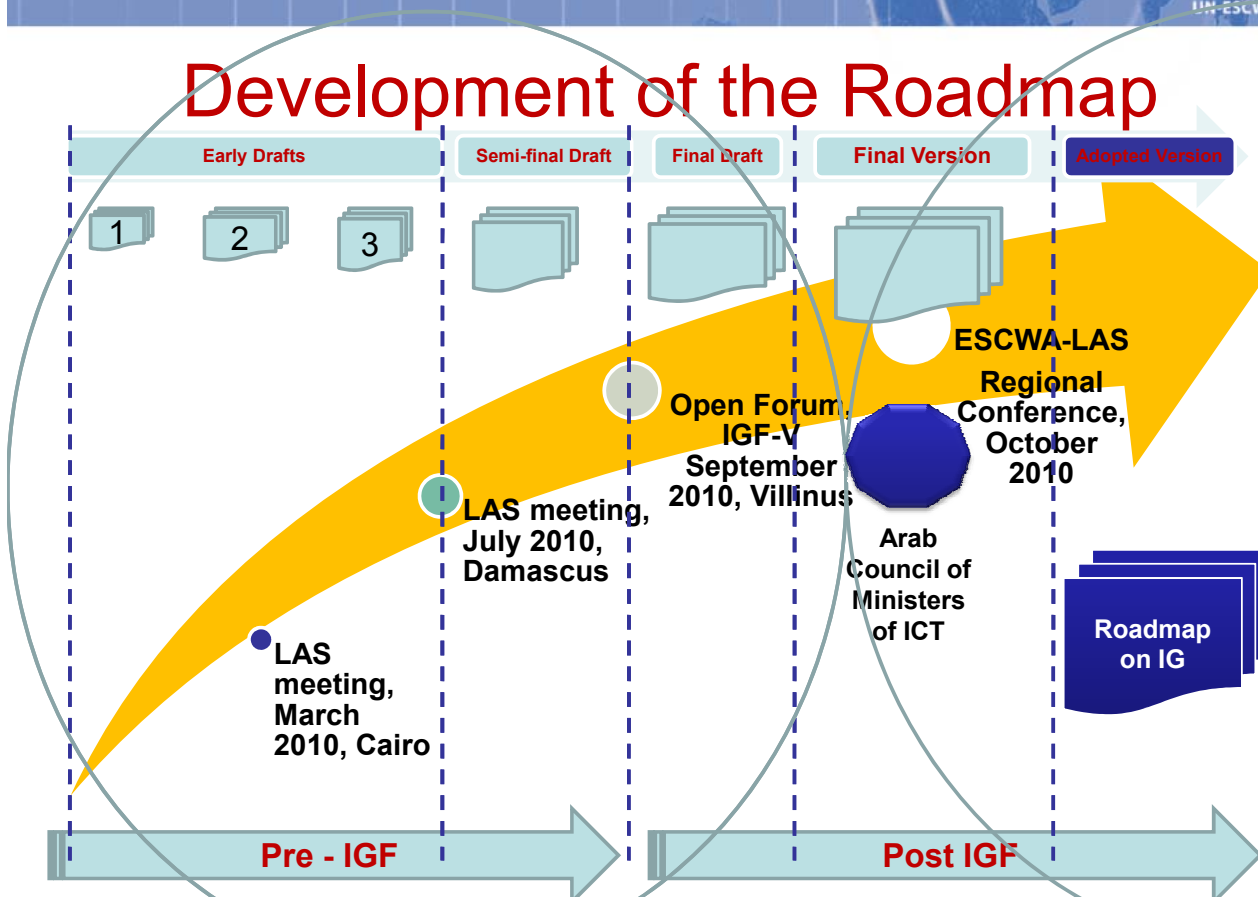
Logical Framework
for a Result-Based Roadmap (1/2)

- The methodology adopted for designing, managing and implementing this Roadmap is "result-based".

- It uses a **logical framework or "logframe"** which is a written tool for conceptualizing programmes.

- The Roadmap covers six subprogrammes based on the five IGF topics as well as one subprogramme on institutional empowerment.

- A logical framework is developed for each subprogramme to articulate clear objectives, expected accomplishments, and indicators of achievement.

→ *The Roadmap is thus an articulation of what should be accomplished, not what activities will be done.*

Subprogrammes

Institutional Empowerment	Critical Internet Resources	Access	Cultural & Linguistic Diversity	Security	Openness
balanced, internationalized, transparent and accountable institutional governance schemes for global public policy-making	stability, security, and resiliency of the DNS	reduced Internet access divide	Improved presence of the Arabic language and culture	enhanced cyber security	culturally open yet safe Internet in the Arab region
	Arab TLDs				
	effective IP addresses deployment		Expanded Arab TLDs	protected Internet users against harmful content and cyber crimes	Internet openness for development purposes

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Development of the Roadmap

Early Drafts   Semi-final Draft   Final Draft   Final Version   Adopted Version

1   2   3

ESCWA-LAS Regional Conference, October 2010

Open Forum, IGF-V September 2010, Villinus

LAS meeting, July 2010, Damascus

Arab Council of Ministers of ICT

Roadmap on IG

LAS meeting, March 2010, Cairo

Pre - IGF   Post IGF

Implementation of the Roadmap
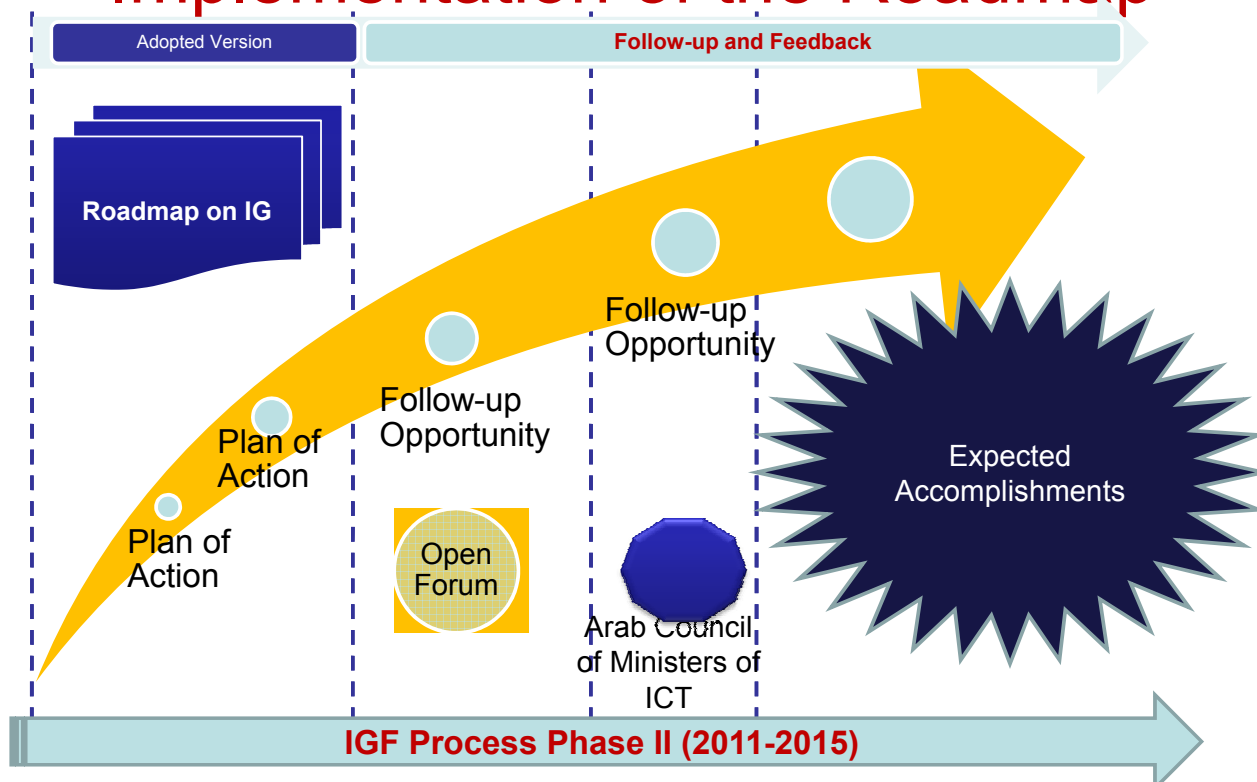
Road Ahead for the Roadmap

- The roadmap is *Step 1* of a two-step process.
- *Step 2* - Guidelines for the Implementation and Progress Monitoring of the Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance
- Once endorsed and adopted, it will be spelt out through an **Internet governance plan of action** that will define specific activities and projects on the national and regional levels based on financial and human resources available to the country.
- It will be a collective effort and in line with the Arab ICT Strategy and the RPoA to avoid duplication.

Call of Arab Stakeholders

نداء الفرقاء العرب
نحو تفعيل التعاون العربي الشامل لحوكمة الإنترنت إقليميا ودولياً

نحن الفرقاء ـ من القطاع العام والخاص والمجتمع المدني ـ المشاركون في اجتماع الخبراء حول خارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت المنعقد في بيت الأمم المتحدة في بيروت في السادس والعشرين من شهر تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ٢٠١٠ في إطار المبادرة المشتركة بين جامعة الدول العربية ولجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا للحوار العربي حول حوكمة الإنترنت، والذي نتج عنه وثيقة "الإطار العام والمبادئ والأهداف لخارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت"؛

انطلاقاً مما أقرته القمة العالمية لمجتمع المعلومات بمرحلتيها في جنيف ٢٠٠٣ وتونس ٢٠٠٥، حول بناء مجتمع المعلومات وتحديداً فيما يخص حوكمة الإنترنت؛

وأخذن بالاعتبار أهداف وتوجهات "الاستراتيجية العربية العامة لتكنولوجيا الاتصالات والمعلومات ـ بناء مجتمع المعلومات (حتى ٢٠١٢)" وخاصة تلك التي تصب في إطار تحسين حوكمة الإنترنت إن كان لجهة النفاذ أو التعددية أو البنية التحتية؛

وتأكيداً على ضرورة حوكمة الإنترنت بشكل متعدد الأطراف، وشفاف وديمقراطي، وبمشاركة كاملة من الحكومات والقطاع الخاص والمجتمع المدني والمنظمات الدولية وبشكل يكفل توزيعاً منصفاً للموارد ونفاذاً ميسراً أمام الجميع وتشغيلاً مستقراً وآمناً للإنترنت مع مراعاة التعددية؛

وترسيخاً للجهود التي قامت بها الأمم المتحدة في إطلاق "المنتدى العالمي لإدارة (حوكمة) الإنترنت" في خمس سنوات متتالية وبناء على الجهود التي بذلت في إنجاحه والمشاركات التي قام بها جميع أصحاب المصلحة من المنطقة العربية بما فيها المنظمات الإقليمية وبخاصة جامعة الدول العربية ولجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا؛

وأخذن في الحسبان النقاشات التي تمت في الاجتماعات الخمسة "للمنتدى العالمي لحوكمة الإنترنت" والمواضيع التي تناولتها برامج العمل؛ وكذلك المداولات التي تمت على مستوى الخبراء العرب؛

ندعو الحكومات العربية إلى السعي لتحقيق الإطار العام والمبادئ والأهداف الاستراتيجية لخارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت؛ وإلى الاسترشاد بها في وضع خطة عمل إقليمية وأخر وطنية منبثقة عنها، وتعطياً بحيث تشمل مجموعة من الأنشطة والمشاريع، وكذلك إلى بناء الشراكات الوطنية والإقليمية من أجل تنفيذها وقياس الإنجاز الناتج عن تطبيقها، ولتكون مدخلاً لكافة النقاشات والجهود العربية المعنية بحوكمة الإنترنت والتي من شأنها تطوير الخارطة بإستمرار في ضوء الاحتياجات العربية والمستجدات الدولية.

كما ندعو كافة الفرقاء المعنيين ببناء مجتمع المعلومات بشكل عام، وبحوكمة الإنترنت بشكل خاص، في المنطقة العربية من قطاع عام وخاص والمجتمع المدني والمنظمات العاملة في المجال، وبالأخص المؤسسات الحكومية، إلى التعاون من أجل إطلاق "المنتدى العربي لحوكمة الإنترنت" تحت مظلة جامعة الدول العربية، بحيث يعقد بشكل دوري ويرمي إلى:

(i) مناقشة قضايا السياسات العامة المتعلقة بمواضيع حوكمة الإنترنت المنتقاة في "المنتدى العالمي لحوكمة الإنترنت" بغية تعزيز النفاذ لها وأمنها واستقرارها وتطويرها؛

(ب) تأمين قاعدة للحوار، اعتماداً على هيكلية لامركزية، بين جميع الفرقاء وبما يتماشى مع أجندة تونس وإعلان مبادئ جنيف وبالتالي تسهيل تبادل المعلومات والممارسات المثلى واستقاء الدروس والمعرفة خاصة من أصحاب الخبرة السياساتية والتقنية والأكاديمية ومن ثم نشر ما يتم من مناقشات وما يتخذ من إجراءات؛

(ج) تقريب وجهات النظر وصولاً إلى آراء عربية موحدة حول أولويات المنطقة لحوكمة الإنترنت وآليات الاستجابة لاحتياجات الدول العربية فيما يخصها؛

(د) تحديد قضايا التكنولوجيات الناشئة، حسب الحاجة، ووضع التوصيات الخاصة بها، كما يلزم، دون التدخل في العمليات اليومية أو التقنية للإنترنت؛

(ه) المساهمة في بناء القدرات في مجال حوكمة الإنترنت في البلدان العربية، والاستفادة بشكل كامل من الموارد المحلية للمعارف والخبرات؛

(و) نقل المنظور العربي إلى المستوى العالمي وتثبيت الدور العربي في وضع السياسات العامة لحوكمة الإنترنت من دون أن يكون للمنتدى وظيفة إشرافية أو أن يحل محل الآليات أو المؤسسات أو المنظمات القائمة.

وندعو أيضاً المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية في المنطقة بالتعاون مع جامعة الدول العربية ولجنة الأمم المتحدة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا، إلى التخطيط لتنظيم وعقد وإنجاح المنتدى العربي لحوكمة الإنترنت على المستوى الإقليمي والسعي مع مختلف الجهات لتأمين الموارد اللازمة لذلك.

وننشد مجلس الوزراء العرب للاتصالات والمعلومات:

(i) تبني الإطار العام والمبادئ والأهداف الخاصة بخارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت وحث الحكومات على السعي لتحقيقها؛

(ب) إطلاق المنتدى العربي لحوكمة الإنترنت وتحديد ولايته وطبيعة ومهام السكرتارية التي سيعهد إليها تنظيمه؛ بما يتماشى مع ما ورد في أجندة تونس حول حوكمة الإنترنت؛

(ج) تشكيل لجنة استشارية عليا للمعاونة في تنظيم المنتدى بحيث تضم ممثلين عن الحكومات العربية والقطاع الخاص والمجتمع المدني والمنظمات العالمية والإقليمية؛

(د) تفويض اللجنة الاستشارية العليا في تحديد آليات عملها والعمل على تأمين الموارد والشراكات اللازمة، والتعاون مع سكرتاريته للإعلان عن برامج المنتدى الزمنية؛

(ه) تكليف اللجنة الاستشارية العليا بعقد اجتماعها الأول في الربع الأول من عام ٢٠١١، وذلك تحت رعاية جامعة الدول العربية وفي مقر الأمانة العامة، بهدف تحديد آلية وموعد ومكان عقد المنتدى العربي الأول لحوكمة الإنترنت؛

(و) تكليف اللجنة الاستشارية العليا لطرح المقترح المبدئي للإرشادات الخاصة بتفعيل البرامج الفرعية وقياس الإنجاز لخارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت على كافة الفرقاء المعنيين من أجل تضمينها، بعد الأخذ في الاعتبار المقترحات والآراء التي قد تطرح بشأنها، في وثيقة شاملة لخارطة الطريق العربية لحوكمة الإنترنت.

The Arab Participation From Athens to Vilnius

- Some experts believe that the level of involvement of the Arab region in the IGF was rather limited towards the inception of the IGF.

- Participations were dispersed and did not represent a unified Arab view.

- However, during the last five years, the Arab community became aware of the importance of the Internet governance and has worked on improving representation of most of the entities involved in the governance of the Internet.

Benefits of an Arab IGF

The Arab IGF will be:
- A platform for empowering the region in global Internet Governance arena;
- A venue to follow-up on the progress of the Proposed Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance in Arab Countries;
- A replica of the global IGF process on a regional level for the period of 2012-2015;
- An interface and liaison to the global IGF process in its second phase;
- An umbrella to launch a number of national IGFs;
- A multi stakeholder process that is led by the governmental and intergovernmental bodies in the region.

Public Meetings

Outcome of the Initiative
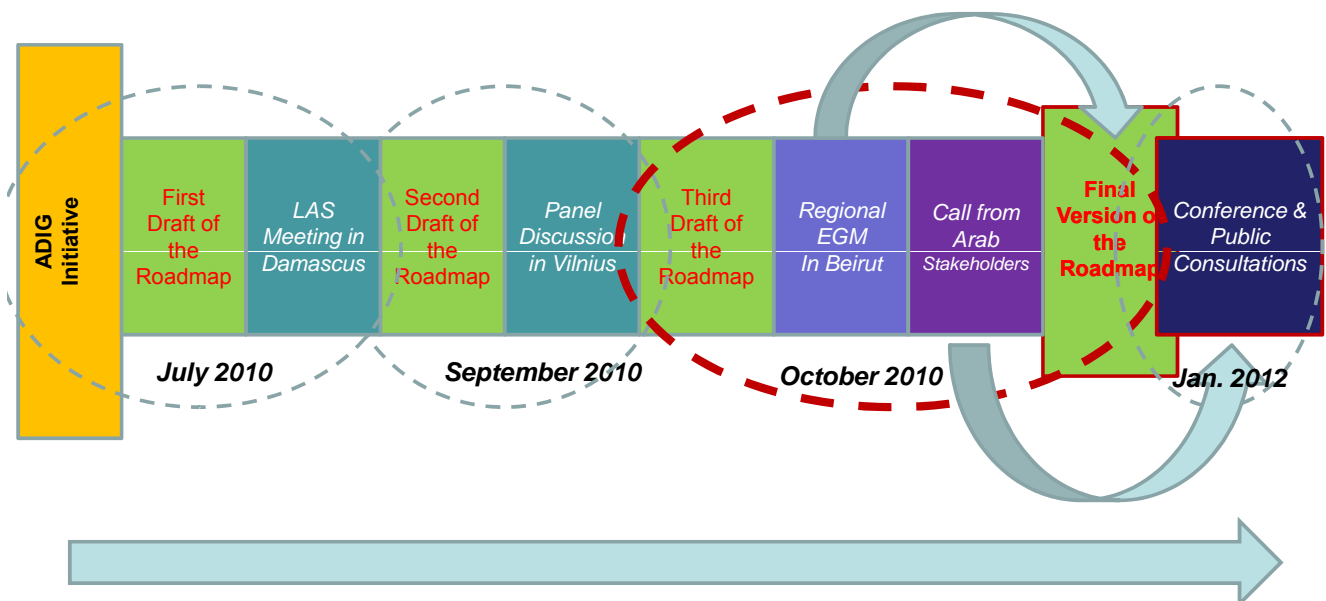
Conference and Public Consultation to establish the AIGF

- The objective was to engage and publicly consult key stakeholders on the viability and modalities for establishing a regional Arab IGF process by exploring and articulating all the major building blocks needed to launch and maintain the process until 2015. The Arab IGF process will act as a vehicle to implement the Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance.

- The conference was jointly convened by ESCWA, LAS and the Lebanese Presidency Council of Ministers (PCM), and was co-sponsored by RIPE and KITS.

- 60 participants from 14 countries, including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Malta, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, and United Arab Emirates.

Multi-stakeholder Endorsement for the Establishment of the Arab IGF Process

- The Conference outcome document outlined the Arab IGF process as a decentralized platform for inclusive policy consultations that involve all the stakeholders agreed upon in the Tunis Agenda and Geneva Declaration of Principles of the WSIS.

- It iterated the aim of the Arab IGF process, nature and mechanisms, its organizational framework, financing of activities, and periodic convening of its meetings.

- The LAS secretariat delivered the Conference outcome document to the meeting of the Executive Bureau of Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers (ATICM) (Beirut, 2 February 2012), which has commended on the Arab initiative to establish the forum and called upon Arab countries to actively participate in its process.

Main Components of the Arab IGF process

Multi-stakeholders Advisory Group (MAG)	**Arab IGF Secretariat**	**Open consultations and MAG meetings**

Annual Arab IGFs (2012-2015)	**Participation in the Global IGF**

Proposed ESCWA Ministerial Resolution for ESCWA 27th Ministerial Session, May 2012

ESCWA 27th Ministerial Session May 2012 - Draft Resolution

**Development of the Arab Internet Governance Forum Process
And Sustaining Efforts in the Arabic Domain Names Field**

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

Recalling the General Assembly resolution 60/252 and the outcome documents of the "*World Summit on the Information Society*"[1], see A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687;

Recalling paragraphs 35 to 37 and paragraphs 69 to 72 of the "*Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*", see A/60/687 relevant to Internet governance issues and the need for enhanced cooperation between governments;

Recognizing the importance of the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on matters such as public policy issues related to Internet governance, in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;

Acknowledging the importance of the Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) field in general, and of using Arabic characters in the Internet addressing scheme in particular, as well as of acquiring regional Arab generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs), as part of the priority themes of Internet governance in the Arab region, in overcoming the language barrier, improving user experience and cultural diversity;

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/141 on information and communications technologies for development including extending the mandate of the global IGF which was originally from 2006 to 2010 for five more years till 2015;

Taking note of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 2011 and at its substantive session of 2011 (E/2011/INF/2) and particularly paragraphs 20 to 21 and 25 to 29 on Internet governance;

Recognizing the joint initiative of ESCWA and the League of Arab States (LAS) on the "*Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance*", and its two strategic outputs: (a) the "*Call of Arab Stakeholders – Towards Promoting Arab Cooperation for Internet Governance Regionally and Internationally*" (Annex 1) and (b) the "*Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance: Framework, Principles and Objectives*", both adopted by the 29th session of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunications and Information Council of Ministers (ATICM) as well as by the 15th session of the ATICM;

Recognizing the accomplishments that ESCWA has achieved in the field of IDNs and gTLDs, during 2004-2012 regionally and globally, in developing the global Arabic Domain Name Guidelines, as well as in substantive and strategic efforts aiming at the acquisition of the Arab gTLDs namely ".arab" & ".عرب" from the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in cooperation with LAS;

Recognizing the importance of regional IGFs established during 2008-2012 in different regions worldwide such as Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa,[2] and the need and importance of a similar forum for the Arab region;

Noting the outcomes of "*Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab Internet Governance Forum*"[3], which stressed the need for an IGF at the regional Arab level, and set the scene for launching a multistakeholder Arab IGF process;

Expressing its appreciation to the "*31st Ordinary Session of Executive Bureau of the ATICM*" which endorsed the need to launch the Arab IGF process based on the outcomes of the conference requesting the LAS Secretariat to continue cooperation with ESCWA in that regard;

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[1] *www.itu.int/WSIS/index.html*
[2] *http://www.intgovforum.org/*
[3] *http://www.escwa.un.org/information/meetingdetails.asp?referenceNum=1759E*

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Recognizing the important role of the LAS Secretariat, its appreciation of ESCWA efforts in the policy advocacy field and its request for sustained role of ESCWA;

1. Endorses the mandate of the Arab IGF process, its nature and structure based on the outcomes of the "*Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab Internet Governance Forum*" as endorsed by the "*31st Ordinary Session of the Executive Bureau of the ATICM*" and as set out in Annex II, in accordance with the present resolution, as the basis for the Commission's implementation of this Resolution.

2. Requests ESCWA in collaboration with LAS to facilitate the establishment of the Arab IGF process and its structure composed of the "Secretariat" and the "Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)", including clarifying roles and Terms of References (ToRs) for each.

3. Requests ESCWA to particularly support Member Countries that will take a significant role in the Arab IGF process, including host countries of the annual meetings, the country of the Arab IGF Secretariat, and other involved Arab countries, where relevant.

4. Also requests ESCWA to continue policy advocacy efforts in the six sub programmes of the "*Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance*" to support its implementation; and in promoting the Arabic Domain Names System and Industry; under the umbrella of the Arab IGF process as well as the global IGF process and the ICANN process too.

5. Requests ESCWA to seek the co-operation of relevant international and regional organizations, and other regional commissions, in the preparation, implementation and follow-up process of the Arab IGF; and in sustaining efforts in the IDNs field in general and in Arab gTLDS in particular;

6. Requests governments of member countries to actively participate in the Arab IGF process, and to provide support in different forms as necessary and when applicable; as well as explore venues for enhanced cooperation related to Internet governance issues;

7. Requests ESCWA to facilitate the implementation of the resolution by availing needed resources whether through internally mobilizing regular budget resources or through seeking extra budgetary funding from LAS, from the Arab gTLDs revenues, from donors and/or other partners, as appropriate;

8. Further requests ESCWA to report to the Commission at the twenty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution and the achievements of the Commission in that regard.

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ADIG Interactive Portal

UN-ESCWA

Internet Governance Pages on ISPER

http://isper.escwa.un.org/

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Thank you