



Report

Fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development Beirut, 14–15 November 2022

Summary

The fourth session of the Committee on Technology for Development of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was held online and in person at the United Nations House in Beirut on 14 and 15 November 2022. The agenda contained several items on the information society, technology and innovation.

Participants took note of the activities implemented by ESCWA pursuant to the recommendations issued by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session, held online on 15 and 16 February 2021, and the activities implemented in line with the ESCWA programme plan and technical cooperation activities. The Committee also reviewed the activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre and the outcomes of the meetings of the directors of e-government programmes in Arab States. Participants also discussed the metaverse, the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship, and Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation and digital development. At the close of the session, the Committee held a joint session with the ESCWA Statistical Committee on the theme “Data management modernization using new technologies”.

The present report sets out the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its fourth session, and a summary of key points raised during the discussions.

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Introduction

1. The Committee on Technology for Development held its fourth session online and in person at the United Nations House in Beirut on 14 and 15 November 2022, pursuant to ESCWA resolution [315 \(XXVIII\)](#) of 18 September 2014, adopted by the Economic and Social Council in resolution [2014/35](#) of 17 November 2014, and in accordance with the recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session, held online on 15 and 16 February 2021.
2. The present report sets out the recommendations adopted by the Committee at its fourth session, and a summary of key points raised during the discussions.

I. Recommendations

3. At its fourth session, the Committee on Technology for Development made recommendations to members States and to the ESCWA secretariat.

A. Recommendations to member States

4. The Committee made the following recommendations to member States:

(a) Welcome the activities and achievements implemented pursuant to recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session, and within the framework of the ESCWA work programme on technology for development and the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC); and benefit from ESCWA services under the latter and from planned projects;

(b) Continue collecting data on the Government Electronic and Mobile Services ([GEMS](#)) Maturity Index and benefit from the related platform; and follow up on progress in the digital transformation of government services;

(c) Benefit from the [Arab Digital Inclusion Platform](#) and from ESCWA support to develop national policies on digital accessibility;

(d) Welcome the Arab Digital Agenda/Arab ICT Strategy 2023–2033 (ADAICTS 2023–2033) as a joint long-term Arab framework, and benefit from it to formulate national digital agendas that are consistent with it and based on national reviews;

(e) Emphasize the importance of participating in the preparatory process for the second Arab Digital Cooperation and Development Forum to be held in 2023, and benefit from it to follow up on the implementation of the Arab Digital Agenda;

(f) Urge the entrepreneurial community at the national level to take advantage of the ESCWA Digital Enabling Portal ([DEPAR](#)).

B. Recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat

5. The Committee made the following recommendations to the ESCWA secretariat:

(a) Continue supporting member States in harnessing science, technology and innovation and promoting the transfer of successful experiences among countries to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Increase support for member States in harnessing technology to respond to the repercussions of crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, disasters, wars and climate change;

- (c) Continue supporting member States in the following areas:
 - (i) National plans, policies and strategies for digital development, digital accessibility, new technologies, innovation and entrepreneurship;
 - (ii) Government digital transformation, e-government and open data, with a focus on benefiting from new technologies such as big data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI);
 - (iii) Creating an entrepreneurial environment and facilitating government procedures to enable entrepreneurs and owners of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to use information and communication technology, and offering training programmes on entrepreneurship knowledge and skills.

(d) Develop the necessary technological tools for SMEs in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship to facilitate their access to finance and cross-border markets;

(e) Continue exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with the metaverse, especially the ethical, security and social dimensions and raise awareness of them, and study the legislative frameworks necessary to benefit from this technology, while working to assess the availability of the necessary infrastructure in Arab countries;

(f) Continue updating the [GEMS](#) Maturity Index and promote its use as a tool for evaluating and supporting digital transformation at the national level;

(g) Disseminate legislation, strategies, plans and policies developed in collaboration with member States under RPTC, so that everyone can benefit from them;

(h) Continue working on developing and activating ADAICTS 2023–2033;

(i) Strengthen cooperation between Arab countries to exchange technological and innovative expertise and expand twinning and capacity-building programmes;

(j) Focus the Committee’s work on digital transformation issues and the challenges associated with it, so as to ensure its effectiveness in supporting member States given the numerous issues related to technology for development.

II. Topics for discussion

A. Follow-up issues

1. *Implementation of activities under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to the ESCWA secretariat*
(Agenda item 4)

6. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/3](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of activities implemented under the ESCWA programme plan and of recommendations made by the Committee at its third session. He noted the four themes underpinning those activities, namely new technologies and innovation, the information society and Internet governance, digital and open government, and digital inclusion. He said that ESCWA had issued technical reports in the aforementioned areas, held expert meetings and several workshops, launched applications and developed digital platforms. He also explained the link between the activities conducted by the Committee and the recommendations it had issued at its third session.

7. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of member States said that it was vital for ESCWA to follow up on its support to countries in various technological fields. They emphasized the importance of stimulating cooperation between countries by transferring successful experiences and linking between them in specific areas, and called on ESCWA to showcase and clearly publish its efforts in conducting training courses. Participants also

stressed the importance of motivating the Arab least developed countries to participate in the offered training programmes, and enquired about ESCWA working methods and financing mechanisms for implementing projects. They also asked about the availability of ESCWA databases on country experts in various fields, and the method for choosing the topics of studies prepared by ESCWA.

8. In response, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat said that ESCWA was developing a platform to introduce expertise in the various fields of economic, social and technological development. Presentations in subsequent sessions would include figures and statistics on training courses in each country and on activities carried out jointly, and information on how studies in specific fields were selected and developed. He explained that, in general, ESCWA sought topics with development value, through specific recommendations, and that work was underway on technology in other ESCWA sectors, such as energy, climate and the environment. He noted that all knowledge products were available on the official ESCWA website, adding that ESCWA worked at the level of policies and evaluation, not implementation.

2. Technical cooperation activities (Agenda item 5)

9. With reference to document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/4, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of technical cooperation activities in the field of technology for development implemented by ESCWA since the third session of the Committee. He said that the design of those activities was based on requests from member States as part of efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He added that the activities included advisory services related to public policies, workshops and capacity-building activities: 26 advisory services had been provided to 10 Arab countries and the League of Arab States, 19 national workshops had been offered to nine Arab countries, and a regional workshop had also been held.

10. He reviewed technical cooperation activities in several areas, including digital government and its related digital services and ecosystem; new technologies, including AI policies, the Internet of Things, and smart cities; innovation and technology transfer, including innovation policies and open data; and digital inclusion, covering digital accessibility and empowerment of older persons. He noted the advisory services provided by ESCWA, indicating that they had covered enhancing the digital technologies ecosystem, proposing national policies to promote open government, new technologies, proposals to promote digital transformation and digitization, and proposals related to national innovation systems, policies and regulatory frameworks for new technologies, among others.

11. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of member States requested the continuation of technical cooperation activities in the areas of digital transformation, new technologies, innovation, entrepreneurship and digital accessibility. They also proposed harmonizing the terminology related to areas of digital technologies.

3. Implementation of recommendations made by the Committee on Technology for Development at its third session to member States (Agenda item 6)

12. The Chair invited representatives of member States to make interventions or presentations on national measures taken pursuant to the recommendations made by the Committee at its third session to member States, and the challenges they faced in that area.

13. Participants did not ask for the floor, expressing their preference to discuss national activities under the substantive framework of each agenda item.

4. *Meetings of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States*
(Agenda item 7)¹

14. With reference to document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/5, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat presented the results of the meetings of the directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, especially the outcomes of a meeting held virtually in December 2021. He reviewed the background for launching those meetings in 2013, their objectives and work mechanisms, and participating parties from the member States. He briefly discussed the work stages and outcomes of previous meetings, making a number of proposals for future work. The presentation included an overview of the GEMS Maturity Index, which was launched in 2014 at the second meeting of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, and on progress in the fourth evaluation of the index.

15. In the ensuing discussion, representatives of member States requested continued cooperation on issues of digital transformation, digital government and new technologies, and follow-up on the development of the GEMS Maturity Index, with a focus on the following topics: using the data collection platform related to the GEMS Maturity Index, and discussing the outcomes and progress achieved in Arab countries, the importance of developing open data owing to its economic and social impact, regional cooperation in the field of open data and big data, technical cooperation in the areas of digital transformation and new technologies and benefiting from related successful experiences, and evaluating the possibility of partial linking of some big and open data in Arab countries with the ESCWA statistical ecosystem.

5. *Activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre*
(Agenda item 8)

16. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/6](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of the activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre aimed at supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in the Arab region over the past two years. Those activities included holding virtual and in-person workshops, developing a framework for an enabling environment for technology-based entrepreneurship in the Arab region, and several programmes and initiatives targeting young people, entrepreneurs and innovators. He added that the activities also included developing interactive tools and platforms, and providing training opportunities to build the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises in the Arab region, such as through the DEPAR platform. He said that those platforms helped SMEs in managing and expanding their business, and also assisted Arab countries in designing road maps for science, technology and innovation that included all segments of society and met the needs of entrepreneurs.

17. In the ensuing discussion, some participants enquired about cooperation mechanisms between the ESCWA Technology Centre and member States, and about how to join the Centre's projects.

18. In response, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat invited Arab countries to participate widely in the activities of the Centre, including the upcoming Arab SMEs Summit, and to benefit from the knowledge platforms developed by the Centre in the field of green technologies and various other sectors. He encouraged countries to share their experiences and inform the Centre of their projects, initiatives and databases, so as to reflect them in the appropriate place on the Centre's platforms, and enable countries to network and exchange experiences.

¹ When adopting the agenda, the Committee decided to discuss this item on the second day of its work, in preparation for a parallel meeting of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States. However, the present report lists the agenda items in line with their sequence in the [provisional agenda and annotations](#).

B. Technological perspectives for the Arab region

1. Metaverse: challenges and opportunities for the Arab region (Agenda item 9)

19. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/7](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat made a presentation on the metaverse, covering the main technologies of the metaverse and its associated economic and social challenges and opportunities in the Arab region. She provided examples of its development, and several policy recommendations that should be taken into account to ensure its safety and effectiveness. She said that the metaverse was one of the latest Internet phenomena, and provided an immersive virtual space for interaction between people, companies and Governments within the digital world, stressing that the metaverse was expected to have a far-reaching social and economic impact on technological development.

20. She set out some proposals to member States, including the importance of learning about the metaverse and the opportunities it presented, and the sectoral development applications that it had contributed to developing. She also identified the requirements for using the metaverse, especially with regard to the necessary infrastructure, and to the legal, security and ethical considerations needed to protect users, formulate a plan in line with national needs and priorities, launch awareness programmes, and provide the necessary environment for metaverse investment by the private sector and entrepreneurs. She also stressed the importance of Arab countries' participation in regional and international activities related to the metaverse.

21. Participants thanked the representative of the ESCWA secretariat for the comprehensive presentation on the metaverse, noting the future importance of the technology.

2. Enhancing the enabling environment for tech-driven entrepreneurship in the Arab region (Agenda item 10)

22. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/8](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of ESCWA efforts to enhance the enabling environment for entrepreneurship in Arab countries. He presented a general framework comprising five main themes covering several subitems, including policies, access to knowledge, opportunities, financing, and support for entrepreneurial activities. He said that the framework has been established to assess and evaluate the enabling environment for entrepreneurship after studying many international models with the aim of producing an improved model of systems that was compatible with the requirements of Arab countries, so as to determine the needs of SMEs at the local level and how to work to fulfil them.

23. He noted the mechanism for evaluating entrepreneurship performance at the national level, providing an overview of the assessment of the enabling environment in selected countries, which would be circulated upon completion to countries. He encouraged community and national dialogues to define national approaches, and discussions on strengthening government policies that facilitated SME establishment. He added that ESCWA aimed to expand those dialogues, and that it was ready to assist Arab countries in improving and internationalizing their entrepreneurial environment. ESCWA also looked forward to studying the five themes in all Arab countries, whatever their circumstances.

24. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Sudan suggested that entrepreneurship courses in universities be provided in Arabic, and noted the confusion surrounding the name of the Arab SMEs Summit. The representative of Oman said that his country had started rolling out an innovation development platform. The representative of Egypt asked whether SMEs referred to enterprises whose final products were technologies or technological services only, or whether they included any project in which technology was a component, regardless of the final product.

25. In response, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat said that the Technology Centre, in collaboration with several high-level international partners, was in the process of producing a regional training programme on entrepreneurship. Its details would be shared with the Sudan, as the Centre intended to hold a regional dialogue to present a draft proposal on the programme and request expert opinions on ways to improve it. He added that the programme would be made available online and distributed to universities and entities concerned with entrepreneurship.

26. Regarding the confusion caused by the name of the Arab SMEs Summit and the proposal to change it to the “Arab Entrepreneurship Forum”, he said that the Summit had been a high-level event attended by 20 ministers and 25 ambassadors from several Arab countries represented in Jordan, and by representatives of government agencies from all Arab countries, adding that the focus was on supporting SMEs by providing them with a space to showcase their products. He noted that several events had been held on the sidelines of the Summit covering various themes, in addition to the themes of technology and financial support. He said that the Centre aimed to preserve the Summit in its current form and to expand it further next year.

27. He thanked the representative of Oman for his intervention, expressing his happiness with the country’s undertaking, which was the aim of all Arab countries given the need for a single platform as a reference for all enterprises and young people who wanted to register their companies. He expressed the readiness of ESCWA to assist Oman or any other Arab country wishing to build such a platform by drawing on the expertise of ESCWA or of partners from other United Nations bodies that worked with the Centre.

28. Responding to the enquiry by the representative of Egypt, he stressed the importance of linking technology to entrepreneurship and of integrating between them, regardless of whether a product was technological or non-technological, given the close link between technology and enterprises at all stages: establishment, support, financing, marketing, packaging, the process of buying and selling online through e-commerce, and in the general logistics system of enterprises.

3. *Use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations
in Arab public institutions*
(Agenda item 11)

29. With reference to document [E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/9](#), the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of a new project to support Arab countries in their efforts to strengthen administrative support operations and public sector services, by benefiting from digital and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, open data, and virtual worlds (the metaverse). She said that many Arab countries, in the past two decades, had begun automating their administrative processes and implementing their e-government programmes, adding that success had been uneven between countries and that only a few had begun using emerging technologies that provided opportunities to improve the inclusiveness of public institutions, their responsiveness to needs, and citizen’s trust therein. She discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that it had prompted countries to accelerate their digital transformation programmes, but the majority of Arab countries had not yet exploited the potential of digital technologies in their public institutions.

30. She said that the project aimed to enhance the use of digital and emerging technologies to improve internal processes and public services in institutions, with a focus on enhancing inclusiveness, trust and responsiveness to the needs of citizens and stakeholders in line with the SDGs in the Arab region. She added that the project also aimed to stimulate the implementation of national strategies related to digital transformation in public institutions, to enhance cooperation among Arab countries through twinning activities and the transfer of successful practices and applications, and to accelerate the achievement of SDGs 16 and 17, especially by enhancing confidence in public sector institutions, their inclusiveness, and their responsiveness to needs.

31. The representatives of member States commended the planned project and expressed their readiness to collaborate with ESCWA in its implementation.

4. *Arab States action programme on advancing digital cooperation
and digital development in the next five years*
(Agenda item 12)

32. With reference to document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/10, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat gave an overview of the main processes and pillars of the programme on advancing digital development and digital cooperation in Arab countries, launched by ESCWA in 2020. He reviewed key projects included in the programme, notably the joint project between ESCWA and the League of Arab States on developing an Arab ICT strategy (or an Arab digital agenda). He noted the starting points, ambitions and goals of the digital agenda for the next five years. He also indicated some proposed priority measures that paved the way for the implementation of national and regional projects and initiatives related to the Arab digital agenda, aimed at enhancing digital cooperation and digital development in the region and achieving Arab integration in the field. He stressed the importance of national digital development reports, the Arab Digital Development Report, and the digital development maturity model and ensuing periodic reports, which could benefit several Arab countries in advancing digital development at the national and regional levels and in the short, medium and long terms, and in accelerating SDG achievement.

33. Participants expressed their appreciation for the programme given that it followed a scientific approach regardless of the ranking of countries, and stressed its importance in formulating national digital development agendas, in activating internal coordination between various economic, social and media sectors, and in expanding the vision at the national level and, consequently, at the regional level. Some participants requested that the national report questionnaire form be simplified. The representative of the Sudan asked for clarification on what was meant by ICT for development, and whether it meant digitization for development or digital development.

34. In response, the representative of the ESCWA secretariat said that the meaning of that fundamental term, which underpinned the strategic choice to formulate the Arab digital agenda, was the promotion of digitization for development in general. In other words, to go beyond work on the ICT sector only, so as to cover all sectors, which would develop both the ICT sector and other sectors using information and communication technologies. He supported the request to simplify the questionnaire used to prepare periodic national digital development reports.

C. Programmatic issues

1. *Results of evaluations of previous sessions of the Committee
on Technology for Development*
(Agenda item 13)

35. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat made a presentation on the results of the performance evaluation of the work of the Committee on Technology for Development at its first and second sessions, excluding the third session that had been held virtually. He said that the evaluation was based on a synthesis analysis of the evaluations conducted using a questionnaire distributed by the ESCWA secretariat, aimed at launching a dialogue with country representatives to improve the working methods of the Committee and increase its effectiveness. He noted that an analysis of the main results showed that the number of participating countries increased from 12 at the first session to 16 at the second, but the continuity of participation had reached only 30 per cent. He said that the evaluation showed an improvement in the Committee's work, that its topics reflected the latest developments and key issues in the areas of technology for development at the national and regional levels, and that it adequately dealt with substantive issues. He invited participants to objectively evaluate the current session.

**D. Joint session with the ESCWA Statistical Committee on the theme
“Data management modernization using new technologies”**

36. On 15 and 16 November 2022, the Committee on Technology for Development held a joint session with the ESCWA Statistical Committee on the theme “Data management modernization using new technologies”. The session tackled ways to benefit from new technologies to develop national data systems, based on ESCWA experience in that field.

37. The representative of the ESCWA secretariat opened the session with a summary of the main strategies that ESCWA relied on to develop a data system, including a digital strategy and strategies related to data and innovation. He also reviewed key online platforms that ESCWA was developing and updating. He noted the structural modifications resulting from developing the data infrastructure at ESCWA, which included facilitating coordination and collaboration with external databases, and encouraging the modernization of data management systems from a policy perspective that focused on data and the right to access information, so as to support national policies and the governance process.

38. He reviewed the updated data system at ESCWA, which provided open data to member States in a way that enhanced their ability to benefit from it; the opportunities for using data and analysis technologies in the production of statistical data, and the conditions related to data quality for national statistical offices, which were the main source of data. He noted the steps that should be adopted in developing a successful data system, the standards that should be followed in building the system, and the necessary components and methodology to find solutions that meet the needs and priorities of all stakeholders. He gave practical examples of data system operations that relied on artificial intelligence within a policy framework that began by identifying a particular problem, and that analysed and collected information and sources to obtain a report that could be used in formulating policies.

39. He noted the establishment of a geographic information systems team at ESCWA as a modern model for extrapolating statistical, informational and graphic phenomena through a geographic footprint, indicating that ESCWA attached great importance to that subject and intended to develop a new tool for member States in the coming year.

**E. Date and venue of the fifth session of the Committee
on Technology for Development**

(Agenda item 14)

40. Participants agreed that the fifth meeting of the Committee on Technology for Development would be held at the United Nations House in Beirut in November 2024.

F. Other matters

(Agenda item 15)

41. No issues were discussed under this item.

**III. Adoption of the recommendations made by the Committee
on Technology for Development at its fourth session**

(Agenda item 16)

42. The draft recommendations were distributed and presented to participants. At its closing meeting, the Committee on Technology for Development adopted the recommendations set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the present report, after taking into account participants’ comments thereon.

IV. Organization of work

A. Date and venue

43. The Committee on Technology for Development held its fourth session online and in person at the United Nations House in Beirut on 14 and 15 November 2022. The Committee's work was divided over four meetings.

B. Opening

44. The representative of the Sudan, the country that chaired the third session of the Committee on Technology for Development, Mr. Youssef al-Taher, Director of the National Information Centre, delivered a welcoming speech. He said that the Committee sessions provided a regional platform where distinguished officials and experts in the field of technology, digital transformation and digital government in the Arab region could meet to discuss digital and emerging technologies. He stressed the importance of building an information society and of stimulating a knowledge-based economy, especially during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. He commended ESCWA efforts to present new and updated topics aimed at achieving the SDGs in the region.

45. Mr. Haidar Fraihat, Leader of the ESCWA Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, delivered a speech on behalf of the ESCWA secretariat. He welcomed the delegations participating in the work of the Committee, both physically and virtually. He reviewed the meeting agenda, which included two meetings on the first day and two on the second day. He noted the joint session with the ESCWA Statistical Committee on the theme "Data management modernization using new technologies", which would include presentations on the tools and platforms developed by ESCWA. The joint session constituted a golden opportunity for technologists to meet statisticians, stressing that it was not out of the ordinary for statisticians to seek help from technologists, or for government technologists to provide their services in all fields, including statistical work. He added that the two areas had already been merged into one institution in some Arab countries.

C. Participants

46. Representatives of 19 ESCWA member States participated in the session. The list of participants is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Election of officers

47. Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of ESCWA provides that member States shall assume the presidency of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on a rotating basis, in Arabic alphabetical order, as established by the United Nations. The Sudan chaired the third session of the Committee on Technology for Development. After consulting with the delegation of Somalia, the country that follows the Sudan, and considering that Somalia was participating in a Committee session for the first time, it was decided to skip Somalia and move onto the next country, Iraq. Accordingly, Mr. Abbas Abdul Kadhem, Director-General of the Information Technology Department at the Iraqi Ministry of Planning, assumed the presidency of the current session of the Committee on Technology for Development.

48. It had been established at previous sessions that the two vice-chairs should be chosen in the same way (according to the Arabic alphabetical order of countries) to ensure continuity. Consequently, the representative of the Sudan was appointed first Vice-Chair, and the representative of Somalia was appointed second Vice-Chair. The representative of Oman was appointed Rapporteur. Since participants did not comment on the process, the Committee's office was approved.

E. Provisional agenda

49. At the opening of its fourth session, the Committee on Technology for Development adopted the provisional agenda set out in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/L.1, with an amendment to item 7 on the meetings

of directors of e-government programmes in Arab States, which comprised a Committee report on progress made in that area. The Committee also adopted the organization of work set out in document E/ESCWA/C.8/2022/L.2, taking into account the aforementioned amendment.

F. Documents

50. Annex II to the present report contains the list of documents presented to the Committee on Technology for Development at its fourth session.

Annex I

List of participants

A. ESCWA member States

Algeria

Mr. Zerrouki Laraj
Information Society Development Manager
Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Digital
Technology

Bahrain

Ms. Wafaa al-Jaber
Information and e-Government Authority

Mr. Ahmed al-Asiri
Information and e-Government Authority

Egypt

Ms. Ghada Mustafa Labib Abdelghani Abu Zaid
Deputy Minister of Communications
and Information Technology for Institutional
Development

Iraq

Mr. Abbas Abdul Kadhem Muhammad
General Manager of the Information Technology
Department
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Muhannad Eser Sobeih
Director of the Websites and Services Department
Ministry of Planning

Mr. Ahmed Abdul Hassan Alwan
Head of the Information Technology Department
Ministry of Planning

Ms. Zainab Ali Obaid
Senior Engineer
Department of Studies and Research

Jordan

Ms. Samira al-Zoubi
Secretary-General for Administrative and Financial
Affairs
Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship

Kuwait

Mr. Abdul Karim al-Fawzan
Central Agency for Information Technology

Mr. Nawaf al-Sawagh
Central Agency for Information Technology

Ms. Reem al-Hunayan
Central Agency for Information Technology

Lebanon

Ms. Yvonne Suleiman
Director-General of Investment and Maintenance
Ministry of Communications

Libya

Mr. Abdulbasit Salem Muhammad al-Baour
Chairman of the General Authority for Information

Mr. Abdul Raouf Ali Mukhtar al-Baybas
Digital Transformation Advisor
Head of the Digital Transformation Strategy Team
General Authority for Information

Mauritania

Mr. Yahya Mohamed Masiri
Head of the Studies and Development Department
Ministry of Digital Transformation, Innovation
and Modernization

Mr. Mohammadad Faruq al-Nana
Chargé d'Affaires
Ministry of Digital Transformation, Innovation
and Modernization

Morocco

Mr. Khaled Aaqqa
E-Government Director
Digital Development Agency

Morocco (continued)

Mr. Youssef Galabi
Head of the Partnership and Development
Department
Digital Development Agency

Oman

Mr. Salem Mubarak Saeed al-Battashi
Director of the Production Services Department
Ministry of Economy

Ms. Thuraya bint Thani al-Khaifiya
Director of the Department of Economic Research
and Studies
Ministry of Economy

Ms. Mona Mubarak al Jabriya
Director of the Economic Sectors Support
and Evaluation Department
Ministry of Economy

Mr. Nasser Ali al-Mandhari
Director of the Digital Platforms Department
Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research
and Innovation

State of Palestine

Ms. Rania Jamil Abdel Fattah Nasr
General Manager
General Administration of Information Technology
Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology

Mr. Fadi Mohamed Marjana
Director-General of E-Government
Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology

Qatar

Mr. Khaled Ali Qara Daghi
Director of the Information Systems Department
and Advisor to the Office of the President
Planning and Statistics Authority

Ms. Mashael Ali al-Hammadi
Assistant Undersecretary for Information
Technology Affairs

Mr. Salman Mohammed al Bastaki
Director of the Government Portal Department

Ms. Aljazi Saleh al-Sulaiti
Director of the E-Government Programmes
and Standards Department

Ms. Ahed Abdullah al-Zoubi
Project Coordinator

Ms. Fatima Jassim Darwish
Project Coordinator

Syrian Arab Republic

Ms. Fadia Suleiman
Assistant Minister of Communications and
Technology

Mr. Muhammad Ali Muhammad
Digital Transformation Manager
Ministry of Communications and Technology

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Hossam bin Mohammed al-Farih
Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology

Mr. Abdul Rahman bin Mahmoud Qanq
Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology

Mr. Abdul Rahman bin Saqr al-Mutairi
Deputy Governor
Digital Government Authority

Mr. Misfer bin Ali al-Ghamdi
Digital Government Authority

Somalia

Mr. Daher Nurgaal
Head of Department
Ministry of Communications and Technology

Mr. Abukar Hassan Moalem
Administrator
Ministry of Communications and Technology

Sudan

Mr. Youssef al-Taher Sharaf al-Din Ahmed
Director-General of the National Information
Centre
Ministry of Communications and Digital
Transformation

Mr. Yahya Abdullah Mohammed
University Professor
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific
Research

Mr. Jamal Amin Alsayed
Agent
Ministry of Communications and Digital
Transformation

Ms. Ihsan Nasreddin Abbas Muhammad
Business Developer
National Software Centre
Ministry of Communications and Digital
Transformation

Tunisia

Mr. Khaled al-Salami
Director-General of the Electronic Framework
Unit at the Presidency of the Government

Mr. Riyad Uslati
E-Government Administration
Presidency of the Government

Yemen

Mr. Ragheed Nasser al-Saeed
Assistant Undersecretary for Information
Technology
Ministry of Communications and Information
Technology

Mr. Abdul Rahim Ali Muthanna Saleh
Director of the Translation Department
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

B. International and regional organizations

United Nations Educational, Scientific
and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Mr. Talal al-Hourani
Statistician

Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator
and Humanitarian Coordinator

Mr. Sengiz Sehan
Senior Economist

Statistical, Economic and Social Research
and Training Centre for Islamic Countries

Mr. Nabil Dabour
Director-General

Mr. Attila Karman
Acting Director
Statistics and Information Department

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