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23 November 2023

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Series of Expert Meetings on Enriching the Mechanisms for Assessing and Advancing Digital Development in the Arab region

The First Consultative Experts Meeting on Digital Technologies and Pressing Issues from the 2030 Agenda

Online, Monday, 27 November 2023

Draft Agenda

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| 13:00 – 13:20 | **Opening Session** |
|  | **Welcome remarks:**   * **ESCWA statement** * **League of Arab States statement**   **Introduction on Advancing Digital Cooperation and Development- Arab States Action Programme (ADCD - ASAP) and overview of the agenda**  **Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny**, Chief of ICT Policies and Digital Development-ESCWA |

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| 13:20 – 14:00 | **Session I – Process of Assessing and Advancing Digital**  **Development in the Arab States and related Toolkits** |
| 13:20 – 13:50 | **Facilitator: Mr. Mansour Farah**  Expert, Digital Development and Digital Cooperation in the Arab Region  **Presentations on the Rationale of the Mechanisms for Assessing and Advancing Digital Development in the Arab Region**   * **Overview of the Guiding Manual and Digital** (10 minutes)   **Development Reports**  **Ms. Mirna El-Hajj Barbar**, Programme Management Officer, ESCWA   * **Overview of the Digital Development** (10 minutes)   **Measurement and Monitoring Model**  **Mr. Rami Zaatari**, Data and Technology Officer, ESCWA |
|  | * **Background on the Arab Digital** (10 minutes)   **Agenda 2023-2033**  **Mr. Ibaa Oueichek**, Advancing Digital Cooperation and Development - Arab States Action Programme consultant, ESCWA |
| 13:50 – 14:00 | Discussion about previous presentations (10 minutes) |

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| 14:00 – 15:05 | **Session II – Digital Technology and Selected Pressing Issues from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (1/2)** |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | **Facilitator: Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny**  Chief of ICT Policies and Digital Development-ESCWA   * Digital Technology and Climate Change - (20 minutes)   **Mr. Tarek Sadek**, First Economic Affairs Officer,  Water and Climate, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, ESCWA  **Mr. Hasan Awad,** Research Assistant,  Water and Climate, Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies, ESCWA   * Digital Solutions for Agrifood Systems in the (10 minutes) Arab Region: Challenges and Opportunities   **Mr. Hammou Laamrani**, Economic Affairs Officer,  Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA   * Using Remote Sensing Data and Numerical (10 minutes)   Models to Assess the Impact of Climate Change on Water and Agricultural Sectors  **Mr. Ihab Jnad**, Head of Water Resources Department,  Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)   * Pathways for Leveraging Digital Technologies (10 minutes)  in Agriculture Water Management   **Ms. Heba AlHariry**, Water Scarcity Adviser, Food and Agriculture Organization, Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa (FAO/RNE)   * The Other Side of Digital Transformation (10 minutes)   **Mr. Hossam Allam**, Regional Director of Sustainable Growth, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) |
| 15:00 – 15:05 | Discussion about the proposed research questions on the upcoming version of the evaluation and planning tools inspired from previous presentations (5 minutes) |

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| 15:05 – 15:15 | **Break** |

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| 15:15 – 16:00 | **Session III – Digital Technology and Selected Pressing Issues from**  **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2/2)** |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | (cont’d…)   * Development in Environmental Statistics (10 minutes) and the Use of Emerging Digital Technologies   **Ms. Wafa Aboul Hosn**, Chief of Economic and Environment Statistics, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA   * The Role of Emerging Technologies in (10 minutes) Sustainable Development   **Mr. Rami Zaatari**, Data and Technology Officer Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA   * Space Technology for the Sustainable (10 minutes) Development Goals   **Ms. Hazuki Mori,** Expert in Space Technology and Applications, UN Office of Outer Space Affairs |
| 15:45 – 16:00 | Discussion about the proposed research questions on the upcoming version of the evaluation and planning tools inspired from previous presentations (15 minutes) |

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| 16:00 – 16:15 | **Break** |

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| 16:15 – 17:00 | **Closing Session – Conclusions and summaries drawn from the**  **discussions of the previous sessions** |
|  | * Brief on ESCWA’s Working Paper on the (5 minutes) Integration of Environmental Issues in   Regional Digital Agendas  **Mr. Ibaa Oueichek**, Advancing Digital Cooperation and Development - Arab States Action Programme consultant, ESCWA   * **Group discussion** (25 minutes) **Indicators and proposed research questions for possible inclusion in the updated version of the Framework and Tools for Assessing and Planning Digital Development in the Arab Region**   (in light of previous session discussions and inspired from the working paper)   * **Next steps & Concluding remarks** (15 minutes) |
| End of the Meeting | |