



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



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**Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

**First ESCWA-League of Arab States Joint Workshop on Developing the Arab Digital Agenda / Information and Communications Technology Strategy**  
*A standalone Side-Event in parallel to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Arab Working Group on the Arab ICT strategy*

**Online Meeting, 23-24 March 2021**

Day one: Tuesday, 23 March 2021 **12:30-15:30 Beirut time**  
Day two: Wednesday, 24 March 2021 **12:30-15:30 Beirut time**

## Agenda

**Day one: Tuesday, 23 March 2021**

<b>12:30-13:00 Beirut Time</b>	<b>Opening/Deliberations of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Arab Working Group on the Arab ICT Strategy</b>

<b>13:00-13:20 Beirut Time (GMT+2)</b>	<b>Opening and Setting the Scene</b> <i>(In Arabic and English)</i>
	This session will provide an overview of the Project to co-develop the Arab Digital Agenda/ICT Strategy (ADAICTS), highlighting the associated vision, framework and methodology.
	<p><b>Welcome Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Khaled Wally</b>, Director of ICT Development, League of Arab States (LAS)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Juraj Riecan</b>, Director/Cluster Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ul> <p><b>ESCWA’s Intervention on the Strategic, Programmatic, and Organizational Contexts of the Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny</b>, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Arab Digital Cooperation and Development - Arab States Action Programme (ADCD-ASAP)</b>, and the <b>Joint Project to Co-Develop the Arab Digital Agenda/ICT Strategy (ADAICTS) (UN-ESCWA)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

<p><b>13:15-14:20</b> Beirut Time</p>	<p><b>Session I: Perspectives on Regional Digital Development Agendas in different parts of the World</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(In Arabic and English)</i></p>
	<p>Several existing regional digital agendas and strategies: frameworks, methodologies, successes &amp; shortcomings and lessons learnt, from the European Commission, the United Nations Regional Commissions for Africa, Latin America &amp; the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and Western Asia, will be briefly overviewed; touching on how these can reflect on the intended ADAICTS.</p>
	<p><b>Chair/Moderator:</b> <b>Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny</b>, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> <b>Ms. Rita Wehbe</b>, Economic Affairs Assistant, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The Regional Digital Strategy/Agenda of Europe (European Commission)</b> <i>Mr. Thibaut Kleiner, Director, Directorate of Policy Strategy &amp; Outreach, Director General Communications Networks, Content &amp; Technology – CONNECT, European Commission</i></li> <li>- <b>The Regional Digital Strategy/Agenda of Africa (United Nations-Economic Commission for Africa, UN-ECA)</b> <i>Mr. Jean-Paul ADAM, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, UN-ECA</i></li> <li>- <b>The Regional Digital Strategy/Agenda of Latin America &amp; the Caribbean (United Nations-Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-ECLAC)</b> <i>Mr. Sebastian Rovira, Economic Affairs Officer, Innovation and New Technologies, Division of Production, Productivity and Management, UN-ECLAC</i></li> <li>- <b>The Regional Digital Strategy/Agenda of Asia Pacific (United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN-ESCAP)</b> <i>Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, UN-ESCAP</i></li> <li>- <b>The Arab Digital Development Framework and Process for National Digital Development Reviews/National Digital Development Agendas/Arab Digital Development Report (United Nations-Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UN-ESCWA)</b> <i>Mr. Mansour Farah, UN-ESCWA Consultant</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

14:20-15:30	<b>Session II: Roundtable on National Digital Agendas and Strategies in the Arab region (by Member States)</b> <i>(In Arabic)</i>
	<p>The second segment will provide several strategic national perspectives from the Arab Ccountries, to complement the previous session of the global perspectives. It will provide overview of the existing (or prospected) National Agendas and Strategies: frameworks, methodologies, successes &amp; shortcomings and lessons learnt at the national level; touching on how these can reflect on the intended ADAICTS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(national partners / member countries)</b></p>
	<p><b>Chair:</b> Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ICT Policies Section - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Mansour Farah, ESCWA Consultant</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr. Hazem Hezzah, Information Technology Officer, ICT Development Department, League of Arab States (LAS)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Interventions from Arab countries on National ICT Strategies and Digital Development Agenda (existing or in-progress, or being planned for).</b>  <i>(in Arabic alphabetical order 3-4 minutes each)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr. Tawfiq Abu-baker</b>, Director of Policies and Strategies, Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Omar Alnemer</b>, Specialist Licensing and Interconnection, Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, <b>United Arab Emirates</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ms. Thouraya Ezzine</b>, Director General of Communication Technologies, Ministry of Communication Technology and Digital Economy, <b>Republic of Tunisia</b></li> <li>4. <b>Mr. Ibrahim Bakhit</b>, Director General, National Information Center (NIC), Ministry of the Council of Ministers, <b>Republic of Sudan</b></li> <li>5. <b>Ms. Ban Mohammed Ali Mahmood</b>, Head of Planning Department, Planning and Follow-Up Directorate, Ministry of Communications (MOC), <b>Republic of Iraq</b></li> <li>6. <b>Mr. Rashid Alalawi</b>, Director of Communications and Postal Affairs Department, Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information Technology (MTCIT), <b>Sultanate of Oman</b></li> <li>7. <b>Mr. Fadi Morjaneh</b>, Director General of e-Government General Directorate, Ministry of Telecom and Information Technology (MTIT), <b>Palestine</b></li> <li>8. <b>Ms. Samah Aziz</b>, Director of the International Relations Division, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), <b>Arab Republic of Egypt</b></li> <li>9. <b>Mr. El Hassen ould Babe</b>, Director of Infrastructure, Development and Technology Watch, Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Information and Communication Technologies (MESRSTIC), <b>Islamic Republic of Mauritania</b></li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated Group Discussion</b></p>

Day two: Wednesday, 24 March 2021

<p><b>12:30-13:45</b></p>	<p><b>Session III: Perspectives of the key partners to the ADAICTS Joint Project (by Arab organisations and UN bodies)</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(In Arabic and English)</i> <i>5 minutes for each organization</i></p>
	<p>In this segment, the main contributing partners will present their perspectives and envisaged inputs and contributions to the collaborative joint ESCWA-LAS project on developing the Arab Digital Agenda/ICT Strategy (ADAICTS).</p>
	<p><b><u>Chair:</u> Mr. Khaled Wally</b>, Director of ICT Development, League of Arab States (LAS)</p> <p><b><u>Moderator:</u> Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar</b>, Programme Management Officer, ICT Policies Section - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p><b><u>Rapporteur:</u> Ms. Rita Wehbe</b>, Economic Affairs Assistant, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p>
	<p><b><u>Arab Regional Organizations Partners</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Ayman Ghoneim</i>, Strategic Planning Advisor, Arab Federation for Digital Economy, Council of Arab Economic Unity (AFDE/CAEU)</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Mohamed Ben Amor</i>, Secretary-General, Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO)</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Mustapha Khattab</i>, Research, Studies and Consulting Department, Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO)</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b><u>United Nations Organizations Partners</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Mr. Karim Abdelghani</i>, Programme Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union-Arab Region Office (ITU-ARO), Cairo</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Torbjorn Fredriksson</i>, Chief, ICT Policy Section, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Deniz Susar</i>, Governance and Public Administration Officer, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), New York</li> <li>- <i>Mr. Paul Hector</i>, Associate Researcher, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School, Lab for Innovation, Technology, Economics &amp; Management (LITEM), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-Cairo Office), Egypt</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>

13:45-14:45	<b>Session IV: Putting it all together: Roundtable on the Current Status and the Way Forward</b>  <i>(In Arabic)</i>
	<p>This segment will recap on the main findings and conclusions of the previous sessions, providing a sort of stocktaking of the three segments; and will give a glimpse on the proposed structure of the intended Arab Digital Agenda/ICT Strategy, as well as on major regional tracks that are taking place during 2021, touching on how these can reflect on the intended ADAICTS, leading to a discussion on the way forward and next steps.</p>
	<p><b><u>Chair/Moderator:</u> Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny</b>, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p> <p><b><u>Rapporteur:</u> Ms. Rita Wehbe</b>, Economic Affairs Assistant, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Recap on the previous segments</b></li> <li>- <b>Reflection on the Proposed structure of the Arab Digital Agenda/ICT Strategy</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Potential synergies between existing parallel tracks that run in parallel to the work on ADAICTS during 2021</b> (World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC-2021 and preparatory process, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda, and the 6<sup>th</sup> Arab IGF and related preparatory processes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Next steps and the way forward</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderated Discussion</b></p>
14:45-15:00	<b>Closing Session (End of the Workshop)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Ahmed Abdel Moneim</b>, Chair of the Arab working Group on Arab ICT, LAS</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Khaled Wally</b>, Director of ICT Development, LAS</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny</b>, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development, ESCWA</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Juraj Riecan</b>, Director/Cluster Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</li> </ul>

End of Side-Event (Workshop)

<b>15:00-15:30 Beirut Time</b>	<b>Resuming Deliberations of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Arab Working Group on the Arab ICT Strategy</b>

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