Background and objective

In 2021, ESCWA launched the ESCWA Digital Arabic Content Award for Sustainable Development to honor outstanding projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ESCWA collaborates with the World Summit Awards on implementing the Award, which encompassed three cycles since its inception.

The Award is governed by the rules and conditions that are set by a Steering Committee of experts and revised annually for each cycle. It is open to institutions and young entrepreneurs from Arab countries that have developed digital Arabic content applications or projects with a clear impact on society.

Categories of the Award:

- **Institutions:** projects can be implemented by public, private, academic, civil society, non-governmental, or other stakeholders.

- **Young entrepreneurs:** projects can be implemented by start-up founders, or teams of young people or individuals where at least one of the founders and most of the team are younger than 35 years old.

Annual cycles of the Award extend around 10-months and the results of each are announced during the annual Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (AFSD), and the results of the current third cycle of ESCWA DAC Award are announced during this special session of AFSD-2024.

In this cycle, there are three (3) winner projects in the Institutions category and One (1) special mention project. In the Young Entrepreneurs category, there are Four (4) winner projects and One (1) special mention project.

The main objective of this special session is to announce the Winner Projects of the ESCWA DAC Award and give the representatives of winners a time space to briefly present their projects and discuss their experiences, challenges and opportunities and project impact.

Moderator

- **Dr Mirna El Hajj**, Programme Management Officer, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA

Speakers

- **HE Mr Ziad Al-Makary**, Minister of Information, Lebanon

- **Dr Nibal Idlebi,** Acting Director, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA

- **Representatives of Winner projects** in ESCWA DAC Award 2023-2024

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please register here.
Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in the Main Hall.