InfoDev   ICT   ITU   UNESCO  MOPT  ESCWA

# Western Asia Preparatory Conference for WSIS
Beirut, UN-House, 4-6 February 2003

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

**First day (Tuesday 4 February 2003)**

1. **Plenary** session
   o Opening session
   o Election of officers and adoption of the agenda
   o Overview of the information society in the ESCWA/Arab region
   o Ministerial debate on policies
   o General debate

2. **Parallel thematic working group sessions** including presentations, thematic debates and roundtables covering the following themes:
   o Regional and national ICT infrastructures (Assessment and direction)
   o ICTs for socioeconomic development (MDG) and universal access
   o Capacity building, human resources, education and training in ICT

**Second day (Wednesday 5 February 2003)**

3. **Parallel thematic working group sessions** including presentations, thematic debates and roundtables covering the following themes:
   o Arabic digital content and cultural/language barriers
   o E-government
   o E-commerce
   o E-learning
   o E-health
   o Security of ICT applications
   o Policies and regulatory frameworks for the digital economy (international rules and agreements of WTO, WIPO, ITU, etc.)
   o Partnership among stakeholders of the information society and financing of ICT development projects
   o Regional collaboration and integration

A drafting group will be working on the Conference document (including a declaration of principles and initiatives) in parallel and in coordination with the thematic groups during the second day.

**Third day (Thursday 6 February 2003)**

4. **Plenary session**:
   o Submission of thematic working group sessions' reports
   o Discussion and adoption of final Conference document
   o Closing remarks