

## Experts Meeting on Shaping the Digital Future in the Arab Region

اجتماع الخبراء حول استشراف المستقبل الرقمي في المنطقة العربية

UN-House, Beirut, 8-12 May 2017

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

MONDAY 8 MAY 2017		
10:00-15:00	Registration and Badge Collection	Entrance, GF
12:00-12:30	<b>EGM-1: Opening - Experts Segment</b>	Mezzanine, MZ
12:30-13:00	<b>EGM-2: Setting the Scene: ISDEHAR Framework</b> This session will take us through a journey of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) starting with its inception in 2003, its review by the UN General Assembly in late 2015 to its extension until 2030. It will introduce the vision of ESCWA that is aimed at supporting the region in harnessing the Information Society and Digital Economy and in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. It will also introduce related pillars of work, namely competitiveness, transformation and Governance. <b>Speaker:</b> Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, UN-ESCWA	Mezzanine, MZ
13:00-13:30	Break	
12:30-13:00	<b>EGM-3: Arab Digital Economy and Smart Societies Report (1/2)</b> This session will be devoted to the discussion of the main findings of the ESCWA study entitled <i>Arab Digital Economy and Smart Society</i> . The session will focus more on the main concepts of digital economies and smart societies, highlighting policy priorities as underlying technological developments and risks. It will also discuss the supply (ICT sector and infrastructure) and demand (usage patterns and skills) sides of the digital economy with highlights to their global status in developed, developing and Arab countries. Finally, this session will discuss what makes digital economies important for innovation and growth and how emerging models such as data-driven innovation and sharing economy platforms will transform established business models, create new markets and a new way of work. <b>Chairman:</b> Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, UN-ESCWA <b>Speaker:</b> Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France <b>Discussant:</b> AHLF Experts Review Panel <b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA	Mezzanine, MZ
14:30-14.35	<b>Group photo</b>	Entrance, GF
14:30-15:30	Lunch break	Cafeteria, GF

**15:30-16:30 EGM-4: Arab Digital Economy and Smart Societies Report (2/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

This session will also be devoted to the discussion of the main findings of the ESCWA study entitled **Arab Digital Economy and Smart Society**. In this session, discussions will focus on the measurement of digital economies and analyze the status of Arab countries in their transition towards digital economies and smart societies. After a brief review of major measurement frameworks and indicators, the status of Arab countries in different dimensions related to supply, demand and skills will be discussed.

**Chairman:** Ms. Mirna EL-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

**Speaker:** Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France

**Discussant:** AHLF Experts Review Panel

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

**TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017**

**09:00-10:00 EGM-5: Smart Digital Transformation in Government (1/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

The session is the first of two aimed at presenting an ESCWA study on **Smart Digital Transformation**. The study deals with the historical account of the development of governments throughout history and aligns meaningful technological breakthroughs with their impacts of government development. The discussion will highlight the disruptive role of technology, the Smart Paradigm and the transformation from e-government to smart government. It proposes the linking of SDGs with smart governments and suggests the top 10 technologies for the achievement of smart government.

**Chairman:** Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, UN-ESCWA

**Speaker:** Mr. Abdulilah Dewachi, Independent Consultant, Iraq

**Discussant:** AHLF Experts Review Panel

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

10:00-10:30 Break

**10:30-11:30 EGM-6: Smart Digital Transformation in Government (2/2)** Mezzanine, MZ

The session is the second of two aimed at presenting an ESCWA study on **Smart Digital Transformation**. It notes that Smart Government is not a distinct item in UNDESA e-Government surveys. It brings forth the idea that a smart government will score high on the eGovernment Development Index (EGDI) and highlights smart studies from the list of countries that have scored high on the survey. Challenges facing Arab countries that fall under social, economic, infrastructural and management issues are on the discussion agenda. For policymakers, three

smart transformation scenarios grouped under sector-centric, city-centric or a combination of the two are proposed. A modified Action Priority Matrix worksheet is used to assist in the selection of the most suitable scenarios for smart transformation which could assist policymakers and planners decide of the most suitable choices.

**Chairman:** Mr. Georges Younes, ICT Officer, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

**Speaker:** Mr. Abdulilah Dewachi, Independent Consultant, Iraq

**Discussant:** AHLF Experts Review Panel

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

11:30-12:00 Break

**12:00-13:00 EGM-7: Update on the AIGF2020 Initiative - Internet Governance Roadmap 2.0** Mezzanine, MZ

The Fourth Arab IGF resulted in the launching by the Arab IGF umbrella organizations, ESCWA and LAS, of the AIGF2020 initiative that aims at analyzing and developing the Arab IGF process in its second mandate that could extend until 2020. This session aims at discussing and improving the second version of the Internet Governance Roadmap, one of two outputs expected of the renewed AIGF initiative.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Speaker:** Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Discussant:** AHLF Experts Review Panel

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

13:00-13:30 Break

**13:30-14:30 EGM-8: Update on the AIGF2020 Initiative - Charter for the AIGF 2.0** Mezzanine, MZ

A Technical Cooperation Working Group (TCWG) comprising 32 delegates from various Arab governments and experts representing all other stakeholders, has been established by the ESCWA LAS executive bureau during May 2016. It aims at facilitating the implementation of the AIGF2020 initiative by assessing the accomplishments, impact and challenges of the elapsing phase and proposing suggestions for improvement. This session will present the activities of the TCWG, its final report and the resulting charter. The session will conclude with a briefing on related future steps.

**Chairman:** Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

**Speakers:** ESCWA and LAS representatives

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

14:30-15:30 Lunch Break Cafeteria, GF

**15:30-16:30 EGM-9: Operational Modalities of the New Mandate of the Arab IGF towards the 2030 Agenda** Mezzanine, MZ

This session will focus on Internet governance and its linkages with the SDGs. It will discuss a set of standard operating procedures for the new phase of the Arab IGF process, and will propose sound, practical and strategic recommendations that address regional challenges.

**Chairman:** Ms. Mirna El-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, UN-ESCWA

**Speaker:** Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant- Syria

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

**WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017**

10:30-17:00 Conference segment of the Forum.

**THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017**

10:30-17:00 Conference segment of the Forum.

**FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017**

09:00-10:00 Conference segment of the Forum.

**10:30-11:30 EGM-10: From Measuring the Information Society to Measuring the Digital Economy** Com Room II, B1

Since the inception of the WSIS Process in 2003, the ESCWA Region has been using frameworks and indicators for measuring the Information Society. With the extension of the WSIS Process from 2015 until 2025, the inception of the 2030 Agenda, and the conception of the ISDEHAR Framework that introduced the notions of Digital Economies and Smart Societies, the measurement, follow-up and review of progress will need new indicators to gauge the progress of rapidly emerging phenomena and disruptive technologies. This session will discuss how to devise new ways of gauging progress of ICT4SDGs.

**Chairman:** Ms. Nagwa El-Shenawy, Under-Secretary for Information and Strategic Planning, Ministry of Communications and IT, Egypt

**Speakers:** Mr. Rami Zaatari, Head of Data Dissemination Unit, UN-ESCWA  
Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria  
Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France  
Mr. Nawar Al-Awa, Regional Advisor, UN-ESCWA

**Rapporteur:** Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

11:30-12:00 Break

<b>12:00-13:00</b>	<b>EGM-11: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 (1/2)</b>	Mezzanine, MZ
	<p>This session will provide decision and policymakers from all stakeholders in the region with strategic frameworks, regional information society priorities/objectives customized for the Arab region and Internet governance. These frameworks will guide policymakers in their process to identify the regional/national priorities and develop their national digital agendas.</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association - Tunisia</p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA</p>	
<b>13:00-13:30</b>	Break	
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>EGM-12: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 (2/2)</b>	Mezzanine, MZ
	<p>This session will provide decision and policymakers from all stakeholders in the region with the strategic frameworks, regional priorities/objectives customized for the Arab region in the fields of information society, ICT sector and Internet governance. These frameworks will guide policymakers in their process to identify the regional/national priorities and develop their national digital agendas.</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association, Tunisia Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant, Jordan</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA</p>	
<b>14:30-15:30</b>	Lunch break	Cafeteria, GF
<b>15:30-16:30</b>	<b>Stocktaking and Closing of the Forum</b>	Main Hall, B1