

**Arab High-level Forum on
WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
UN-House, Beirut, 8-12 May 2017

Under the Patronage of the President of the Council of Ministers
His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri

CATALOGUE

المنتدى العربي رفيع المستوى
للجنة العالمية لمجتمع المعلومات وأجندة 2030 للتنمية المستدامة
بيت الأمم المتحدة، بيروت، 8-12 أيار/مايو 2017

برعاية دولة رئيس مجلس الوزراء السيد سعد الحريري

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1. Introduction

In 2015, the **United Nations General Assembly renewed the mandate of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) for 10 years, from 2015 to 2025**, during the ten-year review of WSIS high-level event,¹ and called for **close alignment of between the WSIS process and the Sustainable Development process**. In 2025, a review of the implementation of the WSIS outcomes will be an input into the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this context, the WSIS process convenes an annual global forum that serves as the platform for discussing the role of information and communications technology (ICT) as a means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and alleviation of poverty..

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the convening of the WSIS in 2001, based on a proposal from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The WSIS has the objective of reducing and eventual elimination of the digital divide and was held in two phases, in 2003 in Geneva and in 2005 in Tunis. The WSIS outcomes included the Geneva Plan of Action that included 11 WSIS Action Lines² and the Tunis Commitment,³ aiming to build a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, focused on key subject areas: Internet governance and financial mechanisms, in addition to universal access to information and knowledge, democracy, sustainable development, freedom of expression and the free flow of information. In the 2015 ten-year review of the WSIS, the overarching message was that development is digitally based, and that the WSIS process has strong links with the Sustainable Development Agenda and goals; additionally, new topics were emphasized, including human rights, trust, security and Internet Governance.

The WSIS Process, which is led by the ITU, facilitates the development of the knowledge society and digital economy and supports the implementation of the SDGs, and has prepared in 2015 the **WSIS-SDGs Matrix**⁴ that links the WSIS 11 action lines with the SDGs. The linkages emphasize the crucial role of ICTs as catalysts for the achievement of all the 17 SDGs,⁵ and the analysis of the connections and relations between the action lines and the targets of SDGs strengthen the link between WSIS aim of harnessing ICTs to achieve the development goals.

The mandate of **United Nations Regional Commissions** (UNRCs), including ESCWA, within the WSIS process received a similar extension in 2015 to that stipulated in the Tunis Agenda of 2005. ESCWA continue to play a leading role in the WSIS process, the preparatory activities of which has started since the inception of the WSIS and included, among others, regional preparatory meetings (2003, 2004, 2009), profiling of the information society in a series of biennial reports (from 2003 to 2015), a regional plan of action for building the information society (2004).⁶ In addition, activities in partnership with the League of Arab States included the initiative entitled "Arab dialogue on Internet governance"⁷ that resulted with a number of outcomes, including the launch in 2012 of the Arab IGF and its process (2012-2015).

¹ <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95707.pdf>

² WSIS-03/GENEVA/DOC/5-E, Para.4, (12 December 2003), <http://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html>

³ WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/007-A, (15 November 2005), <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/7.html>

⁴ <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/>, <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2016/Outcomes/#sdgs>

⁵ <http://www.itu.int/en/sustainable-world/Pages/default.aspx>

⁶ <http://isper.escwa.un.org/RegionalActionPlans/RegionalPlanofAction/RPoADocument/tabid/68/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁷ For more information, please check <https://www.unescwa.org/sub-site/arabDIG>

Furthermore, an important ESCWA Development Account project resulted with the establishment of the "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA Region (AIGLE)", and produced training modules in the area of ICT for Development, and an online platform for the Academy⁸. ESCWA activities also included initiatives for building capacities to promote technology for development, enhance ICT and Internet policies, reduce barriers to the adoption of ICT, and promote Internet penetration and the use of ICT applications to accelerate socio-economic development and the attainment of the SDGs.

With its continuous efforts to support member countries on leveraging opportunities of the digital economy and the information society, ESCWA has recently conceptualized a framework entitled "Information Society and Digital Economy Hub in the Arab Region" (ISDEHAR) that targets an increase in the readiness of the region to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and a sustainable and inclusive information society in the Arab region, as well as propose a comprehensive strategic framework to foster partnerships towards achieving the development goals. Furthermore, ESCWA work programme includes several activities that

Within its work programme, ESCWA has several activities related to the WSIS and SDGs for the new WSIS mandate (2015-2025), and these include Arab High-level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Beirut 8-12 May 2017, which is the first programme activity that seeks to link the WSIS action lines and targets with the 17 SDGs.

2. Forum Organization

Under the patronage of the president of the Council of Ministers His Excellency Mr. Saad Hariri, the Arab High-level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ will be held from 8 to 12 May 2017 at the UN-House, Beirut, Lebanon.

The Forum is organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) in partnership with the Lebanese Ministry of Telecommunications and in collaboration with OGERO Telecom. The ICT Policies Section of the Technology for Development Division of ESCWA is leading the efforts of UNESCWA on the Forum, which includes an experts meeting and a conference, as follows:

- 1) **Experts Meeting: Shaping the Digital Future in the Arab Region** (8-12 May)
- 2) **Conference: Digital Technologies for SDGs (10-12 May)**, which includes:
 - High-level/Ministerial Track (11 May).
 - Arab WSIS Community Track on Partners for SDGs (11-12 May).

The Forum will bring together various stakeholders in the information society, digital economy and Internet governance in the Arab region, to review, present, and discuss the digital footprint in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. It will focus on how digital economies and smart societies can accelerate the implementation of WSIS action lines, themes and priority areas, as well as contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab Region.

⁸ For more information, please check <http://www.escwa-aigle.org/>

⁹ For more information, please check www.unescwa.org/arab-wsis-sdgs

The Forum will cover the WSIS themes and linkages with sustainable development and its three pillars, social, economic and environmental, as well as political. The topics would encompass those related to both the WSIS and SDGs processes, including, among others, cloud computing, Internet of things, digital economy, Arab top-level domain names, updated Arab ICT strategy, social inclusion, economic growth, peace, partnerships for sustainable development, and dialogue on the WSIS action lines and SDGs targets and the way forward.

During the **Experts Meeting**, four publications prepared by ESCWA will be reviewed, namely: *Arab digital agenda 2030*; *Arab Internet Governance Roadmap 2025*; *Smart transformation in Government and society in the Arab region*; and *Arab digital economy and smart society report*. The Meeting will introduce ESCWA's vision on how to support the region in their efforts to harness the Information Society and Digital Economy to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda, whether they are political, economic, social or environmental. It will introduce ESCWA's main pillars of work that include "Competitiveness," "Transformation" and "Governance," aiming at economic growth, social inclusion, stability and peace. It will produce suggestions for the improvement of the aforementioned publications.

The **Conference** will include main plenary sessions, that will cover (a) WSIS and Political Dimension of the 2030 Agenda; (b) WSIS and Economic Dimension of the 2030 Agenda; and (c) WSIS and Social Dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The Political dimension includes issues, such as Cyberwar Cyber peace, and Cyber Terrorism, National Sovereignty, Role of State and other actors; multilateralism versus multi-stakeholderism; in Internet Governance as well as role of ICT in good governance. The economic dimension includes issues of Digital Economy, Digital Industries, Competitiveness and Comparative Advantages of ICT Sectors in EMCs. Disruptive Technologies, Ecosystems and Platforms of eTrade and eCommerce. The social dimension includes issues such as Smart and Sustainable Communities, Smart Cities, Sustainable Consumption and eWaste Management, Digital Transformation, Smart Societies, Smart Governments, and Smart Sectors; with focus on education, health and social inclusion particularly for Women, youth as well as protection of children and empowerment of the elderly.

2.1 Expected Outcomes and Participation

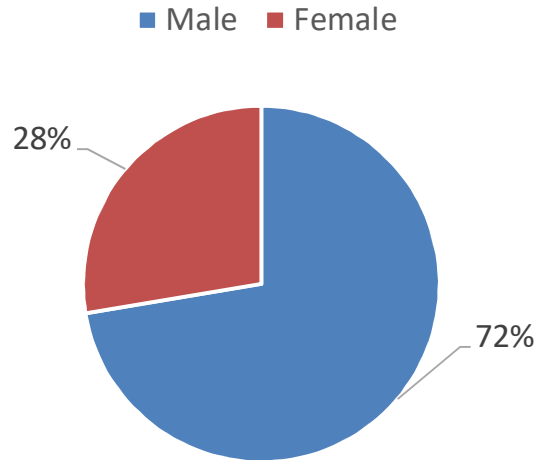
The expected outcomes of the Experts Meeting would include compiled recommendations for the improvement of the aforementioned publications, to enhance their final versions, while the overall outcome of the Forum would be a Declaration on the way forward in the linkage of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Forum participants will include policy- and decision-makers who are directly involved in the process towards developing the information society, the development of a digital economy and the attainment of the SDGs in the Arab region. Experts in the field of ICTs and Internet policies, applications and services, and ICT for SDGS, as well as representatives of the public and private sectors, non-governmental organizations, and international and regional organizations will also attend.

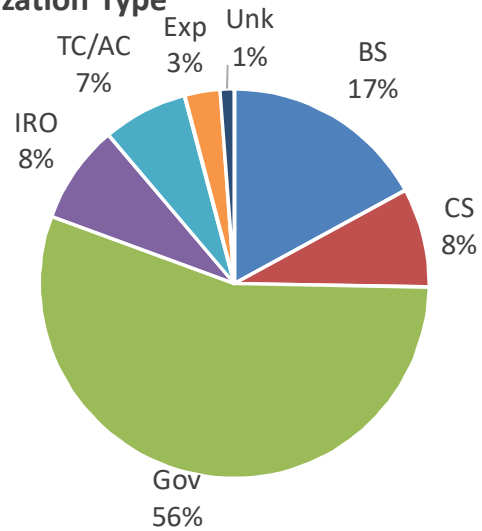
2.2 Registration Statistics

The charts below show the registrations statistics by Gender and by Organization type, based on the records dated 6 May 2017.

Registration by Gender



Registration by Organization Type



BS- Business Sector, **CS-** Civil Society, **Gov-** Government, **IRO-** International and Regional Organizations, **TC/AC-** Technical/Academic Community, **Exp-** Individual Experts, **Unk** – Unknown.

3. Forum Programme

Experts Meeting on Shaping the Digital Future in the Arab Region

UN-House, Beirut, 8-12 May 2017

MONDAY 8 MAY 2017

10:00-15:00 Registration and Badge Collection Entrance, GF

12:00-12:30 EGM-1: Opening - Experts Meeting Mezzanine, MZ

12:30-13:00 EGM-2: Setting the Scene: ISDEHAR Framework Mezzanine, MZ

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.

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

13:00-13:30 Break

13:30-14:30 EGM-3: Arab Digital Economy and Smart Societies Report (1/2) Mezzanine, MZ

This session will be devoted to the discussion of the main findings of the ESCWA study entitled *Arab Digital Economy and Smart Society*. 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.

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

Speaker: Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France

Discussant: AHLF Experts Review Panel

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

14:30 Group photo 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. Nawar Al-Awa, Regional Advisor, 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 policy-makers 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 & THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017

Conference segment of the Forum.

FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017

Two sessions as part of the 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: Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

Speakers: Mr. Rami Zaatari, Head of Data Dissemination Unit, UN-ESCWA
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

12:00-13:30 EGM-11: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 Mezzanine, MZ

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.

Chairman: Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan

Speakers: Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria
Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association, Tunisia
Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant, Jordan

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

Conference on Digital Technologies for Sustainable Development Goals

UN-House, Beirut, 10-12 May 2017

Includes: High-level/Ministerial Track (11 May) and Arab WSIS Community Track: Partners for SDGs (11-12 May)

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

08:30-15:00 Registration and Badge Collection Entrance, GF

09:30-11:00 Conf-1/2: Opening of the Conference Main Hall, B1
 ESCWA Statements
 Government of Lebanon Statements

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Conf-3: Plenary 1- Digital Technologies: Towards Reinforcing Sovereignty and Stability in the Arab States Main Hall, B1

The WSIS Tunis Agenda in Articles 68-71 emphasized the role of Governments in global Internet Governance. The 2030 Agenda emphasized Peace and Strong Institutions in Goal 16. This plenary session will explore these intersections through tackling few States-related dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Issues to be explored include (a) Internet threats that may accompany the Digital Revolution (b) The role of State in International Political Landscape of the Internet, and (c) Digital technologies for Good Governance and Stability.

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

Panellists: Ms. Susanne El-Hajj Hobeiche, Head of Cyber Crime and Intellectual Property Bureau, Internal Security Forces, Lebanon
 Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria
 Mr. Hani Raad, General Manager, Cisco Systems, Levant and Lebanon
 Mr. Richard Hill, CEO, Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland (Remotely by WebEx)
 Mr. Adel Abdel Sadek AlGakha, Head of Media Studies, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt
 Mr. Gilbert Doumit, Managing Partner, Beyond Reform and Development, MENA region

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

12:30-13:00 Break

13:00-14:00 Conf-4: Plenary 2 - Digital Technologies: Disruptive Business Models, Disruptive Ecosystems, New Economy Main Hall, B1

This plenary session will explore the economic dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Issues to be explored include Digital Economy, Digital Industries, Competitiveness, the Comparative

Advantages of ICT Sectors in Countries of the ESCWA region, Disruptive Technologies, Ecosystems and Platforms of eTrade and eCommerce.

Chairperson: Mr. Souheil Marine, Independent Consultant, France

Panellists: Mr. Ahmed Kamaly, Chief of Economic Governance and Planning, UN-ESCWA

Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

Mr. Karim Abdel Ghani, Program Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

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

14:00	Group photo	Main Hall, B1
14:00-15:00	Lunch break	Cafeteria, GF

15:00-16:00	Conf-5	Main Plenary 3– Digital Transformation and Human Development: From Poverty to Prosperity	Main Hall, B1
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This plenary session will explore the social dimensions of the WSIS process and the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development. Issues to be explored include Sustainable Communities, Smart Societies, Smart Governments, and Smart Sectors. The main focus of the discussion will be education, health, and social inclusion.

Chairperson: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief of Participation and Social Justice, UN-ESCWA

Panellists: Mr. Antoni Vives Tomas, CEO, The City Transformation Agency SL, Spain

Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Acting Chair of Applied Informatics in Management, Technical University of Gdańsk, Poland (Remotely by WebEx)

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt

Mr. Amitabh Kundu, Regional Advisor on Poverty, UN-ESCWA

Mr. Maroun Karam, Regional IT Manager, WHO, Egypt

Mr. Paul Hector, UNESCO Cairo Office

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

THURSDAY 11 MAY 2017

10:30-12:00	Conf-6/7:	High Level Roundtable on Harnessing Digital Strategies for achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Prospects and Challenges	Com Room I, B1
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Organised by the Lebanese Ministry of Telecommunications (By Invitation)

Technology is universally identified as one of the main means of implementation (MoI) of the 2030 Agenda. In order to highlight the role of digital strategies in achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the Arab region in general and In Lebanon in particular, distinguished ministers, ambassadors, directors and high-level representatives from the Arab region will discuss challenges and prospects of implementing digital strategies. This session will focus on main features and

achievements of digital strategies in the Arab region, national plans to raise awareness on the use of digital technologies for SDGs, suggested mechanisms and business models to fund implementation initiatives and projects.

12:00-12:30 Break

12:30-13:30 Parallel Sessions

12:30-13:30 **Conf-8a: Smart Infrastructure for Digital Transformation from Lebanese Operators Perspective** Mezzanine, MZ

Organised by the Ministry of Telecommunications and OGERO (Open Session)

Chairperson: Mr. Bassel Al Ayoubi, Director General of Investment and Maintenance, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon

Speakers: Mr. Ali Atie, NNCC Director, OGERO Telecom
Mr. Imad Hamed, Chief Technology Officer, Alfa
Mr. Jad Kahi, Technology Director, Touch

12:30-13:30 **Conf-8b: Sustainable Smart Cities and Urban Transformation** Com Room I, B1

This session will offer for discussion the regional and national perspectives on smart cities. It will also provide an opportunity for a discussion on urban transformation and inclusive social development.

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulilah Dewachi, Independent Consultant, Iraq

Speakers: Mr. Antoni Vives Tomas, CEO, The City Transformation Agency SL, Spain
Ms. Naela Haddad, First Social Affairs Officer, Social Policy Section, UN-ESCWA
Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt
Mr. Amitabh Kundu, Regional Advisor on Poverty, UN-ESCWA
Mr. Ali Ataya, Director of E-Gov Programme, Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform - OMSAR, Lebanon
Mr. Ahmed EL-Dorghamy, Energy and Environment Expert, CEDARE, Egypt

12:30-13:30 **Conf-8c: The Arab Top Level Domain Names Project and Implications on the ICT Industry** Com Room II, B1

The Arab Domain Names Industry has been one of the breakthrough industries that emerged with the inception of the Internet in the mid-nineties, and with the invention of the Domain Names System (DNS). Top Level Domain Names are either country-code TLDs (ccTLDs) such as ".lb" or ".eg"; or generic TLDs (gTLDs) like ".com" and ".org". These TLDs used to be only in Latin script letters and numbers (ASCII). At the beginning of the century, a global notion of internationalised Domain Names came into the forefront of the scene. UN-ESCWA played a major role in setting the international standards for the use of Arabic script in the DNS; and jointly with LAS, UN-ESCWA defined the Arab Top Level Domain Names Project in 2009, which is now set to see the light in few months. This session provides an update on the ".arab" and ".عرب" ATLDs and their implications on the Domain

Names Industry. It also unveils the profitability of the Industry at large as one of the most untapped segments of the Digital Economy.

Chairperson: Ms. Christine Arida, Executive Director, Telecom Services and Planning, NTRA, Egypt

Speakers: Mr. Michael Palage, Consultant, Pharos Global, United States
Mr. Charles Sha'ban, Executive Director, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property, Jordan
Mr. Khaled Fouda, Director of ICT Development, League of Arab States

13:30-14:00 Break

14:00-15:00 Parallel Sessions

14:00-15:00 Conf-9a: Operational and Regulatory Challenges of Next Gen Digital Infrastructure in the Arab Region Mezzanine, MZ

This session will focus on a paper that covers the following subjects: a) Linkages between WSIS action line 2 and SDG 9 (Build a resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation); b) Strengthening this linkage and the achievement of SDG 8 in the Arab region; c) Identifying and analysing Arab region priorities and challenges with regard to the achievement of SDG 9; d) Proposing sound, practical and strategic recommendations; e) Mainstreaming gender and highlighting impacts and challenges.

Chairperson: Ms. Christine Arida, NTRA, Egypt

Speakers: Mr. Mohammed Al Hashimi, Senior Systems Engineer, CISCO Systems, Levant and Iraq
Mr. Yousef Torman, Managing Director, ASREN, Jordan
Mr. Marco Carugi, Senior Consultant, ICT and Standards, NEC Cooperation, Japan

14:00-15:00 Conf-9b: Digital Technologies in the Health, Water and Transport Sectors Com Room I, B1

This session will include discussions on the transformation towards smart transport sectors in the Arab region. It will examine how new digital technologies (cloud computing, IoTs,..) can be used to achieve related sustainable development goals in the water, transport, and health fields as well as for adaptations to climate change.

Chairperson: Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

Speakers: Mr. Ahmed EL-Dorghamy, Energy and Environment Expert, CEDARE, Egypt
Mr. Yarob Badr, Regional Advisor on Transport and Logistics, UN-ESCWA
Mr. Tarek Sadek, RICCAR, UN-ESCWA
Mr. Maroun Karam, Regional IT Manager, WHO, Egypt

15:00-16:00 Lunch break

Cafeteria, GF

16:00-17:00 Parallel Sessions**16:00-17:00 Conf-10a: Emerging Business Models in Digital Economy** Com Room II, B1

This session will focus on policies for competitiveness in the digital economy and new business models aimed at achieving sustainable development and will take into consideration e-payment, cloud computing, other emerging trends and the role of the ICT industry.

Chairperson: Mr. Marco Carugi, Senior Consultant, ICT and Standards, NEC Cooperation, Japan

Speakers: Mr. Azzam Alameddin, Government Relation, Visa Inc.
Mr. Michael Lapage, Consultant, Paros Global, United States

16:00-17:00 Conf-10b: Big Data for Development Mezzanine, MZ

The huge volumes of generated data from different classical and new sources and the need to analyse them and deduct value in shorter times have given rise to big data technologies and data science techniques. Globally, this has been accompanied by severe transformations in the business and industries that necessitate new strategies throughout the whole value chain; business model innovation, organization structure as well as governance. In the Arab region, big data applications have recently started infiltrating businesses. Their main sources of data are derived from social media and mobile phone operators. How will big data impact job creation in the Arab region? What are some of the challenges facing the rise of Big Data in the Arab region? How can the Arab region boost capacity building in this field? What can governments in the Arab region do to creating enabling environments for Big Data? More importantly, how can governments promote the use of Big Data for Development particularly to improve decision making by policy makers? These are some of the questions that this session will seek to answer.

Chairperson: Mr. Karim Abdel Ghani, Program Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

Speakers: Mr. Juraj Riecan, Director, Statistics Division, and Mr. Rami Zaatari, Head of Data Dissemination Unit, UN-ESCWA
Mr. Ayman Ali-Maher Ibrahim, Managing Director, swiftways and Adjunct Professor, Nile University -Egypt
Mr. Hosein Badran, Director of Special Projects, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

16:00-17:00 Conf-10c: Youth between Internet Pitfalls and Social Inclusion Com Room I, B1

Youth are an underestimated but growing force on the international stage, especially in our modern societies where mobile phones and the Internet are increasingly available. In that context, this session will reflect the areas where ICTs are emerging as potentially powerful elements for the social and economic development of youth. From another side, the session will discuss how the social networks have become used as a "tool for changing behaviour" among Arab youth whether. Many topics will be discussed at this level, including: - the contribution of social networks to the internalization of social, cultural and family values, - The impact of that change on the behaviour and attitudes of young people, - The main patterns of negative use of social networks among young people, and - How we can address this misuse of ICT technologies in our region?

Chairperson: Ms. Hanane Boujemi, Senior Manager IG Programme, Hivos-

Morocco

- Speakers:** Ms. Rita Karam, Secretary General, Higher Council for Childhood, MOSA, Lebanon
 Mr. Adel Abdel Sadek AlGakha, Expert at Security and Strategic Studies Unit and Head of Media Studies Program, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt
 Mr. Ayman Itani, Digital Strategist, Lebanon (Remotely by WebEx)

FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017

09:00-10:00 Parallel Sessions

- 09:00-10:00 Conf-11a: Empowering Women through ICT** Com Room II, B1
- The use of innovative new technologies has expanded worldwide for social, economic and political use and contributed to the development of societies. This session will demonstrate how ICTs can positively empower women in the Arab region. It will focus on the linkages of the WSIS action lines with SDG 5 entitled "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls", and the means of strengthening the impact of ICTs in achieving this goal in the Arab region. Additionally, it will identify the priorities and challenges facing the Arab region in the context of ICT for achieving SDG 5, and propose sound, practical and strategic recommendations addressing them.
- Chairperson:** Ms. Mirna EL-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, UN-ESCWA
- Speakers:** Ms. Hanane Boujemi, Senior Manager IG Programme, Hivos-Morocco
 Mr. Raidan Al-Saqqaf, Social Affairs Officer- Women, Peace, and Security, UN-ESCWA
 Ms. Mona Itani, Founder, Riyada for Social Innovation, Lebanon
 Ms. Shourouq Shatnawi, National Manager, UNSCr 1325, Women, Peace and Security, Jordanian National Commission for Women - Jordan
 Ms. Nada Hamzeh, Communications and Digital Media Strategist, Lebanon
- 09:00-10:00 Conf-11b Digital Strategies in the Arab Region - Regional and National Perspectives (1/2)** Mezzanine, MZ
- This session is one of two sessions that will review the status of ICT strategies and digital agendas in the Arab region, at both the national and regional levels. This will establish discussion for a vision for the future and will encourage other governments to devise or update their national strategies.
- Chairperson:** Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant -Jordan
- Speakers:** Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria
 Mr. Suleiman Al-Zuhairy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Telecom and IT, Palestine
 Mr. Riadh Oueslati, Head of e-Services Department, e-Gov Unit, Presidency of Government, Tunisia
 Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan

09:00-10:00 Conf-11c: Enhanced Cooperation Process for Proper Internet Governance: Where does the world stand 12 years after WSIS? Com Room I, B1

Tunis Agenda in 2005 stipulated that the UN Secretary General should launch by the beginning of 2006 two processes related to Internet Governance: One is the so called "Enhanced Cooperation" process that is predominantly governmental in nature, and the other is called the "Internet Governance Process" that is UN led and multistakeholder in nature. After 12 years, it is worth questioning why one process saw the light, while the other went into a tunnel; and whether or not the tunnel has any sort of light at the end of it. The session will seek to understand the dilemma and to unveil the forces that hindered the UN to undertake its mandate to the fullest, and discuss how the world can come with innovative approaches to implement Tunis Agenda in this respect.

Chairperson: Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

Speakers: Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria
Ms. Yvonne Sleiman, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon
Mr. Richard Hill, President, Association for Proper Internet Governance, Switzerland (Remotely by WebEx)

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-11:30 Parallel Sessions

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: Mr. Mansour Farah, Independent Consultant, Syria

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

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

10:30-11:30 Conf-12b: Digital Strategies in the Arab Region - Regional and National Perspectives (2/2) Mezzanine, MZ

This session is the second of the two sessions dedicated to review the status of ICT strategies and digital agendas in the Arab region, at both the national and regional levels. In this particular session, the League of Arab States, through its Working Group on Arab ICT Strategy will present ongoing efforts to devise and launch a new Arab ICT Strategy 2017-2024.

Chairperson: Ms. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant -Jordan

Speakers: Mr. Noureddine Lasfar, Head of Division of Information

Technology - Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Morocco
 Mr. Baha Khasawneh, Director General, National Information Technology Center (NITC), Jordan
 Mr. Mohammad Abd El Naby, Arab Working Group on ICT Strategy, League of Arab States

10:30-11:30 Conf-12c: Capacity Building Pillar - Implementation of the AIGLE project: Success Stories at the National Level Com Room I, B1

This session will provide a progress report on the AIGLE project and will include successful implementation and deployment stories.

Chairperson: Ms. Mirna EL-Hajj Barbar, ICT Officer, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA /Mr. Nawar Al-Awa, Regional Advisor, UN-ESCWA

Speakers: Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan

Ms. Fadia Sleiman, General Manager, National Agency for Network Services, Syria

Ms. Laila Al Hardhrami, Executive Government e-Services, Information Technology Authority, Oman

Ms. Fatna Farsi, General Engineer, Ministry of Civil Service and Modernization, Morocco

Mr. Walid Taieb, Assistant Director, Presidency of Government, Tunisia

Mr. Ahmed Kamal, Executive Director, National Management Institute, Egypt

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-13:30 EGM-11: Arab Digital Agenda/Horizon 2030 Mezzanine, MZ

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.

Chairman: Mr. Sudad Ismail, Manager of Coordination and Foreign Relations, NIC, Sudan

Speakers: Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Independent Consultant, Syria

Mr. Ridha Guellouz, CEO, Tunisian ICT Association, Tunisia

Mr. Yousef Nusseir, Independent Consultant, Jordan

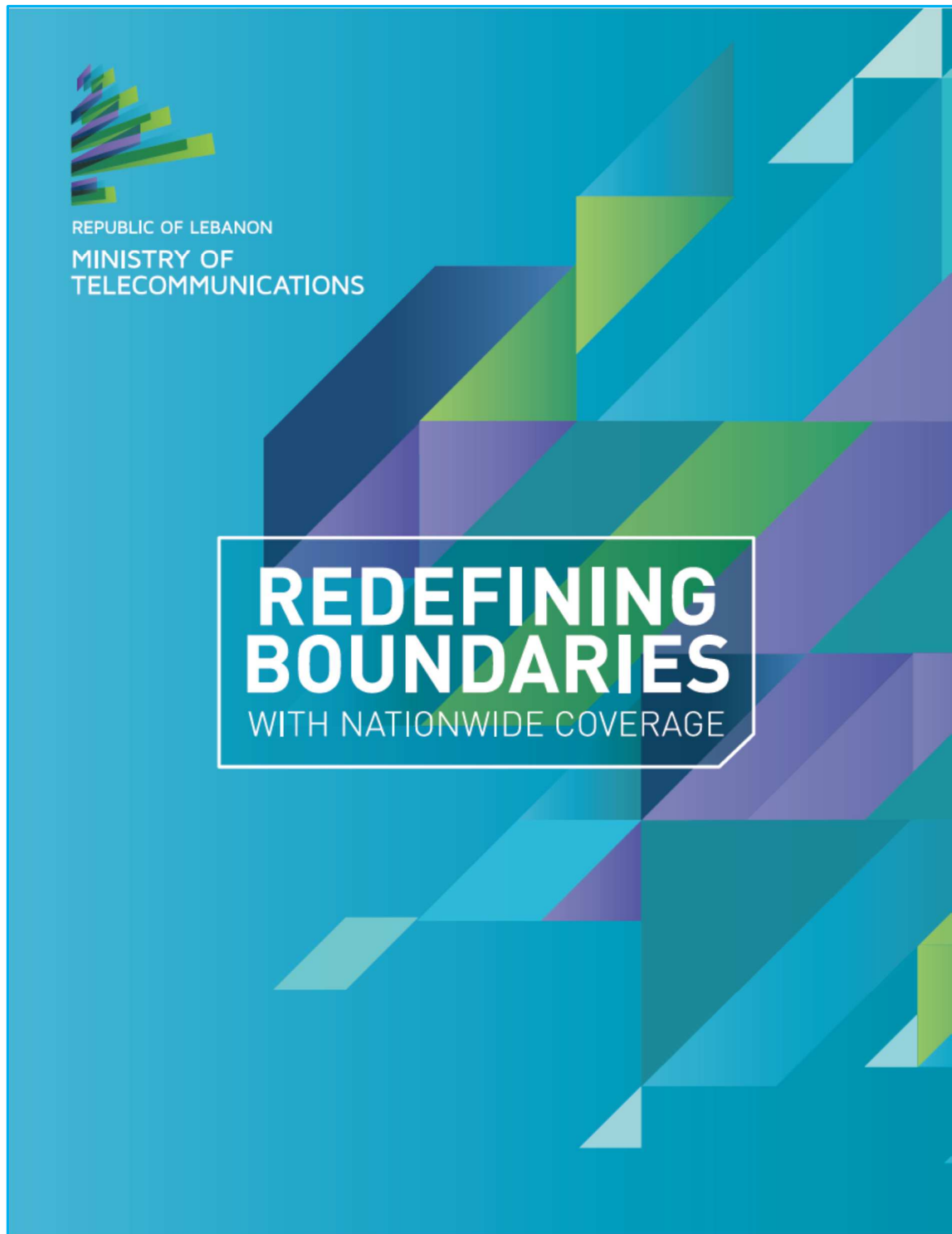
Rapporteur: Ms. Zahr Bou-Ghanem, ICT Policies Section, UN-ESCWA

13:30-14:30 Stocktaking and Closing of the Forum Mezzanine, MZ

4. Partners and Contributors

4.1 Ministry of Telecommunications

<http://www.mpt.gov.lb/>



4.2 OGERO Telecom

OGERO Telecom – Lebanon

<https://www.ogero.gov.lb/>

OGERO (Organisme de Gestion et d'Exploitation de l'ex Radio Orient) was founded by the Lebanese state in 1972 to continue the work of the former French company Radio Orient. Since then OGERO work has evolved to become the main operator of the fixed telecommunications network in Lebanon for the benefit of the Lebanese Ministry of Telecommunications.



CEO/GM of OGERO TELECOM Mr Imad Kreidieh.

OGERO, which has a staff of 3,000 employees, manages and maintains the fixed telephone network in all its components. OGERO provides its services through a network of 50 Point of Sales deployed on all Lebanese territories, along with a call center, 1515, which is considered as the largest and most performing call center in Lebanon.

OGERO, engine of MoT, constitutes the backbone infrastructure for all telecom networks including Mobile Operators, Data Service Providers (DSPs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and others.

As the future core of Liban Telecom., Ogero will become the incumbent Lebanese operator and will continually expand its customer base and its portfolio of value added services.

In recent years, Ogero proved to be more dynamic and always committed to provide services meeting the more demanding customer needs (the latest service being the "One Stop Shop" with the hosting of the mobile operators in its Sales Offices).

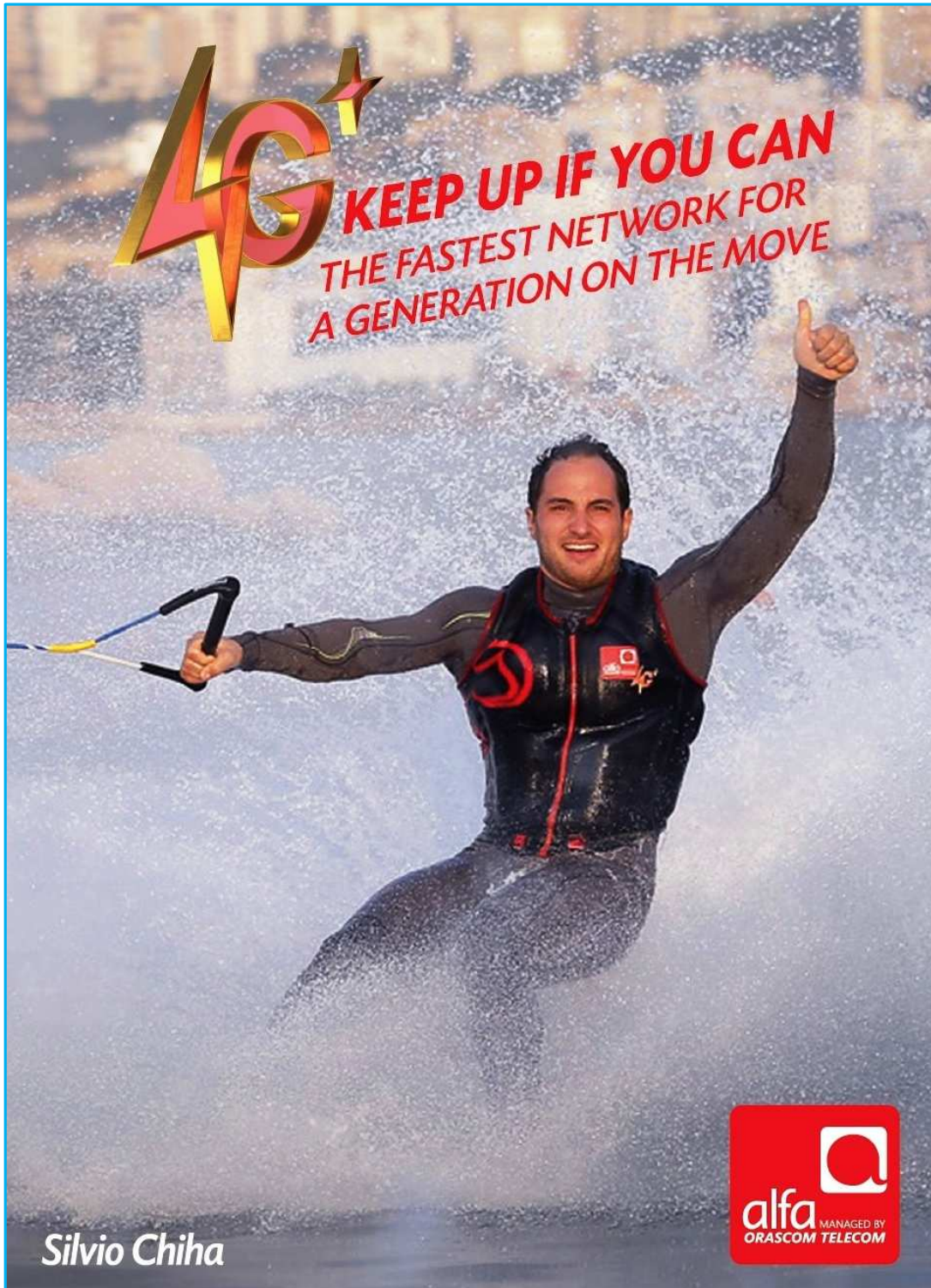
Ogero continues to improve and expand its portfolio of services including Voice and Data services mainly based on Fiber (FTTx).

In the near future, Ogero, will move from connectivity offers to converged packages (Voice, Internet, TV Programs, Info, Movies). End users will have the ability to set their own packages and can use a variety of devices from any fixed or mobile access.

On the international arena, Ogero is proud to be currently member of many regional and international specialized organizations such as ITU, IMEWE, GSMA, IGF, ETSI and others.

4.3 In-kind Contributors

Alfa – Lebanon <https://www.alfa.com.lb>



Touch – Lebanon <http://www.touch.com.lb>

