International Telecommunication Union
Arab Regional Office (ARB)

Ref.:   **019254**   Cairo, 4 November 2021

- Arab Administrations of ITU Member States
- Arab Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members and Associates
- Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Academia Institutions
- Regional and International Organizations concerned
- Regional chairs and vice chairs of the Advisory Groups and Study Groups
- UN Organizations in the Arab Region
- UN Resident Coordinators of Countries in the Arab Region
- All stakeholders' non-members of ITU

Subject: Accessible Arab Region- ICT For ALL, virtual, 2 December 2021

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the "**Accessible Arab Region- ICT for ALL**" event, co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and to be held virtually on **2 December 2021 from 10:00-13:00 Cairo time**. The event will be delivered in Arabic, English and French. Arabic sign language and English captioning will also be available.

The event aims to highlight the role of accessible information and communication technology to empower persons with disabilities in the Arab region and ensure their rights. The sessions and panel discussions will shed light on ICT digital accessibility policies and ICT Accessibility platforms and initiatives, in addition to exploring how to enhance partnerships and innovation for ICT accessibility in the region.

Through this event, ITU and ESCWA are launching an invitation to all Member States and stakeholders to jointly identify the ways forward to foster implementation and mainstream digital accessibility, as a mean to provide innovative and equitable solutions that show how technology can ensure inclusiveness and empowerment of everyone, including the persons with disabilities. Moreover, the event invites participants to reflect on how, from young to older persons, we are all concerned by the accessibility in the digital world context. Finally, the Accessible Arab Region- ICT for ALL event aims to share and discuss the work and initiatives carried out to promote and support the implementation of policies, strategies and resources to ensure inclusiveness of all people including persons with disabilities in the framework of the SDG, CRPD, UNDIS and other related global commitments.

The event will provide a regional knowledge development platform for digital accessibility topic that aims to support UN members and regional stakeholders in their implementation efforts by sharing good practices and challenges, leveraging their capacity in the ICT accessibility related topics while also offering networking and partnership opportunities to facilitate the development of digitally inclusive societies in the region.

The event will bring together all relevant stakeholders including, but not limited to, Member states, Private sector, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), tech companies in the private sector including startups and SMEs, tech professionals from the public sector, researchers, relevant regional and international organizations.

Detailed information on this online dialogue including registration, which will be closed in **25 Nov. 2021**, access to online room and the draft programme details, can be accessed from the event homepage at the following link (Click here)[1]. For inquiries or further information, please contact: Ms. Rouda Alamir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU Arab Regional Office (rouda.alamirali@itu.int) and Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ESCWA (barbarm@un.org).

We look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important event.

Yours faithfully,

Adel M. Darwish
Regional Director
ITU Arab Regional Office
for Arab States

Haidar Fraihat
Cluster Leader
Statistics, Information Society and Technology
ESCWA

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[1] https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2021/AccessArb/index.aspx