



Pushing boundaries Technology and AI to accelerate the SDGs in the Arab region

An HLPF 2023 side event organized by
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission
for Western Asia (ESCWA)

UN Headquarters in NY, Committee Room B
Wednesday 19 July 2023, 8–9:30 a.m. NY Time

About the side event

Artificial intelligence (AI) and other 4th industrial revolution technologies can be SDG accelerators. Recognizing the potential, several Arab countries are pressing forward with these technologies, seeking to deploy them in sectors including government services, manufacturing, agriculture, data collection and others. If skills in the region continue to be stuck in the past, and issues of ethics, inequalities, privacy and cyber security remain unaddressed, the benefits of these technologies will accrue to few countries and few societal groups within, while others are left behind.

The side event will engage a group of leaders from the Arab region who are on the frontlines of using technology and AI for the SDGs to discuss the following:

- What should Arab countries do, or stop doing, to capture AI and other technologies' full economic potential for the SDGs, while shielding from threats?
- How to bring out AI talent among youth in the region?
- What forms of partnerships are possible to bring all Arab countries up to speed?

Join us!

The side event will be held in English.



لتحدّي القيود

التكنولوجيا والذكاء الاصطناعي
لتسريع أهداف التنمية المستدامة
في المنطقة العربية

Programme

Introductory remarks

by Moderator – Ms. Maisaa Youssef
Cluster Leader, 2030 Agenda and SDG
Coordination Cluster, ESCWA

Speakers

H.E. Ms. Rola Dashti
Executive Secretary, ESCWA

H.E. Ms. Hala El-Said
Minister of Planning and Economic
Development, Egypt

H.E. Mr. Khaled Mahdi
Secretary-General, Supreme Council
for Planning and Development, Kuwait

Mr. Hisham AlSheikh
Vice Governor of the Shared Services
Sector, Digital Government Authority,
Saudi Arabia

H.E. Ambassador Omar Hilale
Permanent Representative of Morocco
to the United Nations

Ms. Najwa Abdulrahman Al-Thani
Acting Assistant Undersecretary
for Migrant Labour Affairs,
Ministry of Labour, Qatar

Mr. Neil Khor
Director of External Relations,
Knowledge and Innovation, UN-Habitat

Discussion