



Provisional Agenda

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on “Frontier Technologies and the 2030 Agenda in the Arab Region: Implications on Employment and Youth”.

UN House, Mezzanine Hall, MZ level, Beirut, Lebanon, 21-22 June 2018

Day 1: Thursday 21 June 2018

8:30-9:00	Registration																		
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and opening remarks, <i>Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Executive Secretary of ESCWA</i> <i>Omar Christidis, Director of Arabnet</i>																		
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Stage Setting: Fourth Industrial Revolution FIR: Factual Benefits and Threats</p> <p>Information /Connectedness / Skill Gaps: developing countries and the Frontier Technologies (FT) fueling the Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIR).</p> <p>What are they? Why now? What are their promised benefits to Sustainable Development and the real threats to regional societies and economies?</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Fouad Mrad, Technology for Development Division, ESCWA</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Christiano Pasini</td> <td>Representative</td> <td>UNIDO -Levant</td> <td>Levant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mahmoud Sakr</td> <td>President</td> <td>Academy of Scientific Research & Technology</td> <td>Egypt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tamara El Zein</td> <td>Director</td> <td>National Council for scientific research(CNRS)</td> <td>Lebanon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AbdulSalam Haykal</td> <td>Executive Chairman</td> <td>Haykal Media</td> <td>UAE</td> </tr> </table>			Christiano Pasini	Representative	UNIDO -Levant	Levant	Mahmoud Sakr	President	Academy of Scientific Research & Technology	Egypt	Tamara El Zein	Director	National Council for scientific research(CNRS)	Lebanon	AbdulSalam Haykal	Executive Chairman	Haykal Media	UAE
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11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break																		
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: Promoting FT “For the Good of the Community”</p> <p>Can the delivery of public goods be reconciled with profit, via FT opportunities, in tackling all priority development areas for the community including water, energy, transportation, food, security, education, health, environment, climate change, and governance challenges? What are the evolving roles of governments (leadership, legislation, convening power), the private sector (investment, innovation), and civil society (advocacy, monitoring)?</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Younna Naufal, Producer and Anchor, Lebanon</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Hayat Omri</td> <td>Deputy /Researcher</td> <td>Assembly of people's representatives.</td> <td>Tunisia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ali Amur Al Shidhani</td> <td>Director of ICT Research</td> <td>The Research Council (TRC)</td> <td>Oman</td> </tr> </table>			Hayat Omri	Deputy /Researcher	Assembly of people's representatives.	Tunisia	Ali Amur Al Shidhani	Director of ICT Research	The Research Council (TRC)	Oman								
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	Osama A.Rayis	General Director	Africa City of Technology	Sudan
	Zeina Saab	Founder	Nawaya Network	Lebanon

13:00 – 14:00 Coffee break

14:00 – 16:00

Session 3: FT interfacing Education and Employment in Arab countries

Demographic growth in Arab countries is straining most development models and growth ambitions. Unemployed educated youth are of particular concern. It is important to identify the gaps between the skillset currently produced by educational systems, and the attributes actually required to enable Arab youth to develop, apply and benefit from the FIR.

Moderator: *Hamed Al Hammami, Regional Director, UNESCO, Lebanon*

Panelists:

Imad Hajj	Smart technology Professor	American University of Beirut	Lebanon
Haykal El Abed	Module Team Leader "Skills Development"	GIZ	International
Tariq A.Haq	Senior Employment Policy Specialist	ILO	Regional
Eman A.Fituri	Director of Educational Initiatives.	Qatar Computing Research Institute	Qatar

Day 2: Friday 22 June 2018

09:00 – 10:30

Session 4: FT Applications in Arab countries – Case Studies

FTs are borderless by nature and are present throughout our local economies and societies. Many applications in communication, logistics, education, and smart cities are a reality in Arab countries. Some aggressive MNCs are partnering with local communities (which have no legacy systems) to test new frontier technologies in favorable “blank slate” conditions. The panel will examine select cases of successful FT development and application.

Moderator: *Nidal Bitar, General Manager, Intaj(Association ICT Producers) , Jordan*

Panelists:

Neda Al-Dihany	Director	Brilliant lab startup accelerator services	Kuwait
Laith Kassis	CEO	Palestine Techno Park	Palestine
Khalid AL-Ali	Chairman	Grupo Senseta	Qatar
Aisha Bin Bashir	Director General	Smart Dubai Office	UAE
Fawzi Rahal	General manager	Flat6labs	Lebanon

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30	Session 5: Regulating FT		
	<p>The heterogeneous impact of FT on local employment, societies, economic activity and governments varies across regions as populations, educational systems and economic structures are different: one size does not fit all. Governments must lead in ensuring FTs are of maximum benefit to local sustainable development, while minimizing adverse side effects. FTs are embedded in daily life, using local data, markets, and human resources indiscriminately. How can localized FT solutions add maximum value by recognizing regional and domestic specificities? Regulation is needed to facilitate proper transfer and deployment, while preventing abuses in the realms of security, privacy, safety, ethics and culture.</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Yousef Nusseir, ICT consultant, Jordan</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p>		
	Jawhar Jammoussi	Lecturer	Institut Supérieur des Arts Multimédia de la Manouba Tunisia
	Yousef Al Harthy	CEO	Oman technology fund Oman
	Ali Berro	Adviser	Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform Lebanon
	Alyaa Hammadi	Director	Ministry of Planning Iraq
	Amine Maliki	Responsable du Service des Programmes Scientifiques et Structures d'Excellence	National Centre for Scientific Research and Technology Morocco
12:30 – 13:00	Discussions		