DAY ONE
4 February 2003

<table>
<tr>
<td>10:00-
10:30</td>
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Opening Session

Main Hall

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<td></td>
<td>● **Ms. Mervat Tallawy**</td>
<td>Executive Secretary</td>
<td>**ESCWA**</td>
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<td>● **Mr. Charles Geiger**</td>
<td>Senior Policy Adviser, WSIS Executive Secretariat</td>
<td>**ITU**</td>
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<td>● **H.E. Emile Lahoud**</td>
<td>President of the Republic</td>
<td>**Lebanon**</td>
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<td>10:30-
11:00</td>
<td colspan="3">**Coffee Break**</td>
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<td>11:00-
11:30</td>
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PLENARY I

Main Hall

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<td>● **H.E. Mr. Jose-Maria Figueres**</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>**UN-ICT Task Force**</td>
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<td>● **Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan**</td>
<td>Assistant Director General for Communication and Information</td>
<td>**UNESCO**</td>
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<td>● **Mr. Mohsen Khalil**</td>
<td>Director, Global Information and Communication Technology</td>
<td>**World Bank**</td>
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<td>11:30-
14:00</td>
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PLENARY II

Main Hall

● **"Western Asia Information Society"**
presentation of ESCWA background paper
by Mr. M. Mrayati, Regional Adviser

● **Statements of ESCWA Member States**
by respective ministers and/or heads of delegations

● **Statement of the League of Arab States**
by Mr. Abdul Rahman Al-Suhaibani
Assistant Secretary-General

●

Statement of ITU Regional Office, Cairo
by Mr. Ibrahim A. Kadi, Head
● *ITU Arab Regional Office*

General discussion

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<td>14:00-
15:00</td>
<td colspan="3">**Lunch**</td>
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DAY ONE
4 February 2003

TWS 1

15:00-18:30	**ICT Applications for Socio-Economic Development:** (e-Learning, e-Health) ***Main Hall***	
	CHAIRPERSON: **Lubna Al-Qasmi**	
15:00-15:15	Promotion of Development-Oriented ICT Applications for e-Learning	***Sami Zahran***
15:15-15:30	Towards the Effective Utilization of Open-source, Public Domain Software in Higher Education	***Tarek Shawki***
15:30-16:30	*General discussion*	
16:30-17:00	**Coffee Break**	
17:00-17:15	Promotion of e-Health in ESCWA Member Countries	***Wajdi Mattar***
17:15-17:30	Information and Telecommunication Technology for Healthcare	***N. Al-Shorbaji***
17:30-18:30	*General discussion, continued*	

TWS 2

15:00-18:30	**ICT Infrastructure Development** ***Committee Room I***	
	CHAIRPERSON: **Bachir Mounajed**	
15:00-15:15	ICT Infrastructure in the ESCWA Member Countries	***Ayman El-Sherbiny***
15:15-15:30	Enhancement and Modernization of Telecommunications Infrastructure in Syria	***Nibal Idlebi***
15:30-15:45	Plans for developing ICTs and Strategic Vision for Telecommunications in Yemen	***Kamal H. Aljabry***
15:45-16:00	Security on the Internet	***Salah Rustum***
16:00-16:30	*General discussion*	
16:30-17:00	**Coffee Break**	
17:00-18:30	*General discussion, continued*	

TWS 3

| 15:00-18:30 | **Strategies, Policies & Regulatory Frameworks** |
| | *Committee Room II* |

CHAIRPERSON: **Nasr Hajji**

15:00-15:15	Building Trust and Loyality on Electronic Commerce	*Zainab Shalhoub*
15:15-15:30	International Copyright Issues in Business and Education - Recommendations for Western Asia Region	*Iris K. Stovall*
15:30-15:45	Key Lessons in Telecommunications Reform	*Patrick Farajian*
15:45-16:00	The Road towards Building an Information Society	*Akram Yosri*
16:00-16:30	*General discussion*	
16:30-17:00	**Coffee Break**	
17:00-18:30	*General discussion, continued*	

DAY TWO
5 February 2003

TWS 4

09:00-13:00	**ICT Applications for Socio-Economic Development:**
	e-Commerce and e-Government
	Main Hall

CHAIRPERSON: **Tarek Shawki**

09:00-09:20	E-commerce: A Practical Business Case	*Lubna Al-Qasimi*
09:20-09:40	e-Cooperatives: A Successful ICT Development Public/Private Partnership Project in Morocco	*Najat Rochdi*
09:40-10:20	*General discussion*	
10:20-10:40	ICT and Agriculture - The Challenge	*Zaid Abdul-Hadi*
10:40-11:00	*General discussion*	
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**	
11:30-11:45	E-Government: A Strategy for Modernizing Government	*Sami Zahran*
11:45-12:00	Promoting E-Government Applications Towards and Information Society in ESCWA Member Countries	*Wajdi Mattar*
12:00-13:00	*General discussion*	
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	

TWS 5

09:00-13:00 **Capacity building in ICT**
Committee Room I

CHAIRPERSON: **Ibrahim Hajj**

09:00-09:20	Capacity-Building in ESCWA Member Countries	*Mansour Farah*
09:20-09:40	International Computer Driver Licence in Arab States	*Amr Azzouz*
09:40-10:00	Information Technology for Community Development	*Yousef Nusseir*
10:00-11:00	*General discussion*	
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**	
11:30-11:45	ICT Human Resources: The Key Element in ICT Capacity Building	*Ahmad T. Sartawi*
11:45-12:00	Achieving e-Quality in the IT Sector	*Deema Bibi*
12:00-13:00	*General discussion*	
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	

TWS 6

09:00-13:00 **Role of Government, NGO's and the Private Sector**
Committee Room II

CHAIRPERSON: **Nadia Hegazy**

09:00-09:20	The Role of Arab Business Sector in the Development of ICT: The Experience of ABFICT	*M. Abdul Wahab*
09:20-09:40	Private Sector Roles in Developing the IT in the Region	*Ali Al Kamali*
09:40-10:00	Delineating Roles for Partners in the Development of the Information Society: A Collaborative Approach	*Manuel Rincon*
10:00-11:00	*General discussion*	
11:00-11:30	**Coffee Break**	
11:30-11:50	Partnership Initiatives for Regional Integration	*Ahmed El-Oteify*
11:50-13:00	*General discussion*	
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	

DAY TWO
5 February 2003

	TWS 7	
14:00-17:30	**Arabic Digital Content: Promotion & Development**	
	Main Hall	
	CHAIRPERSON: **Kamal Aljabry**	
14:00-14:15	The Digitization of Islamic/Arab Manuscripts of Science and Mathematics	*Tarek Shawki*
14:15-14:30	The Development of Arab Digital Content: A societal and Institutional Perspective	*Samir Aita*
14:30-14:45	Standardization Related to Arabic Language Use in ICT	*Hassan Diab*
14:45-15:30	*General discussion*	
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-16:15	Information Society and Resource Coordination Process	*Y.J. Park*
16:15-16:30	Significance of Native Language Internet Address - A Way of Overcoming Digital Divide	*Steve Lee*
16:30-17:30	*General discussion*	

	TWS 8	
14:00-17:30	**Development of the ICT Sector**	
	Committee Room I	
	CHAIRPERSON: **Gamil Mullah**	
14:00-14:15	ICT Role in the Development of National Economy	*Katia Tayar*
14:15-14:30	REACH - Jordan's ICT Sector Development Strategy	*Raed Bilbessi*
14:30-14:45	Development of e-Commerce Sectors in the Arab Region	*Torben Soll*
14:45-15:30	*General discussion*	
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-16:20	Financing Investments in the Middle Eastern Information and Communication Technology Sector	*Mazen E. Khoury*
16:20-17:30	*General discussion*	

	TWS 9	
14:00-17:30	**Regional Cooperation**	
	Committee Room II	
	CHAIRPERSON: **Yousef Nusseir**	
14:00-14:20	Digital Divide and the Arab World	*Ibrahim A. Kadi*
14:20-14:40	Road Maps Towards an Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean	*Martin Hilbert*
14:40-15:30	*General discussion*	
15:30-16:00	**Coffee Break**	
16:00-16:20	Regional Cooperation for Building the Information Society in the ESCWA Member countries	*Hassan Sharafuddin*
16:20-17:30	*General discussion*	

DAY THREE
6 February 2003

	Plenary III
11:00-13:30	
	General discussion and adoption of Conference outcome:
	• Towards an Information Society in Western Asia: Declaration of Principles
	• Towards an Information Society in Western Asia: Beirut Initiative
	• Conference Report

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Name	Title
Abdulilah Dewachi	Regional Adviser on Communications and Computer Networking, ICTD, ESCWA
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Manuel Rincon	Industrial Development Officer, ICTD, ESCWA
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Riad Bahsoun	General Manager, Telecommunication Information Technology, Lebanon
Salah Rustum	President, IT and Internet Association, Lebanon
Sami Zahran	Senior Project Manager, IBM, UK
Samir Aita	President, A Concept, France
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Wajdi Mattar	ICT Division, ESCWA
Y.J. Park	Managing Director, Internet Association of Korea
Yousef Nusseir	President, National Information Centre, Jordan
Zaid Abdul-Hadi	Head, Computer and Biometrics Services, ICARDA
Zainab Shalhoub	Associate Dean, SBM, American University of Sharjah

Tentative Agenda

1.   Opening of the Conference

2.   Election of officers

3.   Adoption of the agenda

4.   Statements of ESCWA member countries

5.   Western Asia information society

6.   Thematic topics

    (a)   ICT applications for socioeconomic development

    (b)   Arabic digital content promotion and development

            ICT infrstructure
    (c)   development

    (d)   Capacity building in ICT

            Development of the ICT
    (e)   sector

    (f)   Strategies, policies and regulatory frameworks

    (g)   Role of governments, NGOs and the private sector

    (h)   Regional cooperation

7.   Adoption of Conference documents

            Towards Information Society in Western Asia: A Declaration of
    (a)   Principles

            Towards Information Society in Western Asia: Beirut
    (b)   Initiative

    (c)   Report of the Conference

LIST OF CHAIRPERSONS
(by alphabatical order)

Name	Title
Gamaleddin Darwish	Professor, Information Technology, Cairo University, Egypt
Bachir Mounajed	Minister of Communications, Syria
Ibrahim Hajj	Dean of Engineering and Architecture, American University of Beirut (AUB)
Lubna Al-Qasimi	President, Tejari, and Director, Information Systems Division, Ports Authority, Dubai
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Nasr Hajji	Member of Parliament and Former Secreary of State for Post, Telecommunications and Information Technologies, Morocco
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Yousef Nusseir	President, National Information Centre, Jordan
Zainab Shalhoub	Associate Dean, SBM, American University of Sharjah

LIST OF SPEAKERS
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