



Amman time (GMT+3)	DAY TWO: MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025
08:30 – 09:00 a.m.	<b>Registration and Welcome Coffee</b> <b>(All Participants)</b> Pre-Function Area (Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby)
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Special Session 3</b> <b>Overview of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) Process: inception, evolution, and future</b> <b>(All Participants)</b> Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> This session will explore the Global Digital Compact (GDC), emphasizing its potential to catalyze transformative digital cooperation across the Arab region. It will address how this international framework can support Arab nations in achieving enhanced digital sovereignty and promote ethical digital governance. Special focus will be on the development of digital public infrastructure and the integration of AI technologies to foster economic and social development through technology. <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies, Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)</li> <li>- Mr. Mehdi Snene, Senior Advisor, United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)</li> </ul> <u>Discussants:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA</li> </ul> Mr. Amr Aljowaily, Assistant Foreign Minister (MFA), Egypt
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Side Event 1</b> <b>Signing MOUs</b> <b>(All Participants)</b> Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	<b>MINISTERIAL 2</b> <b>High-level Ministerial Panel Discussion on accelerating the</b>



## achievement of the Arab Digital Agenda (ADA) Goals within the perspective of WSIS and GDC

Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)

### Description:

This session aims to discuss accelerating the achievement of key strategic objectives, particularly in the short term until 2027. It will explore implementation pathways through three main mechanisms:

- Implementation support mechanisms
- Analysis, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms
- Governance and sustainability framework

The discussion will emphasize the importance of partnership and cooperation, as well as the periodic review of the agenda to ensure its alignment with global and regional developments.

### Topics Covered in the Session:

This session will seek to answer the following questions:

- How prepared are Arab countries to adopt and localize mechanisms for implementing the Arab Digital Agenda, measuring performance, monitoring, and tracking progress at the national level?
- What mechanisms can accelerate the implementation of the Arab Digital Agenda at the national and regional levels?
- To what extent are Arab countries ready to engage in future updates of the Arab Digital Agenda, and what are the proposed areas for its revision?
- What role do different sectors play in achieving the goals of the Arab Digital Agenda, and how can a future roadmap be developed to advance these sectors through digital technology?

### Expected Outcomes:

- The session's findings will contribute to the general recommendations of the High-Level Segment of the second edition of the Arab International Forum on Digital Cooperation and Development.
- Additionally, these discussions may inform the deliberations of the fifth session of the Committee on Technology for Development, which will take place immediately after the forum.

### Panelists:

- Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA
- H.E. Mr. Sofiene HEMISSI - Minister of Communication Technologies, Tunisia



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Ghada Mostafa Labib, Deputy Minister for Institutional Development at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Nooh Alshyab, Commissioner, Member of the Board of Commissioners at the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Raghid Nasser Al-Katheri, Undersecretary, Ministry of Telecommunications and IT, Yemen</li> <li>- Mr. Abdurraouf Ali Mukhtar Elbibas, Digital transformation consultant, General Authority for Information, Libya</li> <li>- Mr. Babiker Elturabi, Manager- General administration of planning, Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority (TPRA), Sudan</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<p><b>Main Segment Opening 2</b></p> <p><b>Opening of the 4th Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda (AHLF_WSIS_4.0)</b></p> <p>Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Khaled Wali, Director of the Department of Communications and Information Technology Development, League of Arab States (LAS)</li> <li>- Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office</li> <li>- Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation, and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA.</li> <li>- Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD</li> <li>- Mr. Rami Zaatari, Senior Data and Technology Officer UN-ESCWA</li> </ul>
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>Main Segment Opening 3</b></p> <p><b>Opening of the 7th Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab_IGF_7.0)</b></p> <p>Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Khaled Wali, Director of the Department of Communications and Information Technology Development, League of Arab States (LAS)</li> <li>- Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation, and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA</li> <li>- Mr. Ahmed Farag, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt</li> <li>- Mr. Charles Shaban, Senior Consultant, Middle East &amp; Internet Policy, International Trademark Association (INTA)</li> <li>- Mr. Qusai Al Shatti, Internet Governance Expert, Chairman of Automated Systems Company (ASC), Kuwait</li> <li>- Ms. Anja Gengo, Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)</li> <li>- Ms. Mirna El Hajj, Programme Management Officer UN-ESCWA</li> </ul>



12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	<b>Networking &amp; Coffee (All Participants)</b> Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2
12:30 p.m.– 13:40	<b>Arab IGF Plenary Session 1</b> <b>AI and Emerging Technology: Ethics and Legislation</b> Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> <p>The publication of the EU AI Act 2 years ago, has accelerated governments around the world to respond with their own approaches to AI governance. The response illustrates the range of choices to be made, with many governments' strategies acknowledging the complexity of regulating a fast-moving general-purpose technology in their approach. For example, the U.S, &amp; the UK have opted for a vertically orientated approach, working across their regulatory agencies to shape their response based on the context of AI's use, and adapt existing sectoral regulation where required. While China &amp; Canada have chosen a horizontally oriented regulatory framework in the recently adopted Artificial Intelligence and Data Act. The International Treaty on Artificial Intelligence, which the Council of Europe recently announced would be open for signature (starting this September), by the member states of the European Union, the United States and the United Kingdom, is legally binding and is considered a major step towards ensuring the preservation of human rights values and the rule of law. Ethics consideration is a key concern with the algorithmic models on which Artificial Intelligence is based. Advocates for human rights have been calling for concepts of "fairness" and "equality" to be observed. In addition, regulation should adhere to measures of necessity, proportionality &amp; transparency. The Pact for the Future adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2024 included the adoption of the Global Digital Compact. The Pact introduced several recommendations related to Artificial intelligence, including the formation of an independent international scientific panel on AI and an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on AI governance. In this panel, experts will debate the different aspects of the two critical pillars, namely AI regulations/legislation &amp; ethics. Discussions will cover global considerations with focus on experiences, challenges, and opportunities in the Arab region.</p> <u>Moderators:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Hosein Badran, Principal Advisor, Badran Digital Consulting, Canada</li> </ul> <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Mohamed Farahat, Lawyer/Legal Consultant, UN High level advisory body on AI, Egypt</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hatim Mouradi, Head of the department for monitoring the effectiveness of performance and quality of public services, Ministry of Digital Transition and Administration Reform, Morocco (Remote)</li> <li>- Mr. Gustavo Fonseca-Ribeiro, Digital Policies and Digital Transformation Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris, France (Remote)</li> <li>- Mr. Aly Fahmy, Dean, College of Artificial Intelligence, Arab Academy for Science, Technology &amp; Maritime Transport, League of Arab States (LAS), Egypt</li> <li>- Ms. Reema Diab, CEO, Galaxy for Technology, Jordan</li> </ul> <p><u>Rapporteur:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Fatna El Farsi, General Engineer, Ministry of digital transformation and administrative Reform, Kingdom of Morocco</li> </ul>
13:45 – 14:45	<div data-bbox="354 909 938 1959"> <p><b>Special Session 4</b>  <b>The Role of</b>  <b>Parliamentarians towards</b>  <b>Effective Digital</b>  <b>Governance in the Arab</b>  <b>Region</b></p> <p>Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u>  The session aims to engage Arab parliamentarians in discussions on Internet governance and digital cooperation, emphasizing their legislative role in shaping policies on data governance, cybersecurity, misinformation, and AI. As part of the Arab IGF, this special session will introduce MPs to key global and regional frameworks, including the IGF, the Arab Digital Agenda, the Global Digital Compact, and WSIS+20. It will also present outcomes from the Riyadh IGF 2024 Parliamentary Track and prepare MPs for IGF 2025. By addressing pressing digital policy issues and fostering exchanges of best practices, the session seeks to enhance regional collaboration, legislative alignment, and policymaking</p> </div> <div data-bbox="946 909 1531 1959"> <p><b>Arab IGF Workshop 1</b>  <b>Countering Internet</b>  <b>Fragmentation in</b>  <b>International Standards:</b>  <b>The ITU-T</b></p> <p>Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u>  The Global Digital Compact, adopted by the UN General Assembly as part of the Outcome of the Summit for the Future in September 2024, included important reference to critical issue of Countering Internet Fragmentation. In the Section of Internet Governance, Objective 3 includes “Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights”.</p> <p>Subsection c) states: “Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the internet in a timely manner.”</p> <p>This workshop will explore the topic through the lens of technology standards</p> </div>





	<p>efforts, particularly in AI governance, to advance an inclusive and effective digital governance framework for the Arab region.</p> <p><u>Presenters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Anja Gengo, Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)</li> <li>- Ms. Celine Bal, Associate Programme Officer, Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (Remote)</li> </ul> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Christine Arida, Board Member and Strategic Advisor to the Executive President, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt.</li> </ul> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Mr. Abdelhak Brahimi, Member of the Senate, The Council of the Nation, Algeria</li> <li>- Mr. Chengetai Masango, Head of Office, United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (Remote)</li> <li>- H.E. Ms. Maha Abdel Nasser, Member of Parliament, Egypt</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Elias Hankach, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Rapporteur of the Information Technology Committee, Lebanon</li> <li>- H.E. Mr. Moayyad Fadeel Moh`d Alalawneh, Member of the Twentieth parliament, Deputy chairman of parliamentary of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan</li> </ul> <p><u>Organizers/Rapporteurs:</u></p>	<p>development at international bodies such as the ITU-T. It will examine how certain proposals for the evolution of the Internet could lead to its fragmentation, both technologically and in terms of governance.</p> <p><u>Organizer and Presenter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Hosein Badran, Principal Advisor, Badran Digital Consulting, Canada</li> </ul>
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<b>14:45 – 15:45</b>	<b>LUNCH</b> Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2	
15:45 – 16:55	<p><b>Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda Plenary Session 1</b>  <b>Infrastructure and Regulatory Environment in the Arab Region</b>  Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u>  This session, aligned with WSIS Action Line C2: Information and Communication Infrastructure, will examine the current status and future prospects of digital infrastructure and regulatory frameworks in the Arab region. Discussions will focus on the challenges and opportunities associated with building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital infrastructure. Additional topics will include regional connectivity, spectrum allocation, regulatory harmonization, and the role of public-private partnerships in driving growth.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>  - Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Jawad Abbassi, Head of Middle East and North Africa (MENA), GSMA</li> <li>- Mr. Nooh Alshyab, Commissioner, Member of the Board of Commissioners at the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan</li> <li>- Mr. Faysal Bayouli, Director of international cooperation, Ministry of Communication &amp; Information Technology, Tunisia</li> <li>- Ms. Yvone Sleiman, Head of Services, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon</li> <li>- Ms. Ava Nadir, Board Member, Communications and Media Commission (CMC), Iraq (Remote)</li> </ul> </p>	



17:00 – 18:00

## Arab IGF Workshop 2 How technical foundations and multistakeholder governance support an open, resilient and safe Internet

Split Room 1 (Al-Mokhtar Side-Room)

### Description:

This workshop will deepen participants' understanding of the Internet's technical foundations and the role of the technical community in its operations and development. It will explore the Internet as a network of 70,000+ independently managed networks, globally connected through common protocols. The session will highlight how organizations like RIPE NCC and ICANN collaborate to maintain the Internet's functionality. By demystifying its technical aspects, the workshop emphasizes the critical role these systems play in enabling communication and innovation worldwide.

### Organizers and Presenters:

- Mr. Fahd Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Director - Middle East, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

## Arab IGF Workshop 3 Balancing Innovation and Ethics: AI Policy Development in the Arab Region

Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main)

### Description:

This workshop aims to explore the intersection of artificial intelligence development, ethical considerations, and legislative policies. As AI rapidly transforms sectors across the Arab world, ensuring responsible innovation is critical to maintaining societal values and fostering trust. This workshop will discuss best practices for creating ethical frameworks and legislative guidelines that promote AI adoption while safeguarding Security, Human Rights, Privacy, and Cultural Norms. The main question is how to effectively balance technological progress with ethical governance in AI.

### Organizers and Presenters:

- Mr. Ayman Mokhtar Ghoneim, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab Federation for Digital Economy (AFDE)
- Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation, and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA