



Amman Time (GMT+3)	DAY ZERO: SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2025	
12:00 p.m.– 17:30	<p>The 10th meeting of the Joint Technical Committee and the Core Research and Technical Cooperation Mechanism (JTC/CRTCM) (Members Only)</p> <p>&</p> <p>The Third Meeting in the Series of Expert Meetings on Enriching the Mechanisms for Assessing and Advancing Digital Development in the Arab region (By Invitation)</p> <p>Split Room 1 (Al-Mokhtar Side-Room)</p>	

Amman Time (GMT+3)	DAY ONE: SUNDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2025	
08:30– 09:30 a.m.	<p>Registration and Welcome Coffee (All Participants)</p> <p>Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby</p>	<p>Reception of Ministers and Dignitaries (By Invitation)</p> <p>Ministerial Lounge (Al-Arza Room)</p>
09:30– 09:50 a.m.	<p>DCDF2.0 Inaugural Session Opening Ceremony and Official Statements</p> <p>Al-Mokhtar Main (Mokhtar Main Hall, Room 1)</p> <p><u>Audiovisual Spots</u> Video on the DCDF <u>Official Opening Statements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Rola Dashti, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Executive Secretary of ESCWA - Mr. Ahmad Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States - Mr. Sami Smeirat, Minister of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MODEE), Jordan - Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, Under-Secretary-General of the United-Nations, and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies <p><u>Introductory Remarks:</u></p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Host and Moderator: Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Development, and Digital Cooperation, ESCWA; Chairman of DCDF's Executive Bureau for Joint Coordination.
09:50 – 10:30 a.m.	<p>Main Segment Opening 1</p> <p>Opening of the 1st High-Level Partners Conference on the Arab Digital Agenda (HLPC_ADA_1.0)</p> <p>Main Panel of the ADA Partners (40 minutes)</p> <p>Al-Mokhtar Main (Mokhtar Main Hall, Room 1)</p> <p><u>Audiovisual Spots</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Video on the ADA <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (recorded message) - Mr. Torbjorn Fredriksson, Head E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UN Trade and Development is an intergovernmental organization (UNCTAD) - Ms. Mary Kavar, Regional Hub Director, United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States (UNDP-RBAS) - Mr. Mohamed Ben Amor, Director General Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO) - Mr. Mostafa Khattab, Director of Research, Studies, and Consulting Department Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) - Mr. Abdalla Al Darmaki, Deputy Secretary General Arab Federation for Digital Economy (AFDE) - Mr. Mostafa Rashid, Vice President, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport (AASTMT) - Mr. Fadi Salem, Director of Policy Research Department, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG).



10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Knowledge Mini-Expo Opening of the Pavilions of the Arab Digital Agenda (UN-ESCWA) Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship (MODEE) of Jordan Pre-Function Area (Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby)	
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	Networking & Coffee Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2	
11:15 – 12:30 p.m.	Roundtable 1 Arab Digital Agenda: Vision, Objectives, and Strategic Priorities (All Participants) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq) <u>Description:</u> This session will provide an overview of the Arab Digital Agenda (ADA) 2023-2033, focusing on its vision, core objectives, and strategic priorities. The session aims to explore how the ADA is shaping the digital landscape in the Arab region, highlighting its key goals, targets, and proposed actions. Participants will gain insights into the guiding principles behind the agenda, including its implementation mechanisms, monitoring and follow-up, and management and sustainability framework. <u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA <u>Facilitators:</u> Ms. Mirna El Hajj, Programme Management Officer UN-ESCWA Mr. Rami Zaatari, Senior Data and Technology Officer UN-ESCWA	Special Session 1 The 20-years Journey of the WSIS Process in an hour (All Participants) Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Process has stood the test of time and is highly relevant in the digital age, as it continues to remain at the forefront of leveraging the power of digital for sustainable development. It serves as a UN multistakeholder coordination mechanism on digital and emerging technologies topics. The WSIS process has a long history, starting with the first phase in Geneva in 2003 and continuing through subsequent phases and reviews. Its longevity and continuity provide a stable and reliable platform for ongoing discussions, evaluation of progress, and adaptation to emerging challenges and opportunities. This long-term commitment ensures that WSIS remains relevant and effective in addressing the evolving digital landscape. The upcoming WSIS+20 review is critical to assess the progress made since



		<p>WSIS, identify gaps, and recommend future actions beyond 2025. As we approach the milestone of WSIS+20, the global community has a unique opportunity to reflect on the progress made and to actively shape the future of digital cooperation.</p> <p>This side event, “The 20-Year Journey of the WSIS Process,” will bring together key stakeholders from the Arab region and beyond to exchange insights, foster collaboration, and contribute to a shared vision for the future of digital cooperation. Through this dialogue, participants will reflect on the WSIS journey, discuss emerging challenges, and explore opportunities for strengthening digital cooperation beyond 2025.</p> <p><u>Facilitator:</u> Ms. Ruth Sidabutar, Project Officer at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office - Mr. Chafic Chaya, Regional Manager, Public Policy and Government Affairs Middle East Region, RIPE NCC - Ms. Heba Mohamed Ismail, Vice President, Arab Federation for Libraries and Information (AFLI) (Remote) - Mr. Kassem Istanbouli, Secretary, Tiro Association For Arts (TAA) (Remote)
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12:30 p.m.– 14:00	<p>Ministerial 1 Ministerial Roundtable on the Arab Digital Agenda (Closed to Ministers) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)</p>	<p>Special Session 2 Overview of the Global IGF Process: inception, evolution, and future (All Participants) Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> The year 2025 marks a significant milestone for the global digital governance ecosystem: the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Over the past two decades, the WSIS vision of an inclusive, people-centered, resilient, and sustainable information society has gradually become a reality. Among its key outcomes, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and more than 170 national, regional, and youth IGF initiatives have played a vital role in fostering multistakeholder collaboration and creating interoperable digital policy environments. However, despite the progress made, significant challenges remain in realizing a truly inclusive and sustainable digital future for all. Key barriers include the persistent digital divide and uneven policy frameworks across regions, preventing equitable access to the benefits of digital technologies.</p> <p>While digital technologies have proven</p>



to be powerful drivers of sustainable development, we are still falling short of meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This raises an important question: What more can existing mechanisms, like the IGF, do to ensure that everyone benefits from the digital age?

This session will spotlight the critical role of the IGF and its vast network of national, regional, and youth IGFs in advancing global digital governance. It will explore the IGF's contributions to shaping inclusive Internet governance, drawing on examples like the Arab IGF, and will discuss how the IGF can better address global digital challenges. Additionally, the session will examine the IGF's potential as a key follow-up mechanism for the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS+20 review, ensuring that the outcomes of these processes translate into tangible benefits for people around the world.

Moderator:

- Ms. Anja Gengo, Programme Management Officer, UN IGF Secretariat
- Speakers:
- Mr. Chengetai Masango, Head of Office, United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (Remote)
- Ms. Christine Arida, Board Member and Strategic Advisor to the Executive President, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt.
- Mr. Chafic Chaya, Regional Manager,



		Public Policy and Government Affairs Middle East Region, RIPE NCC - Ms. Wassan Alabbadi, Youth representative, Youth Media Literacy Ambassadors Program (YMLAP), Civil Society, Jordan
14:00 – 15:00	LUNCH Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2	
15:00 – 15:40	High-Level Policy Dialogues High-Level Policy Dialogue 1: Unlocking Innovation: The Profitable Future of the ICT Sector (All Participants) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq) Lucrative and innovative ICT sector (ADA pillar 5) <u>Description:</u> This High-Level Policy Dialogue panel will bring together key stakeholders to unlock innovations and chart a profitable future for the ICT sector, with a focus on fostering a dynamic and thriving ICT landscape. The session will explore strategies to drive growth, innovation, and investment, ensuring a lucrative and forward-thinking ICT ecosystem. Discussions will concentrate on identifying the most effective approaches and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the goals outlined in ADA Cluster 3, specifically: 3.1 – Classify companies operating in the ICT sector and avail their data. 3.2 – Encourage investment in ICT companies. 3.3 – Activate and revitalize R&D efforts in the ICT field. 3.4 – Monitor the contribution of the ICT sector to the national economy. 3.5 – Promote the ICT sector in the Arab region. 3.7 – Promote exports of ICT goods and services in Arab countries. 3.8 – Expand the e-commerce market in Arab countries. This session will serve as a crucial platform for shaping the future of the ICT sector in the Arab region, fostering collaboration, and driving sustainable development and economic growth. <u>Moderator:</u> - Mr. Fadi Salem, Director of Policy Research Dept, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)	



	<p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Haidar Fraihat, Director General, Department of Statistics (DOS), Jordan - Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD - Ms. Nermine El Saadany, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, The Internet Society (ISOC) - Mr. Ahmad Said, Advisor to the Minister for economic and statistical affairs, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt
15:40 – 16:20	<p>High-Level Policy Dialogues High-Level Policy Dialogue 2: Empowering Digital Trust: Building a Strong Regulatory and Legal Framework (All Participants) Regulatory Environment and Digital Infrastructure and Legal Environment and Trust, (Digital ADA pillars 3 &4) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This High-Level Policy Dialogue panel will convene key stakeholders to address the development of a robust digital infrastructure within the Arab region, with a focus on ensuring the provision of world-class services that are both secure and reliable. The session will delve into two critical ADA pillars: Pillar 3 – Regulatory Environment and Digital Infrastructure and Pillar 4 – Legal Environment and Trust.</p> <p>The discussions will center on identifying optimal strategies and fostering collaborative efforts among stakeholders to achieve the goals outlined in ADA Cluster 2, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 – Maximize competitiveness and strengthen regulation in the telecommunications sector in Arab countries. 2.2 – Enhance regulatory collaboration and coordination between Arab countries to provide and improve telecommunications and regional digital services. 2.3 – Improve access to basic telecommunications services. 2.4 – Improve Internet speed for users and increase the benefits from Internet services and content. 2.5 – Develop the infrastructure of Internet networks and the structure of interconnection at the national and regional levels. 2.6 – Activate the use of digital signature services and electronic transactions at the national and regional levels.



	<p>2.7 – Personal data protection of users. 2.8 – Enhance cybersecurity in the Arab region. 5.2 – Activate registration of domain names in Arabic and promote their acceptance. This session will serve as a platform for sharing insights and forging actionable solutions promoting regional integration, empowering digital trust, and building a strong regulatory and legal framework.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Yvone Sleiman, Head of Services, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon - Mr. Mohamed Ben Amor, Secretary-General of the Arab ICT Organization (AICTO) - Mr. Baher Esmat, Managing Director, Middle East and Africa, ICANN
16:20 – 17:00	<p>High-Level Policy Dialogues High-Level Policy Dialogue 3: Pioneering the Digital Shift: Transforming Economies and Government Sectors (All Participants) Multi-dimensional transition to digital economy and digitally enabled government sectors (ADA pillars 6 & 8) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This High-Level Policy Dialogue panel will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the multi-dimensional transition to a digital economy and digitally enabled government sectors. The session will explore strategies for advancing this transition, with a focus on fostering the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors of the economy and enhancing e-government services.</p> <p>Discussions will concentrate on identifying the most effective approaches and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders to achieve the goals outlined in ADA Clusters 3 and 4, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.6 – Enhance ICT use in the various productive sectors. 3.10 – Develop individuals’ ICT skills. 4.3 – Strengthen digital accessibility for persons with disabilities in the Arab region



and enable them to access e-services.

4.7 – Develop integrated e-government infrastructure and services in Arab countries.

4.8 – Increase the efficiency and quality of infrastructure used in the provision of e-government services.

This session will serve as a platform for discussing innovative solutions and fostering cross-sector collaboration to accelerate the digital transformation across the Arab region, ensuring a more inclusive, efficient, and digitally empowered future.

Moderator:

- Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan

Speakers:

- Mr. Saoud Humaid AL Shoaili, Director General, Head National Space Program, Oman
- Mr. Mohamed Ould Boba Mohamed Saleck, Director of Development and Interoperability, Ministry of Digital Transformation and Administration Modernization, Mauritania
- Mr. Mostafa Rashid, Assistant to President, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT)
- Mr. Driss El Hadani, Deputy Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)



Amman time (GMT+3)	DAY TWO: MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2025
08:30 – 09:00 a.m.	Registration and Welcome Coffee (All Participants) Pre-Function Area (Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby)
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Special Session 3 Overview of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) Process: inception, evolution, and future (All Participants) 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"> - 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) - Mr. Mehdi Snene, Senior Advisor, United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) <u>Discussants:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA Mr. Amr Aljowaily, Assistant Foreign Minister (MFA), Egypt
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Side Event 1 Signing MOUs (All Participants) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	MINISTERIAL 2 High-level Ministerial Panel Discussion on accelerating the



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



12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Networking & Coffee (All Participants) Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2
12:30 p.m.– 13:40	Arab IGF Plenary Session 1 AI and Emerging Technology: Ethics and Legislation Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> 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, & 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 & 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 & 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 & ethics. Discussions will cover global considerations with focus on experiences, challenges, and opportunities in the Arab region. <u>Moderators:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan - Mr. Hosein Badran, Principal Advisor, Badran Digital Consulting, Canada <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mohamed Farahat, Lawyer/Legal Consultant, UN High level advisory body on AI, Egypt



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) - Mr. Gustavo Fonseca-Ribeiro, Digital Policies and Digital Transformation Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris, France (Remote) - Mr. Aly Fahmy, Dean, College of Artificial Intelligence, Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, League of Arab States (LAS), Egypt - Ms. Reema Diab, CEO, Galaxy for Technology, Jordan <p><u>Rapporteur:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Fatna El Farsi, General Engineer, Ministry of digital transformation and administrative Reform, Kingdom of Morocco 	
13:45 – 14:45	<p>Special Session 4 The Role of Parliamentarians towards Effective Digital Governance in the Arab Region</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>	<p>Arab IGF Workshop 1 Countering Internet Fragmentation in International Standards: The ITU-T</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>



	<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"> - Ms. Anja Gengo, Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) - 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) <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Christine Arida, Board Member and Strategic Advisor to the Executive President, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt. <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mr. Abdelhak Brahimi, Member of the Senate, The Council of the Nation, Algeria - Mr. Chengetai Masango, Head of Office, United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (Remote) - H.E. Ms. Maha Abdel Nasser, Member of Parliament, Egypt - H.E. Mr. Elias Hankach, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, Rapporteur of the Information Technology Committee, Lebanon - H.E. Mr. Moayyad Fadeel Moh`d Alalawneh, Member of the Twentieth parliament, Deputy chairman of parliamentary of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship, Jordan <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"> - Mr. Hosein Badran, Principal Advisor, Badran Digital Consulting, Canada
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Christine Arida, National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt - Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, UN-ESCWA - Ms. Rita Wehbe, Economic Affairs Assistant, UN-ESCWA - Mr. Ahmed Farag, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt 	
14:45 – 15:45	LUNCH Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2	
15:45 – 16:55	<p>Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda Plenary Session 1 Infrastructure and Regulatory Environment in the Arab Region 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"> - Mr. Jawad Abbassi, Head of Middle East and North Africa (MENA), GSMA - Mr. Nooh Alshyab, Commissioner, Member of the Board of Commissioners at the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan - Mr. Faysal Bayouli, Director of international cooperation, Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Tunisia - Ms. Yvone Sleiman, Head of Services, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon - Ms. Ava Nadir, Board Member, Communications and Media Commission (CMC), Iraq (Remote) </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



Amman time (GMT+3)	DAY THREE: TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025
09:00 – 09:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome Coffee (All Participants) Pre-Function Area (Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby)
9:30 – 10:40 a.m.	Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda - Plenary Session 2 Digital Economy Challenges and Opportunities: Global and Regional Perspectives Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> The digital economy is rapidly becoming a key driver of global and regional development, with immense potential to foster innovation, enhance productivity, and promote inclusive growth. However, it also presents complex challenges, including infrastructure gaps, regulatory hurdles, digital skills development, and cross-border e-commerce. This session will explore both the opportunities and challenges of the digital economy while highlighting the role of key enablers in fostering a sustainable and inclusive digital future. A particular focus will be given to the transformative role of the postal sector, which, with its vast infrastructure and trusted networks, is uniquely positioned to bridge digital divides, support the delivery of essential government services, and drive the growth of domestic and cross-border e-commerce—one of the cornerstones of the digital economy. Bringing together experts from various sectors, the session will present innovative strategies, successful regional and global case studies, and policy frameworks that can help Arab countries maximize the benefits of digital transformation while addressing key barriers. The discussion will also align with the Arab Digital Agenda's objectives of advancing digital economy initiatives, strengthening regional cooperation. <u>Moderator:</u> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies and Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD - Mr. Saoud Humaid AL Shoaili, DG- Policies & Governance, Head- National Space Program, Ministry of Transport & ICT, Oman - Mr. Ayman Ghoneim, Assistant Secretary-General, Arab Federation for the Digital Economy (AFDE) - Mr. Juan Cruz Moroni, Digital Transformation and Policy Expert, Universal Postal Union (UPU)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Suhair Wraikat, International Relations Manager, representing Ms. Hanadi Altayyeb, CEO, Jordan Post - Mr. Syed Mohammad Shaharyar Jawaaid, Senior ICT Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) (remote) <p><u>Organizer/Rapporteur:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Rami Zaatari, Senior Data and Technology Officer UN-ESCWA
10:45 – 11:55 a.m.	<p>Arab IGF Plenary Session 2 One Internet and Digital Sovereignty: Regional Cooperation for a Strengthened Arab Digital Future Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This panel will delve into the complexities and nuances of Internet governance and digital sovereignty in the Arab region. The panel discussion aims to explore motives and practices for Internet governance and the risk Internet fragmentation poses to the one interconnected and interoperable Internet that's a vital source for the social and economic development of humankind. The discussion will cover recent geopolitical tensions as well as commercial, technical, and policy trends that may lead to Internet fragmentation. Additionally, the panel will explore different views and potential strategies to balance Internet resilience and digital sovereignty to maintain a robust, equitable, and secure online space. The panel aims to bring a more holistic and inclusive debate to the table as well as providing a global and regional perspective from Global Digital Compact (GDC) to Arab Digital Agenda (ADA) on these issues and its implications for the Arab region and shed the light on the roles of the different stakeholders in this regard</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Christine Arida, Strategic Advisor to the Executive President and Board Member at the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt. - Speakers: - Mr. Amr Aljowaily, Assistant Foreign Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Egypt - Mr. Fahed Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Director, Middle East, ICANN - Ms. Hanane Boujemi, Chief Technology Strategist, Morocco <p><u>Rapporteurs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Zeina Bou Harb, Head of International Cooperation, Ogero, Lebanon



<p>12:00 p.m. - 13:00</p>	<p>Special session 5 3rd Round of Arab Consultation on WSIS and GDC Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> The 3rd Round of Arab Consultation on WSIS and GDC brings together key stakeholders from the Arab region and beyond to discuss the latest developments in digital cooperation processes, including the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the WSIS+20 Review. Building on the success of the first consultative meeting (Dubai, 22 May 2024), and the second (Riyadh, 17 December 2024), this 3rd edition will leverage the ADA's alignment with WSIS and GDC to drive ambitious digital development in the Arab region. It will also advance multi-stakeholder collaboration for ADA implementation, fostering inclusive partnerships. Additionally, it will utilize the DCDF 2025 as a platform to come up with actionable policy recommendations and amplify the region's voice by aligning initiatives such the Arab IGF and AHLF with global platforms.</p> <p>This session will focus on the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlight synergies between the GDC objectives and the WSIS 11 action lines, emphasizing the importance of complementarity and coherence between these processes. - Discuss actionable policies, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and regional partnerships to address emerging challenges in digital development. 	<p>AHLF Workshop 2 Developing and enhancing institutional and individual capacities to achieve the goals of the Digital Agenda 2023-2033 Split Room 1 (Al-Mokhtar Side-Room)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Institutional development and capacity building—whether at the governmental, societal, or organizational levels—cannot be separated from the broader goal of advancing ministries and institutions in Arab countries and ensuring an effective digital transformation. Digital transformation plays a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of the Arab Digital Agenda 2033, as reflected in the region's overarching ICT policies and strategies.</p> <p>This workshop will focus on the specificities of institutional development strategies and capacity-building efforts within the framework of digital transformation policies in Arab countries. Achieving this transformation requires smart digital governance and innovation, both in the public sector and across society, to foster sustainable smart living for citizens of all social groups in collaboration with local governance institutions.</p> <p>It is also essential to recognize that this transformation extends beyond governance, education, and health to encompass sustainable development objectives as outlined in the Arab Digital Agenda 2023-2033. Key sectors such as culture, tourism, industry, and the digital</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align regional initiatives such as the Arab IGF with global platforms to amplify the Arab region's voice and influence globally. - Strengthen regional and global digital cooperation for sustainable development. - Contribute key messages and recommendations to guide future efforts on the subject. <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA <p><u>Potential Discussants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Ana Neves: Vice-Chair, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development - Mr. Torbjörn Fredriksson, Head E-commerce and Digital Economy Branch, UNCTAD - Ms. Ruth Sidabutar, Project Officer at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - Mr. Amr Aljowaily, Assistant Foreign Minister, MFA, Egypt - Ms. Nermine El Saadany, Regional Vice President for the Middle East, the Internet Society (ISOC) - Mr. Adel Abdel-Sadek, Head of the Digital Society Studies program at the center for Political and Strategic Studies, and founder of the Arab Center for Cyberspace Research (ACCR) - Mr. Faysal Bayouli, Director of international cooperation, Ministry of Communication & Information 	<p>economy play a fundamental role in shaping this transformation.</p> <p>This workshop will explore challenges, priorities, and strategic policy considerations for advancing digital transformation in Arab cities, positioning it within the broader information society framework. It will also highlight strategic thinking and policy measures necessary for fostering inclusive and sustainable digital development across the region.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mustafa Khattab, Director of Research and Consulting Studies Department, Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Saleem Zoughbi, Senior Research Consultant at the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV). - Ms. Ghada Mostafa Labib, Deputy Minister for Institutional Development at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt.
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	Technology, Tunisia	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2	
14:00 – 15:10	Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda - Plenary Session 3 The Role of the Global and Regional Space Sector in Advancing the Arab Digital Agenda 2023-2033 Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)	
	<p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>This plenary session will convene distinguished leaders, experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from the global and regional space and digital sectors. The discussion will center on the pivotal role of space technologies in advancing the objectives of the Arab Digital Agenda 2023-2033, while also aligning with international frameworks such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the "Space2030" Agenda. Participants will explore how satellite communications, Earth observation, and space data analytics can enhance digital connectivity, support sustainable development, and foster regional and international cooperation. The session will also highlight opportunities for capacity building, policy alignment, and public-private partnerships that can drive space-enabled digital transformation across the Arab region and beyond.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify Synergies between Space Technologies and the Arab Digital Agenda: - Examine how space-based services and technologies can contribute to the Arab Digital Agenda's goals, drawing on global best practices. - Foster Regional and International Collaboration in Space-Driven Digital Transformation: - Encourage partnerships among Arab nations and with international entities to leverage space technologies for digital advancement. - Promote the Use of Satellite Technologies for Digital Connectivity: - Discuss the deployment of satellite communications to bridge the digital divide, ensuring inclusive access to information and services. - Leverage Space Data for Environmental Sustainability and Reducing the Carbon Footprint of Digital Transformation: - Explore the use of Earth observation data to monitor and mitigate e-waste, track carbon emissions from digital infrastructure, and support sustainable resource management in key sectors such as energy and water conservation. - Support Capacity Building and Space Education Initiatives: - Highlight programs aimed at developing expertise in space science and technology within the region, aligning with initiatives like the United Nations Basic Space Technology Initiative. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance Space Governance and Policy Alignment: - Discuss the development of policies and legal frameworks that promote the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space, in line with the "Space2030" Agenda. <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Driss El-Hadani, Deputy Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA - Mr. Sherif Sedky, Chief Executive Officer, Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA), Egypt - Mr. Mohamed Al-Aseeri, Chief Executive Officer, National Space Science Agency (NSSA), Bahrain - Mr. Saoud Humaid Salim Al Shoaili, Head, National Space Program, Oman - Brig. Gen. Muammar Kamel Haddadin, Director General of the Royal Jordanian Geographical Centre (RJGC) and Director of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for West Asia (RCSSTEWA), Jordan
15:10 – 16:20	<p>Arab IGF Plenary Session 3 Trust: Data Privacy and Data Governance Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u></p> <p>The importance of data is on the rise, an organization's wealth and value is measured today by the data it collects and owns on its users, clients, and individuals. In fact, data today became an economy vertical by itself. This data is used for engagement, growth, and monetization purposes.</p> <p>While it is acceptable for organizations to benefit from the data they collect on individuals, it is far more important to protect and preserve the individual's rights regarding the data collected about him or her. This is crucial since the collected data is not only related to the individual's bio data but goes beyond that to include habits, behavior, and demographics. This is done today by almost all organizations interacted through cyberspace and the internet.</p> <p>Therefore, individuals should be equipped with digital competencies and awareness and should have an equal right to know what data is collected about them, how it is used, manipulated, and analyzed. They have the right to view it, review it, dispute it, and provide their consent to it. To address this challenge, data privacy and data governance became the focal areas to ensure fair use and the balance between the rights of organizations and the rights of individuals on how their data is used.</p> <p>In this regard, this session is dedicated to addressing and assessing the current</p>



	<p>situation and issues related to data privacy and governance. It will also shed the light on the Arab countries landscape related to data privacy and governance.</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Qusai Al Shatti, Internet Governance Expert, Chairman of Automated Systems Company (ASC), Kuwait <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Charbel Chbeir, Lawyer, President of the ISOC Lebanon chapter, Lebanon - Mr. Mohamed Jemni, Director of ICT, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) (remote) - Ms. Suzanne El Akabaoui, Advisor to the ICT Minister for Data Governance, Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), Egypt - Mr. Markus Kummer, Senior advisor to the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP), and DiploFoundation - Ms. Lori Schulman, Senior Director for Internet Policy, International Trademark Association (INTA), USA (remote) <p><u>Rapporteurs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Hafedh Yahmadi, International ICT Expert, Tunisia 		
16:20 - 17:20	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="345 1150 938 1957"> <p>Arab IGF Workshop 4 Shaping Lebanon's digital future through Internet Governance Complete information Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This workshop will provide comprehensive guidelines on how Lebanon successfully created its national IGF initiative following IGF principles for initiating NRIs and share knowledge and best practices on engaging Multi stakeholders and overcoming challenges to shape the Digital future.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Zeina Bou Harb, Head of International Cooperation, Ogero, Lebanon <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anja Gengo, programme </td><td data-bbox="938 1150 1534 1957"> <p>AHLF Workshop 3 Digital Transformation for Sustainability: Tackling Environmental Challenges in the Arab Region Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This multi-agency workshop will address critical environmental challenges in the Arab region, with a particular focus on the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus, climate change, and the escalating issue of e-waste. Organized in collaboration with UNOOSA, FAO, CEDARE, UNEP, and other key partners, the session will explore how digital and emerging technologies, including space technologies—can provide sustainable solutions to these interconnected challenges.</p> <p>The workshop will examine both the positive and negative impacts of ICT on</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>Arab IGF Workshop 4 Shaping Lebanon's digital future through Internet Governance Complete information Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This workshop will provide comprehensive guidelines on how Lebanon successfully created its national IGF initiative following IGF principles for initiating NRIs and share knowledge and best practices on engaging Multi stakeholders and overcoming challenges to shape the Digital future.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Zeina Bou Harb, Head of International Cooperation, Ogero, Lebanon <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Anja Gengo, programme 	<p>AHLF Workshop 3 Digital Transformation for Sustainability: Tackling Environmental Challenges in the Arab Region Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This multi-agency workshop will address critical environmental challenges in the Arab region, with a particular focus on the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus, climate change, and the escalating issue of e-waste. Organized in collaboration with UNOOSA, FAO, CEDARE, UNEP, and other key partners, the session will explore how digital and emerging technologies, including space technologies—can provide sustainable solutions to these interconnected challenges.</p> <p>The workshop will examine both the positive and negative impacts of ICT on</p>
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	<p>management officer and focal point for the national, regional and youth Internet Governance Forum (IGF) initiatives, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Geneva</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Charbel Chbeir, Lawyer, President of the ISOC Lebanon chapter, Lebanon 	<p>environmental sustainability, showcasing international and national case studies that demonstrate how digital transformation can drive more efficient resource management, support climate resilience, and contribute to a circular economy. Given the rapid expansion of digital devices, the session will also emphasize the need for responsible e-waste management and policy frameworks that promote sustainability.</p> <p>By bringing together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders, this workshop aims to foster knowledge exchange and actionable insights to help the Arab region leverage digital transformation for a greener, more sustainable future.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Hossam Allam, Regional Director for Sustainable Growth, Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Driss El Hadani, Deputy Director, United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) - Ms. Heba Al-Hariry, Land and Water Officer, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa - Ruediger Kuehr, Senior Manager, SCYCLE Programme UNITAR & Adjunct Professor, University of Limerick (Remote) - Ms. Cristina Bueti, Focal Point on Smart Sustainable Cities, International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Remote) - Ms. Ghada Moghny, Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) (Remote) - Mr. Islam Abou El-Magd, President, National Authority for Remote Sensing and
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		Space Sciences (NARSS), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Egypt (Remote)
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Amman time (GMT+3)	DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2025	
09:00 – 09:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome Coffee (All Participants) Pre-Function Area (Al-Mokhtar and Al-Badya Pre-Entrance Lobby)	
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Arab IGF Workshop 5 Charting the Arab Digital Path: AI, Data, and Sovereignty in a Connected World Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main) <u>Description:</u> The workshop explores the challenges and opportunities facing the Arab world in the digital age. The workshop will discuss the ethics and legislation related to artificial intelligence, the importance of data protection and management, and how regional cooperation can enhance Arab digital sovereignty in an interconnected world. <u>Organizer and presenter:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan 	Arab IGF Workshop 6 Expanding the Internet's Top-Level Domain Name Space Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main) <u>Description:</u> The New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program: Next Round is an ICANN initiative to enable the expansion of the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) through the introduction of new top-level domains. This workshop will present this expansion and how to benefit from it. <u>Organizer and Presenter:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Fahd Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Director - Middle East, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

<p>10:30 – 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Arab IGF Workshop 7 The future vision of AI in the Arab region in light of Current Global Changes - Challenges and Opportunities Split Room 2 (Al-Badya Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> This workshop will focus on analyzing global trends in artificial intelligence and exploring how the Arab region can leverage these advancements amidst evolving global dynamics. It will highlight emerging opportunities in key sectors such as education, health, energy, and transportation, while addressing the challenges hindering AI adoption, including gaps in technical infrastructure and workforce readiness. Strengthening Arab cooperation through strategic partnerships, knowledge exchange, and joint policy development will be emphasized to accelerate regional AI progress. Additionally, the workshop will focus towards formulating a forward-looking vision for AI in the Arab world, proposing practical solutions to overcome challenges and capitalize on opportunities. Encouraging innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting the growth of AI-driven start-ups and technology incubators will also be key priorities. To ensure long-term progress, sustainable strategies for AI infrastructure development and investment in scientific research will be outlined, reinforcing the region’s global competitiveness. Finally, recommendations will be provided to policymakers on establishing regulatory frameworks that facilitate the safe, effective, and sustainable integration of AI across various sectors.</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Mostafa Rashid, Assistant to President, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport 	<p>AHLF Workshop 3 Building the Digital Backbone: Infrastructure and Regulatory Frameworks for a Thriving Arab Digital Economy Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> The workshop will have the following key objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the Current State: Evaluate existing infrastructure and regulatory frameworks in the Arab region, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. 2. Explore Best Practices: Showcase successful models and case studies from around the world on developing and managing digital infrastructure and implementing effective regulatory policies. 3. Identify Key Challenges: Address common obstacles and challenges faced by Arab countries in building and maintaining a modern digital infrastructure and establishing a conducive regulatory environment. 4. Foster Collaboration: Encourage dialogue and knowledge-sharing among policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, and other stakeholders to foster collaboration and partnerships. 5. Develop Recommendations: Formulate actionable recommendations and strategies to enhance infrastructure development and regulatory frameworks for a thriving digital economy in the Arab world. <p><u>Organizer and Presenter:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Belal Khaled Al-Hafnawi, Commissioner and Full-Time Board Member, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC), Jordan
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	<p>(AASTMT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies and Digital Cooperation and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Aly Fahmy, Dean, College of Artificial Intelligence, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) - Mr. Mohamed Ben Omar, Director General of the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO) - Mr. Khaled Wali, Director of the Department of Communications and Information Technology Development, League of Arab States (LAS) - Mr. Firas Bakour, Chairman of the Arab Internet and Communications Union 	
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Networking & Coffee (All Participants)</p> <p>Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2</p>	
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>Stocktaking 1 Stocktaking of Arab IGF</p> <p>Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, UN-ESCWA - Mr. Qusai Al Shatti, Internet Governance Expert, Chairman of Automated Systems Company (ASC), Kuwait - Mr. Hosein Badran, Principal Advisor, Badran Digital Consulting, Canada - Mr. Ahmed Farag, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt - Ms. Rita Wehbe, Economic Affairs Assistant, UN-ESCWA - Noha Ashraf Abdelbaky, Cloud Engineer, Dell Technologies 	
12:30 p.m. – 13:00	<p>Stocktaking 2 Stocktaking of AHLF</p> <p>Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation, and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA - Mr. Rami Zaatari, Senior Data and Technology Officer UN-ESCWA - Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office 	

13:00 – 13:30	<p>Closing Session The Way Forward and Closing Statements Grand Stage (Al-Mokhtar Main)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Digital Cooperation, and Digital Development, UN-ESCWA - Mr. Ahmed Farag, National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt - Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office - Jaafr Al-Manaseer, Vice President of Afro-Asian Union for Digital Economy, investment and Entrepreneurship, Jordan - Hazem Hezzah, IT Program coordinator for ICT Development, League of Arab States (LAS)
13:30 – 14:30	<p>LUNCH Pre-Function Area - 1 and Pre-Function Area - 2</p>
14:30 – 17:30	<p>the 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Technology for Development (Day 1/2) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)</p>

Amman time (GMT+3)	DAY FIVE: THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025
8:30 a.m. – 17:30	The 5th Session of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Technology for Development (Day 2/2) Conference Hall (Al-Riwaq)