



Final Report FOR NOW4WTDC-21 in the Arab Region

Side event

Network of Women for the WTDC-21 (NOW4WTDC-21) in the Arab Region

7 April 2021

13:00 - 13:30 (Cairo)

Final report

شبكة المرأة من أجل المؤتمر العالمي لتنمية الاتصالات لعام 2021 في المنطقة العربية

Opening Session

- In her opening remark, Ms. Doreen Bogdan Martin introduced the Network of Women that aims to build a support structure for talented female delegates in the lead up to WTDC-21, and beyond.
- Having more leadership roles in the structures that make up ITU-D, such as study groups chairs, committee chairs, vice chairs are necessary for a more inclusive WTDC-21.
- Women play a crucial role in making progress towards leveraging digital for development by bringing innovative solutions to the challenges they face.
- The number of female delegates in the Arab region has risen significantly from 18.8%, 21%, and 50% in 2013, 2017 and 2021 respectively.
- Dr. Deemah al Yahia, stressed on the importance of this initiative and the need for women to be job creators not job seekers in the digital era.
- There is a need to nurturing innovative role models that made change in digital economy.
- It's important to amplifying effect to make changes in culture, identify the gaps in market, and bridge these gaps through innovative solutions either in public or private sector.
- Internet connectivity is important to empower women to find jobs, initiate start-up, access quality education, and expose to other cultures.

Session: Experiences on nurturing the participation of women in BR's activities

- Ms. Noha Gaafar briefed the audience on the NoW4WRC process and to what extent this experience has a positive impact on her personally and on other female delegates where women feel a message: "You are not alone" "You can do it".
- It's also important to note that such initiatives make decisions -makers fulfill their obligations in line with them.
- Ms. Noha invited participants of this initiative to be its ambassadors to achieve its ultimate goal.

Session: The experiences of female leaders and role models in WTDC process

- Ms. Reham mentioned that to gain the trust in woman's capabilities, this might takes time.
- She shared her experience on how she struggled to gain such trust.
- Ms. Samira thanked the chair of the chair of the Arb Group for the preparation of WTDC-21 for choosing two female as vice chair.



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- She talked about her journey of working with different structures in ITU within the delegation of her country Kuwait and the knowledge and experiences she gained throughout this journey until she got a leadership roles and responsibilities within these structures.
- She highlighted that without ICT no one could cope with COVID-19 and that ICTs is the vehicle for development.
- Mrs. Amel was thankful for the ITU because through her participation as delegate she witnessed progress either on professional or personal level. By getting involved in the ITU structures, she was able to improve her knowledge and to dive deep into research and studies especially when it comes to the study groups. On a personal level, she build relationships and expand horizons by being exposed to different cultures.
- Ms. Aysha highlighted that not only engineers can participate and contribute to this network. Women will sometime find themselves in “first-timer” position – just like she did - , and should not be intimidated because you will find growth in such challenges. Women will also will find a support from men AND women alike, as long as they have have faith in themselves first.

Open discussion on establishment of NOW in Arab Region

- The delegate from Somalia Ms. Naima raised that one of the challenges for new participants like herself is actively contributing to the work of then WTDC especially the work groups, and how would the Network of Women be able to do something about this?
- Other delegate, Ms. Nevine Tewfik from Egypt intervened to highlight the importance of mentorship and to express her willingness to support this network by being one of the mentors.
- Ms. Nagwa Shinnawy proposed to consider to group all the initiatives related to empower women through the ICTs.
- Ms. Christine Arida from Egypt said that it would be great to enable through the Network some vehicle for thematic discussions among women in preparation of the WTDC, especially on topics important to the region.

Summary and Closing session

- Ms. Rouda from the ITU Regional Office for the Arab States provided a closing remark by thanking all for their support. She shared the envisaged process for this network and highlighted that this event is just a start and many activities to come.
- She mentioned that once the secretariat of NoW4WTDC-21 ARAB is established, the network will design its activities including the mentorship programme and the collaboration with other regions towards a more inclusive WTDC-21.



Agenda and Speakers



Side event
 Network of Women (NOW) Agenda
 7 April 2021
 13:00 - 13:30 Cairo time

Agenda

13:00-13:05	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doreen Bogdan-Martin, BDT Director, International Telecommunication Union <p>Special address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deemah Al Yahya , Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)
13:05-13:08	<p>Event Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shahira Selim, Expert, International Policies, TRA, Egypt, and Vice Chair Arab Group for the preparation of WTDC-21 <p>Experiences on nurturing the participation of women in BR’s activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives on NOW at the World Radio Conferences <p>Noha Gaafar, Expert, International Policies, TRA, Egypt</p>
13:08-13:18	<p>The experiences of female leaders and role models in WTDC process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role and responsibilities in the WTDC preparatory process • Learning points for delegates <p>Discussants</p>



- Reham Elmayet, Telecommunications Expert, ICT Development Department, League of Arab States
- Sameera Bilal, Manager of Technical Office of CEO, CITRA, Kuwait, and Vice Chair of Arab Group for the preparation for WTDC-21
- Amal Khier, Telecommunications Engineer, Technical Department, Algeria Telecom, Algeria, and Vice Rapporteur Q4/2 SG 2
- Aysha Binsanad, Director, Telecommunications, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, Bahrain

13:18-13:28 Open discussion on establishment of NOW in Arab Region

- The need for greater female representation in tech
- Gaps that can be addressed by NoW
- Introducing NoW in the Arab region

13:28-13:30 Summary and Closing session

- Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU Regional Office for the Arab States

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Running Order, Script

<p>13:00 – 13:05</p>	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>Thank you, Adel,</p> <p>and now to begin with I would like to personally begin with welcoming you to this side event on Network of Women for the WTDC-21 (NOW4WTDC-21) in the Arab Region . My name is Shahira selim, P Expert, International Policies, TRA, Egypt, and Vice Chair Arab Group for the preparation of WTDC-21 and I will be the Moderator for this important event.</p> <p>We are delighted to welcome distinguished panellists and experts from the region</p> <p>Let us move on to the opening session and I have great pleasure and honour to introduce and invite Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin, BDT Director, ITU for her opening address. Ms. Doreen, the floor is yours</p> <p>Thank you very much Doreen for your inspiring remarks.</p> <p>I now have the pleasure to invite Ms. Deemah Al Yahya , Secretary General of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) to deliver her special address remarks</p> <p>I thank Ms. Deemah for his for your inspiring remarks</p> <p>قبل أن ننتقل إلى الجلسة 1 ، هل لي أن أطلب من الجميع فتح الكاميرات لالتقاط الصور من فضلك؟ أعط أفضل ابتسامة لك لالتقاط اللحظات من فضلك. شكرا جزيلا.</p> <p>Before we move on to session 1 , may I request everyone to open the cameras to take photos please? Give your best smile to capture the moments please. Thank you very much.</p>
<p>13:05-13:08</p>	<p>Session 1: Experiences on nurturing the participation of women in BR’s activities.</p> <p>• Perspectives on NOW at the World Radio Conferences Noha Gaafar, Expert, International Policies, TRA, Egypt</p> <p>I thank you all especially the dignitaries at the opening ceremony and the participants. Now its time for first session on Experiences on nurturing the participation of women in BR’s activities.</p> <p>I have the pleasure to invite Ms. Noha Gaafar, Expert, International Policies, TRA, Egypt for sharing with us some perspectives on NOW at the World Radio Conferences .</p> <p>I thank Noha for her insightful contribution and now move on to the next session.</p>



<p>13:08-13:18</p>	<p>Session 2: The experiences of female leaders and role models in WTDC process</p> <p>This session is on “ The experiences of female leaders and role models in WTDC process.</p> <p>In this session the representatives of some female delegations from the region are invited to share their experiences on their journey as female leaders in the WTDC process.</p> <p>we have distinguished panelists.</p> <p><u>Questions to be asked and discussed: one question per panelist. (2 mins each)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Role and responsibilities in the WTDC preparatory process?2. Learning points for delegates?3. ?4. ? <p>Our first speaker is Mrs. Reham Elmayet, from the LAS , to share her experiences.</p> <p>Thank you Reham , may I now invite Mrs. Sameera, from Kuwait to share her perspective.</p> <p>Thank you Sameera, may I now invite Mrs. Amal Khiar from Algeria to share her experiences .</p> <p>I thank Amal and now turn to Mrs. Aysha, for sharing Bahrain experiences.</p> <p>I thank Aysha</p> <p>I thank you all the presenters from this session for their excellent contributions and insights.</p>
<p>13:18 -13:28</p>	<p>Session3: Open discussion on establishment of NOW in Arab Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need for greater female representation in tech• Gaps that can be addressed by NoW•Introducing NoW in the Arab region <p>As mentioned by Doreen this morning, the Network of Women (NOW) for the telecommunication development sector aims to encourage gender balance at every opportunity in the activities leading up to the WTDC-21 conference. I open the floor for your interventions and insights on how could we nurturing this network in the Arab region . Please introduce your name , designation, organisation, and country.</p> <p>I thank you all for this fruitful discussions</p>
<p>13:28 -13:30</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>We have had very lively discussions during this side event and as well as lessons learned by sharing experiences and we have clearly seen the spirit of cooperation to make sure that female delegates support each other, expand their network, advocate and share experience and knowledge.</p>



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Now I have the pleasure to invite **Ms Adel Darwish, Regional Director**, ITU Regional Office for the Arab States to deliver his Closing Remarks.

Thank you M. Adel and thank you all for joining us today for this side event. With that the side event is closed have a pleasant evening!

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