



CI/ARB/ITU-UNESCO-Digital-Incl./2018/1

Date: Cairo 12th July 2018

To: Digital Inclusion stakeholders
in the Arab Region

Subject: **ITU/UNESCO Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab region: Access, Adoption and Application, 23 - 28 September 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Building on the success and interest generated by last year's ITU-UNESCO ICT Accessibility Week for Arab States, UNESCO and ITU will be holding an ITU-UNESCO Digital Inclusion Week for the Arab Region from 23 to 28 September 2018. Accordingly, we are inviting all stakeholders to propose and organize at least one activity during this week, to shed light on their key activities in this domain, whether at the national or regional level. The attached form indicates the information to be provided.

In 2017, nine events were organized in the following countries - Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia - with a diverse mix of partners. The events included high-level panels and seminars, training workshops, exhibitions as well as demonstrations of assistive tools and prototypes. The week supported advocacy, the implementation of international standards, stimulated debate, promoted the sharing of experiences and stimulated the development of partnerships.

Last year's events focused on people with disabilities and the role of ICTs, as well as the various actors and initiatives being leveraged to meet the needs of this under-served community. Our adoption of the theme Digital Inclusion: Access, Adoption and Application, for 2018 reaffirms our commitment to holistic approaches and ensuring that all persons, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged users fully benefit from the potential of ICTs and networks. The attached Concept Note provides further details on the Week and its objectives.

With your involvement, we can significantly increase the number of participating countries as well as the scope of events held this year. We therefore invite you to use the attached form to provide information on events you may wish to associate to the Week. The completed form should be sent to Mr. Karim Abdelghani Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office (karim.abdelghani@itu.int) and Mr. Paul Hector, Advisor for Communication and Information, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States & Cluster Office for Egypt, Libya and Sudan (p.hector@unesco.org) before **31 July 2018**.

To raise visibility of Digital Inclusion Week, a promotional campaign will be organized with the regional press and on social media. A webpage - <https://bit.ly/2JF5HyR> - has been established to promote activities associated to this week. We also request each stakeholder to promote their activities, as well as Digital Inclusion Week through their media channels.

Please feel free to forward any queries you may have to Mr. Abdelghani and Mr. Hector whose contacts are mentioned above.

We look forward to receiving your positive feedback and more importantly to collaborating with you to ensure the success of the upcoming Digital Inclusion Week.

Yours sincerely,



Ebrahim Al Haddad
Regional Director
ITU Arab Regional Office



Ghaith Fariz
Director

UNESCO Regional Bureau for
Sciences in the Arab States