



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
Arab Regional Office (ARO)

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Cairo, 19 October 2020

- Arab Administrations of ITU Member States,
- Arab Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members and Associates
- Academia Institutions
- Regional and International Organizations concerned
- Regional chairs and vice chairs of the Advisory Groups and Study Groups
- All stakeholders non-members of ITU

**Subject: ITU Regional Innovation Forum for the Arab Region: Mainstreaming competitive digital innovation ecosystems in the age of COVID-19**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **“ITU Regional Innovation Forum for the Arab Region: Mainstreaming competitive digital innovation ecosystems in the age of COVID-19”** organized by the International Telecommunication Union and to be held virtual on Thursday, **29 October 2020** from **11:00-15:00 Cairo time**. The Forum will be delivered in Arabic, English and French.

Communities worldwide can feel the impact of a growing digital innovation divide: rising digital inclusions issues, impact on jobs and loss of competitiveness in key sectors. This is why ITU is hosting the 2020 edition of ITU Innovation Week, which the Regional Innovation Forum will be part of it.

The ITU’s Regional Innovation Forum for the Arab Region will empower participants and bring a regional dimension with new approaches, insights, tools, frameworks, communities and relevant case studies to understand how to mainstream sustainable ecosystems that accelerate digital transformation in the Arab region. It will also focus on the power of success stories and building communities that fuel innovation and start-up cultures. The event is a one-day programme that will take the participants on regional learning journeys to prepare them to accelerate digital transformation in their communities among Arab countries.

The event is targeted the digital change-makers, policy-makers, the private sector, academics, entrepreneurial support organizations, entrepreneurs, financiers, community development managers, international organizations and media in the Arab region. Particularly, this agenda has been customized for the needs of the ICT policy makers, regulators, tech incubators, national innovation agencies, development agencies, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, academia as well as institutions willing to undertake a national reviews on the ICT centric innovation ecosystems and develop coherent approaches to move countries towards an innovation and entrepreneurship driven economy.

Detailed information on this online dialogue including registration, which will be closed in **28 Oct. 2020**, access to Online room and the draft programme details, can be accessed from the event homepage at the following link ([Click here](#))<sup>1</sup>. For inquiries or further information, please contact: Eng. Rouda Alamir Ali, Programme Officer ([Rouda.alamirali@itu.int](mailto:Rouda.alamirali@itu.int)).

I look forward to your participation and invaluable contribution towards the success of this important event.

Yours faithfully,



**Adel M. Darwish**  
Regional Director  
Arab Regional Office

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2020/INNOVATION/INNOVATION.aspx>