



International Telecommunication Union
Arab Regional Office (ARB)



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Cairo, 6 Oct. 2021

- 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
- UN Organizations in the Arab Region
- UN Resident Coordinators of Countries in the Arab Region
- All stakeholders non-members of ITU

Subject: ITU Regional Innovation Forum for the Arab Region: Building partnerships to mainstream entrepreneurship

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the **“ITU Regional Innovation Forum for the Arab Region: Building partnerships to mainstream entrepreneurship”** organized by the International Telecommunication Union and to be held virtually from **27-28 Oct. 2021** from 10:00-13:00 Cairo Local Time.

This forum is organized in implementation of ITU's [ARAB Regional Initiative 5: Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#), which was adopted by the [World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 \(WTDC-17\)](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Moreover, it is organized within the framework of the [2021 ITU Global Innovation Forum](#) planned to take place from 25 to 29 October. Its main aim is to build partnerships that mainstream entrepreneurship-driven innovation and competitive digital ecosystems.

This two-day forum aims to build regional and national capacities by identifying, learning, networking and highlighting successful projects and/or initiatives, policies and programmes in developing competitive digital innovation ecosystems.

Each day will have a specific focus:

- Day 1: the forum will examine the state of regional countries' readiness and show practical cases of how key economic sectors can benefit by nurturing digital innovation.
- Day 2: the forum will continue its regional deep dive by sharing good practices, stories of digital change-makers and offering insights for new partnership actions at the regional level.

Participant will learn the “what”, “why” and “how” of building new partnerships and initiatives that ensure that communities have the right innovation capabilities to be resilient and competitive with digital technologies.

The event targets all stakeholders involved in nurturing digital innovation in the Arab States 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, media, academia as well as institutions willing to undertake a national review on ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and develop sustainable initiatives to accelerate digital transformation in countries.

Detailed information on this forum including registration, the draft programme and other details, can be accessed from the event homepage at the following link ([Click here](#))¹. Please note that the deadline for registration is on the **22nd of October 2021**.

For inquiries or further information, please contact: Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator (karim.abdelghani@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

¹ <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/ArabStates/Pages/Events/2021/Inn/Inn.aspx>