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Wireless Access: the Convergence Digital Bridge – A Regional Perspective

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ABSTRACT:

Wireless access technologies are offering cost-effective alternatives for developing countries to bridge the digital divide and bring access to communication and information technology (ICT) services to the population and business in both urban, as well under-served rural and remote areas (i.e. universal service/access). Emerging public radio access standards are promising effective and quicker convergence solutions for both basic fixed services, mobile, and broadband. However, there are a number of issues to be considered and properly addressed before this becomes a reality, especially in a global scale as well as in regional level.

The presentation will discuss challenges, opportunities and issues facing developing countries in the Arab Region and other parts of the world. The current digital divide will be highlighted in the context of access to, and affordability of, ICT services, and the opportunities offered by wireless technologies. Next, the presentation will address the relevant issues/concerns facing widespread rollout of wireless access solution in urban and rural areas, including regulatory challenges, spectrum availability/ policies, market and business considerations.