



Annex 1

ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region (RDF-ARB) Accelerating the digital development in Arab Region

Organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the

Bahraini Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

6-8 November 2023 - Kingdom of Bahrain

CONTRIBUTION FORM

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-ARB P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

Once completed send to ITU-RO-ArabStates@itu.int

ORGANIZATION: [UN-ESCWA]

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TITLE: [Expediting the use of technology and innovation for enhanced operations in Arab Public Institutions (ENACT Project)]

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

Arab countries have continuously implemented e-Government programmes, with varying levels of achievements. COVID-19 and the spread of emerging technologies have pushed countries to accelerate their digital transformation agendas. Digital infrastructure, space technology and emerging technologies offer great potential to improve inclusiveness, effectiveness, trust in public institutions and enhance government responsiveness to citizen needs. The implementation of e-government programmes and digital national strategies varies in the Arab region, and most countries have not yet exploited the full potential of digital technologies in public institutions.

The aim of this project is to provide member states with set of recommendations to accelerate the implementation of adopted strategies/plans in the public sector and facilitate the use of digital and emerging technologies and innovation for the advancement of the public sectors services and back-office operations. The focus will fall on achieving specific aspects of the 2030 Agenda namely inclusiveness, trust, effectiveness and the responsiveness.



This project builds on, past and ongoing, work related to e-government, digital strategies, and open government. These focus areas together with the need to accelerate the implementation of digital strategies, form the basis on which this project is built. It will also support the achievement of SDGs 9, 16, and 17.

Digital infrastructure, space technology and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and cloud computing offer great opportunities to improve inclusiveness, effectiveness of public institutions and the delivery of digital services. Immersive technology and Metaverse also offer new features and will deepen the digital interaction between government and citizens. Based on the potential applications of emerging technologies and good practices from various countries, the project will propose practical recommendations that are customized to the needs of the Arab region with focus on the specified aspects. The project will also promote the exchange of success stories among Arab countries.

Today the emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and Internet of Things are spreading, and they present both opportunities and challenges. While these technologies can strengthen cybersecurity and improve digital public services, they also introduce risks. Inadequate management of these technologies can compromise cybersecurity measures, compromise data privacy, hinder data sharing, and potentially impact citizens' well-being. It is, thus, imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of these technologies and develop effective strategies and measures to harness their positive impact on trust in digital services and government.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

All Arab countries are considered in this project.

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

2023

2024

2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation.

including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries

ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security and privacy in the use of telecommunications/Information and communication technologies in the era of new and emerging digital technologies.

ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities.

ARB4: Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight.

ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation.



Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22,

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-initiatives-2023-2025.aspx>

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

- Affordable connectivity
- Digital Transformation
- Enabling policy and regulatory environment
- Resource mobilization and international cooperation
- Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, [here](#)

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

- Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services.
- International telecommunication numbering resources.
- Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services.
- Digital applications.
- Enabling environment.

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, [here](#)