



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

6-7 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: National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt

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TITLE: Innovative Universal Service Funding Mechanism

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

NTRA - Policy

NTRA Egypt is implementing a new universal service funding mechanism to encourage investment in the tower industry. The first trial is being implemented within the framework of the “Decent Life” initiative. NTRA used Universal Service to provide telecom services to unserved areas and roads. It funded both CAPEX and OPEX (for 5 years). NTRA sought to encourage business in tower sharing industry, therefore it started to split its funding between active components in the network and passive components. It initiated bids between operators to provide coverage in poorer areas asking the winning bidder to provide it with the locations of their intended sites, given that the winning operator will be granted a 5 years rent free place on the tower to install their equipment. Next, NTRA initiated bids between Tower sharing companies to build towers in those places. The bidders were competing to provide NTRA least rent fees for a place on the tower.

Expected outcomes:

1. The infrastructure-sharing model is being adopted; thus, service providers can share the towers, which

reduces the investment costs and improves the level of service.

2. 1000+ mobile towers are being built in the targeted villages and areas to improve voice and Internet services using the new sharing model.

3. Incentivizing tower sharing industry.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Egypt

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

2023

2024

2025



RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE:

- ARB1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation.
- ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities.
- ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation.

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

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

- Digital applications.
- Enabling environment.