

ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region (RDF-ARB)

Accelerating the digital development in Arab Region

Organized by the ITU, Telecommunication Development Bureau

Hosted by Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications

6-7 November 2023, Kingdom of Bahrain

Final Agenda

Day 1, 6 November 2023

08:00 – 10:00	
10:00 – 10:30	Registration Master of Ceremony: Mr. Hussain Ali Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mohamed Bin Thamer Al Kaabi, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunication of the Kingdom of Bahrain• Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU• Mr. Khaled El Mekwad, UN Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Bahrain Facilitator: Mr. Adel Darwish , Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Arab States Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region Eng. Mohammed Ahmed BinAli, Acting Director, Telecommunications Directorate, Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications, Bahrain
10:30 – 11:00	
11:00 – 12:30	Group Photo + Coffee Break Executive Panel: Digital Development in Arab Region: Trends, Opportunities & Challenges This is a high-level executive panel, with the objective to discuss regional and country specific challenges and opportunities arising from digital development and transformation. The focus will be on the Arab States and how the region could accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab States through digital.

	<p>Moderator: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, BDT Director, ITU</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Jama Hassan, Minister of Communications and Technology (MCT), Minister of Communications and Technology of Somalia • H.E. Mr. Adil Hassan Mohamed El Hussein, Minister of Telecommunication and Digital Transformation, Sudan • Mr. Philip Marnick, General Director, TRA Bahrain • Mr. Nezar Banabeela, Chief Executive Officer, STC Bahrain • Mr. Bocar Ba, Chief Executive Officer, Samena Telecommunications Council
12:30 – 12:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing Ceremony Framework Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Communications and Technology of Somalia
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch
13:45 – 14:45	<p>Panel One:</p> <p>Multistakeholder Cooperation and Digital Development</p> <p>This panel will present an overview of digital cooperation actions promoted by different international organizations, multilateral banks, and other stakeholders to achieve digital development in the Arab States. Likewise, the progress report of some joint initiatives between ITU and other agencies will be presented.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Adel Darwish, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Arab States</p> <p>Presentation: WTDC22 Kigali Action Plan (KAP) implementation in the Arab Region.</p> <p>Mr. Adel Darwish, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Arab States</p> <p>Then Panel discussion</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Khaled Wali, Director for ICT Development, League of Arab States • Dr. Chafic Chaya, Regional Manager, Public Policy and Government Affairs, Middle East Region, RIPE NCC • Mr. Jawad J. Abbassi, Head of Mena, GSMA • Mr. Hussein Abul-Enein, Head of Middle East, Access Partnership
14:45 – 15:00	Coffee Break
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Panel Two:</p> <p>P2C Matchmaking Roundtable – Transforming Pledges into Commitments for Impact</p> <p>Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into scaled-up impact: Digital for sustainable development in Arab Region through</p>

	<p>Partner2Connect Coalition.</p> <p>This session will introduce to ITU Member States, UN and Development community the Partner2Connect initiative and its expected impacts in achieving the universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation within the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for partners to share progress on the pledges made under the P2C platform and in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partners to elaborate on the progress made towards implementing their pledge; highlight opportunities available and or partnerships required to advance their commitment. - Members/ panellists who have not made any pledges yet are kindly invited to do so and make use of the P2C platform to mobilize resources needed. - Emphasise on the need for public-private collaboration to accelerate digital development among others. <p>Share their ideas / views on how platforms such as P2C can be used to accelerate digital developments in Arab Region.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Sameer Sharma, Head, Special Initiatives, ITU</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Nibal Idlebi, Acting Director, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, UN-ESCWA • Dr. Hulk Zhang, Senior Cybersecurity Specialist, Huawei • Ms. Maitha Aljamri, Government Relations and International Cooperation Officer, TDRA, UAE • Dr. Khaled Wali, AI Strategy, Director for ICT Development, League of Arab States
<p>16:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>Panel Three:</p> <p>Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Digital Development</p> <p>This panel will present innovation and digital entrepreneurship as an enabler for digital development in the Arab States. The ITU will provide information about its activities in implementing the World Telecommunication Development Conference relevant outcomes, particularly the fourth Arab regional initiative titled "Building capacities and encouraging digital innovation, entrepreneurship and future foresight". In addition, to shedding light on support provided to countries of the region to establish digital innovation ecosystems through the newly launched BDT global initiative: "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development."</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Karim Abdelghani, Programme Coordinator, ITU Regional Office for Arab States</p> <p>Panellists:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sheikh Ahmed bin Isa Al Khalifa, Head of External Relations, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Kingdom of Bahrain• Mr. Ali Alnoaimi, Senior Innovation Officer, Telecommunication and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, UAE• Eng. Qusai Abu Sanap, Operations Manager, Meem Ain Education• Dr. Nasser Mohammed Al Fannah, Director of Technical Programs, Sultanate of Oman. (virtually)• Ms. Myriam Kani, Director of Innovation, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Innovation, and Administrative Reform, Mauritania (virtually)• Mr. Mohammed Ba, Senior Coordinator, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU (virtually)
--	---

Day 2, 7 November 2023

REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNER2CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES

9:00- 9:15	Summary of the day 1 - Mr. Adel Darwish, ITU Regional Director for Arab States
PARTNR 2 CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES: Fostering partnerships and project execution to accelerate digital development in the Arab Region The Partner2Connect regional matchmaking roundtable is a multistakeholder platform for matchmaking between regional and country needs and existing pledges that were announced as well as new pledges. The matchmaking is aligned with the WTDC-22 adopted Regional Initiatives for the Arab region. Through engagement among pledging partners and the Member States, the roundtables aims at transforming pledges into concrete commitments ready for implementation for concrete results and impact.	
09:15 – 10:15	P2C Matchmaking Roundtable One: ARB RI1: Sustainable Digital Economy through Digital Transformation The Roundtable will provide an opportunity for countries to present their individual country and regional priorities to partners that submitted pledges under the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition and other partners. The partners will respond by announcing their commitments to finance and support the priorities to those countries on the Roundtable and any other from the region and from elsewhere Under this Roundtable the focus will focus on partnerships and collaboration on digital government services, digital health and digital agriculture. Moderator: Eng. Hossam Ragheb, Govstack Digital Government Specialist for the Arab Region, International Telecommunication Union. Keynote Speaker: Eng. Khaled Al-Attar, Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Administrative Development, Digital Transformation, and Automation, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt (virtually) Panellists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Abdallah Ibrahim Omar, Secretary General, Ministry of Digital Economy and Innovation, Djibouti• Mr. Zakarie Ismael, Advisor to the Minister on e-Government, Ministry of Communications and Technology, Somalia• Mr. Ayman Essam, Director of Legal and External Affairs, Vodafone Egypt• Dr. Arash Rashidian, Director of Science, Information and Dissemination, WHO/EMRO (virtually)
10:15 – 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 – 11:30	P2C Matchmaking Roundtable Two: ARB RI 2: Enhancing Confidence, Security and Privacy in the Use of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies in the Era of New and Emerging Digital

	<p>Technologies</p> <p>The matchmaking Partner2Connect Roundtable will discuss how to address country and regional needs to enhance confidence, security, and privacy in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) and the efficient means for support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and safe and reliable services that ensure the protection of privacy and personal data for all groups of society. The aim will be to hear from partners on their commitment to concretely respond to regional and country needs/priorities.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ahmed El Raghy, Senior Advisor, ITU Regional Office for Arab States.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Saleh AlHashmi, Assistant Director General for Cyber Security Operations, Ministry of Transport, Communications, and Information (MTCIT), Oman (virtually) • Mr. Fahd Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Director, Middle East, ICANN • Ms. Aysha Ahmed BinHaji, Director, Outreach and Awareness, Directorate, National Cyber Security Center (NCSC), Bahrain • Mr. Mohamed Lemine Ould Salihi, Mauritania (virtually) • Ms. Naima Hassan Dimbil, Director of Interconnection, Wholesale and Universal Access Department, National Communications Authority (NCA) of Somalia • Dr. Hulk Zhang, Senior Cybersecurity Specialist, Huawei • Mr. Mohammed Alawadhi, CEO, BugLoud, UAE
<p>11:30 – 12:30</p>	<p>P2C Matchmaking Roundtable Three: ARB RI3: Developing Digital Infrastructure for Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities.</p> <p>The session will focus on regional, and country needs from the Arab Region in the area of the development of resilient and synergistic infrastructure and the creation of an enabling environment that ensures universal coverage and meets the requirements of new and emerging technologies, and the necessary measures that need to be taken to ensure a rapid transition to smart sustainable cities and communities (SSCCs). Partners will be invited on the basis of their pledges to announce their commitment to address these priorities in a concrete way including supporting regional initiatives.</p> <p>Moderator: Eng. Rouda AlAmir Ali, Programme Officer, ITU Regional Office for Arab States.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ihar Shchetko, Connectivity Officer, ITU

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Faycal Beyouli, Director, General Directorate of Communication Technologies, Ministry of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy, Tunisia - Mr. Zaidou Abdoulhalim, Conseiller Technique chargé de la stratégie et de la communication, ANRTIC, Comoros - Mr. Tamer Azb, Director, Regulatory and Market Access, Middle East & Africa, E-space - Ms. Aroua Hadani, Project Officer, PRIDA, ITU Arab Regional Office
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	<p>P2C Matchmaking Roundtable Four: ARB RI5: Developing Means of Digital Regulation</p> <p>The Roundtable aims to provide a platform for discussing and presenting regional and country priorities to partners in the area of developing national strategies and policies, as well as capacity development on digital regulation methods in the Arab region with the aim of promoting economic and social development. Partner2Connect pledges will be converted into commitments to be operationalized for supporting concrete projects in this area. New pledges could also be announced.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Mustafa Almahdi, Programme Officer, ITU Regional Office for Arab States</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Mr. Mustafa Yacin SHEIK, General Manager, National Communications Authority, Somalia ○ Mr. Ahmed S. Alrahmah, Advisor, International Affairs and Director, Digital Regulatory Academy (DRA), Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia ○ Eng. Nadir Ahmed Gaylani, Deputy Director General, Telecommunications, Post and Regulatory Authority (TPRA), Sudan ○ Ms. Basma Tawfik, Manager International organizations, National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egypt ○ Eng. Mustapha BESSI, Head of Spectrum Division, Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT), Morocco (virtually)
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee Break
15.15 – 16.00	<p>NoW meeting</p> <p>Provide women delegates in the Arab region the opportunity to exchange views on how to develop gender mainstreamed policies to facilitate the meaningful participation and engagement of Arab delegates in the ITU work.</p> <p>In particular, the focus will be on:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting the NoW-ARAB in ITU-D strategy for the coming years • specifying the challenges of meaningful participation and leadership and examining the role of institutions in promoting meaningful participation and leadership <p>Moderator: Ms. Zeina BouHarb, Head of Int’l Cooperation, OGERO-Lebanon, Vice-Chair, NoW-ARAB in ITU-D</p> <p>Welcoming remark: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Noha Gaafar, Senior Expert, International Policies, NTRA, Egypt and Chair, NoW-Arab in ITU-D <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Alya Alali, Chief Strategy & Data Analytics Officer at Tamkeen, Bahrain ○ Ms. Amel AL-HANAWI, Consumer Affairs Department Manager, Communication Regulatory Authority, Qatar ○ Ms. Naima Hassan Dimbil, Director of Interconnection, Wholesale and Universal Access department, National Communications Authority, Somalia
<p>16:00 – 16:45</p>	<p>Youth: Generation Connect and Inter-Generational Dialogue</p> <p>This session is a discussion between Youth and experts who will engage in an intergenerational dialogue on how young people may be more involved in digital development and digital transformation work taking into account that the ages 15 to 24 are the most active online.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ali Toblani, Generation Connect, Chair of Generation Connect Arab Youth Group</p> <p>Welcoming Remark: Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Yousseif Seifallah, Generation Connect, Arab Youth Envoy ○ Ms. Yomna Sherif, Generation Connect, Arab Youth Envoy ○ Mr. Hamad Mohammed Al Hameli , CTO at BugLoud ○ Mr. Omar Eid, Generation Connect Arab Youth Envoys

16:45 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summary Report & Outcomes: Mr. Adel Darwish Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Arab States
17:00 – 17:15	<p>Closing Ceremony:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eng. Mohammed Ahmed BinAli, Acting Director, Telecommunications Directorate, Ministry of TT Bahrain - Chair of the RDF-ARB• Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU