



IGF Regional Dialogue: Overcoming Barriers to Meaningful Participation in the MENA Region
25 November 2019 (Day-0), Estrel Congress Center (IGF Venue)
Room V, 3:10pm - 6:15pm
Co-organizers: NTRA of Egypt, ISOC, RIPE NCC

CONTEXT:

In his speech at the IGF2018 in Paris, António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, highlighted the importance of an inclusive dialogue on new digital technologies and policies around them in order to maximize their benefits to the humankind whilst minimizing their negative unintended consequences. He stressed the notion of “leaving no one behind” as a prerequisite to reaching workable solutions for challenges posed by these new technologies and the way they affect societies, and to achieving the globally agreed 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

During IGF2018 recap session in Paris, it was noted that the voices of the Middle East and North Africa are among those particularly missing or underrepresented in the global debate. A more concerted effort is obviously required to identify the barriers and to boldly rethink the current approaches.

This event aims at bringing together various actors in the region and beyond, including from organizations, entities, and initiatives addressing key Internet-related policy and governance areas. Discussants and participants will have equal opportunity to share experience, and outline both efforts aimed at better engagement in the region, and also barriers that might be limiting the realization of the full potential of these efforts.

The event will also seek to facilitate identifying gaps where actors can further their efforts, redesign certain aspects of their activities, or commence on new partnerships to respond to identified needs to bridge those gaps. It will also touch upon existing mechanisms to draw on best practices and lessons learnt, identify needed tweaks or required reforms, and collectively outline envisaged trajectory.

Format:

Moderated round-table (discussants and participants will be given the opportunity to engage and reflect on the focus topics).

AGENDA

Intro: Purpose and overview (5 min)

Hisham Aboulyazed, Sr. Manager for Information Society, NTRA

Segment-1: Focus Topic: Regional Engagement and Capacity Development Efforts (85min)

Moderator: Christine Arida, Executive Director, Planning and Telecom Services, NTRA

Discussants:

Manal Ismail, Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee

Chafic Chaya, Regional Communication Manager for Middle East, RIPE NCC

Fahd Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Sr. Manager - Middle East, ICANN

Suzan Teltscher, Head of ITU-D Capacity Development Division, ITU

Adil Sulieman, Senior Policy Officer, African Union Commission

Vladimir Radunovic, Director of e-diplomacy and Cybersecurity Programmes, DiploFoundation

Segment-2: Focus Topic: Initiatives around Digital Policies (85min)

Moderator: Hanane Boujemi, Executive Director, Tech Policy Tank

Discussants:

Jane Coffin, Senior Director to the CEO, Internet Society

Ayman El Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policy Department, ESCWA

Qusai Al Shatti, former Co-Chair of Arab IGF Review Team

Nadira Al-Araj, Member of ICANN NomCom

Tijani Ben Jemaa, MAG Vice-chair, North Africa IGF

Zeina Bou Harb, Co-convener, IGF Lebanon

Event Wrap up: (10 min)



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