

Online Moderator



Mr. Ayman El Sherbiny | Chief of ICT Policies, ESCWA

Ayman El-Sherbiny has more than 30 years of experience in the Telecom and IT domain; a senior International Development Strategist in the United Nations, and a former senior executive in several major multinational Technology companies, as well as in the Telecom and Internet Sector in Egypt and the Arab Region during the nineties till 2002. By the mid-nineties, he became a serial entrepreneur. He co-founded and led, as President & CEO, several renowned ICT companies, including establishing two of the five licensed Internet Operators, and acquired more than 40% of internet market share in a record time, in addition to one of the leading systems integrators and one of the pioneering e-commerce companies as well as the first WAP partner to the main GSM operator by then. In 1999, he participated in co-drafting the first Telecom Law of Egypt that triggered the liberalization of the sector, instigated the National TRA of Egypt, and fueled competition in the sector. By late 2002, he joined the United Nations, and participated in establishing the ICT Division of ESCWA, spearheading Arab efforts pertaining to the WSIS in 2003 and 2005. By 2011, and till now, he assumed the leadership role for information society, digital economy and digital development as the Chief of Information and Communication Technology Policies at the UN – ESCWA. During 18 years of tenure in the UN, he authored tens of publications on the Information Society issues including on Advancing ICT Infrastructure, Broadband for Development, Internet Governance, Competitiveness of the ICT Sector, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Investment and Venture Capital in ICTs, e-Government Strategy, and on Digital Economy; and has co-founded the Arab Internet Governance Forum (AIGF) and the Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda.

He led several international and regional initiatives including Arabic Names across several geographical groups. He is a regular speaker at international conferences on digital oriented issues. His current work focuses on global and regional Digital Cooperation and Development, Fintech, and e-Commerce post-COVID-19; and on the establishment of a Unified Arab Digital Agenda and Strategy for the Arab region jointly with League of Arab States, and on National Digital Development Reviews and Agendas for several Arab countries, with close nexus to the SDGs and to the 2030 Agenda.



Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar | Programme Management Officer, ESCWA

Programme Management Officer in Information and Communication Technology Policies at ESCWA, and currently project leader of the Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP). Her work focuses on leading, supervising and coordinating regional and national initiatives in the area of ICT for Development, including among others, digital development, digital transformation, e-accessibility, Internet Governance and Digital Economy. During her tenure at the UN, she led and carried out several analytical studies, conducted regional analysis, authored several publications, and co-founded regional initiatives, including the Arab High-Level Forum on WSIS and 2030 Agenda and the Arab Digital Development Process. As executive coordinator of the ESCWA Arab IGF team, she contributed to the establishment and development of the Arab IGF process since 2012 and served as the Vice-chair of the annual AIGF organizing committee. As the project manager of the “Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA region” (AIGLE), Dr. Barbar led the Academy and supervised the implementation of the related activities from 2013 to 2016.

Onsite Moderator



Mr. Ibaa Oueicheck | Adviser to the Minister of Communications and Technology, Syrian Arab Republic

- 1990: BS in Computer Science from ENSIMAG, Grenoble France.
- 1996: PhD in Computer Science from INPG, Grenoble France.
- 1996-Now: Academic career: HIAST, Syrian Virtual University, several private Universities in Syria.
- Professional career in the field of Internet Started in 2006.
- 2006-2011: Expert in Data Networks and Internet at Syrian Telecom Establishment.
- 2008: Advisor to Minister of communications and Technology.
- 2011-2018: Director General of Syrian Telecom Regulatory Authority (SyTRA).
- 2008-2012: Chairman of Arab WG for Internet issues and domain names report to the council of Arab ministers of communications at LAS.
- Current Interests: ICT Strategies, Internet governance, Cyber security (ISO27001 Certified Auditor).

Speakers



Mr. Charles Sha'ban | Arab Multistakeholders Programme Advisory Committee (AMPAC), Arab IGF

Charles Sha'ban is the Executive Director of Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) and chairs the ICT committee of TAG. Global.

He is experienced in Intellectual Property Services, Digital Rights and Internet policy development and implementation strategies, with extensive technical and management experience in ICT, rich exposure to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), generic and country code Domain Names, and (Multilingual) Internationalized Domain Name issues.

Shaban was the first Arab to serve on the International Trademark Association (INTA) board of directors 2011-2014 and still serves in its Internet Committee.

Shaban served as the Chair of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group – Program committee (AMPAC) of the Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF) 2015 - 2020, served on the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) from 2006 until 2012. In 2004, he served on the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) that was established by the UN Secretary General.

He served as a member of the Committee Structure and Participation Presidential Task Force that the International Trademark Association - INTA president established in 2014 to change the structure of its committees, after serving on the board of Directors and the INTA Board planning committee from 2011-2013. A board member of the Arab Intellectual Property Association (ASIP),

Shaban Co-authored the Thomson Compumark special report about brands in the Middle East: <http://img.en25.com/Web/ThomsonReutersScience/1001619.pdf>

Co-authored the ICANN DNS study about the Middle East and adjoining countries: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/meac-dns-study-26feb16-en.pdf>

During 2004 - 2007, he served on the ccNSO Council of ICANN. Currently, he is representing AGIP in ICANN Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC).

Sha'ban holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Jordan and finished an Executive Course from Thunderbird School of Global Management: "AdvancedGlobalMarketingStrategies"



Mr. Qusai AlShatti | International Expert on Internet Governance, Former Chair of the Inaugural Arab IGF 2012 and Strategic Partner to Arab IGF 2020, Kuwait

B.S. in Computer Engineering from George Washington University in Washington DC, USA.

- Worked as a specialist in the field of Information Technology at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research from the period of 1992-1999 and 2004-2008.
- Worked as a division director at the Ministry of Public Works from the period of 1999-2004. • Worked as Deputy Director General for Information Technology at the Central Agency for Information Technology from the period of 2008-2018 and as acting Director General from the period of 2015-2018. • Board member of Kuwait Information Technology Society from the period of 2000-2014 and held the position of Deputy Chairman several terms. • Member of the Advisory Group of Internet Governance Forum (IGF) under the umbrella of the General Secretary of the United Nation. • Member of the High Level Advisory Group of the United Nation Global Alliance For ICT and Development. • Currently have three refereed papers in the field of Information Technology presented in international conferences and academic institutions. • Member of the steering committee of the National E-Kuwait Awards under the umbrella of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science. • Member of the Evaluation Team for Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics Award.



Ms. Fatna El Farsi | General Engineer, Ministry of Digital transition and Administrative Reform, Rabat, Morocco

- General Engineer responsible for Contributing to the development of the various strategies and action plans of the ministry; providing support and advising to structuring projects set up by the Ministry; Participate in the various activities of the Ministry's Steering Committee.
- Expert in information and communication technology and member of the Advisory Committee of the Arab Forum on Internet Governance since 2015, with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ESCWA
- Consultant auditor in the socio-organizational field
- Coordinator of different programs such as reengineering of process, management of anti-corruption program
- 34 years of experience in the IT field.



Mr. Hosein Badran | Director, Internet Growth and Trust, Internet Society

Hosein Badran holds the position of Director, Internet Growth and Trust, with the Internet Society, based in Ottawa, Canada. He represents the Internet Society at the ITU-T standardization body, particularly SG11, SG13 and SG17.

He is a member of the North American Network Operators Group (NANOG) Education Committee, and the Canadian Forum for Digital Infrastructure Resilience (CFDIR), established by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED).

He is a co-author of the final report of the Canadian Multi-stakeholder Initiative on IoT Security: "Enhancing IoT Security: Final Outcomes and Recommendations".

He has been a member of the Steering Committee of the Arab IGF since its inception in 2010, overseeing the program content for the annual event, and was the Chair of the Program Committee of the Canadian IGF 2020.

During his career of over 25 years as C-level expert, he spent 14 years with Cisco Systems as Distinguished Systems Architect and Regional Chief Technology Officer as a member of the Cisco CTO Office. Before joining the Internet Society, he spent three years as Director, Special Projects, and Innovation, at Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), a member of Qatar Foundation, in Doha, Qatar, where he led projects dealing with machine learning and data-driven optimization in different national socio-economic initiatives including smart transportation, e-health, aviation, and cybersecurity.

He worked also with Nortel Networks in Ottawa, Canada, FORE Systems (now Ericsson) in Dubai, and Siemens AG in Munich, Germany.

Dr. Badran holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Queen's University in Canada.

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Ms. Zeina Bou Harb | Head of International Cooperation, OGERO Telecom, Lebanon

Zeina is the Head of International Cooperation at OGERO Telecom, the incumbent operator in Lebanon.

With a BA in Business Administration focused on Marketing and Management, she has 24 years of experience in Marcom, Regulatory Affairs, and International Cooperation.

With the aim to position Lebanon on global stages, she organized the Lebanese presence and national pavilions at MWC in Barcelona for 3 consecutive years.

Zeina was appointed by the UN General Secretary as IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group member where she served for 3 years, representing the public sector in Lebanon and the Arab Region. She organized the Lebanese Open Forums at IGF Geneva 2017 and IGF Berlin 2019. Zeina is Member of the Arab MAG and of the Technical Cooperation Working Group, nominated by the League of Arab States and ESCWA, to work on the enhancement of the Arab IGF.

Currently, Zeina is heading the General Secretariat of the Lebanese IGF and its coordinator, and the representative of this initiative in the NRIs. She is managing Lebanon's membership in "We Protect" and "We, The Internet" initiatives. She is leading OGERO's activities related to "Girl's in ICT" and Women empowerment as well as COP awareness campaigns.

Zeina is also member of the national committee for Children Online Safety within the Higher Council for Childhood and the Scientific Communication Coordinator for the Supercomputer (High Performance Computing for Lebanon) project. Lately, she was selected as ICANN72 fellow and Vice Chair for the Advisory Board of the NoW4WTDC for the Arab Region.



Mr. Mansour Farah | International Expert in Technology for Development, Syrian Arab Republic

Holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science (1977) from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Between 1977 and 1997, worked as researcher/professor at Bell-Northern Research (Canada), University of Moncton (Canada), and Higher Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology – HIAST – (Syria). Headed the Computer Engineering Department at HIAST (1983-1997). Between 1997 and 2000 worked as a Consultant on Information Technology for various national and international organizations and companies. Joined the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Beirut in June 2000 and participated in studies on socioeconomic development of the region. In 2002, held the position of Team Leader for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) focusing on the regional preparatory activities for WSIS in Geneva (2003) and in Tunis (2005). Starting in 2005, as Chief of the ICT Policies Section in ESCWA, managed teams to carry out several studies and organize meetings/conferences promoting national and regional ICT policies/strategies and their implementation, provided advisory services to ESCWA member countries and managed the implementation of field projects related to ICT and socioeconomic development, including knowledge networks until September 2010. Since 2011 he has provided his expertise as independent Consultant on ICT for Development. Worked as UNDP Expert (2011-2013) within the framework of Government Services Reform and Modernization (GSR) project in Syria, focusing on reforming and modernizing the Syrian Post. Provided expertise as member of the jury panel for the Second GCC e-Government Award 2011, Kuwait (Oct 2011) and for the Third GCC e-Government Award 2013, Dubai (Dec 2013). Taught a master's course on "ICT Policies and Strategies" at the Higher Institute for Business Administration (HIBA), Damascus, Syria (2011 and 2012). Worked as ESCWA Consultant, on Regional Profile of the Information Society in Arab Region (2011-2015); and carrying out a Needs Assessment Study for the project entitled "Academy of ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the ESCWA region" (May 2013-Feb 2014) and Harmonization of AIGLE training modules and Strategic framework for dissemination in the region (May 2014-Feb 2015). From 2013 until 2021 chaired the Board of Directors of the newly created Syrian e-Payment Company. Member of the Syrian Virtual University Board of Trustees since February 2017. Lecturer at the "Arab Academy for e-Business" (ARAEB) at the Master of e-Business Management on ICT for Development and e-Government since August 2017. ESCWA Consultant since 2018 for coordinating and following up with 10 member countries their National Digital Development Reviews (NDDRs) 2018-2019 and producing the Arab Digital Development Reviews (ADDR) 2019.