DCDF 2021
منتدى التعاون الرقمي والتنمية
Digital Cooperation and Development Forum
Shaping our digital future | رسم مستقبلنا الرقمي

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UNITED NATIONS
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ESCWA

Shared Prosperity Dignified Life

ITU

Moderator

Mr. Karim Abdelghani | Programme Coordinator, ITU Arab Regional Office

Karim Abdelghani comes with an experience of around 17 years in Information and Communication Technology, specifically in the area of international relations in this vibrant field. Throughout these years, he worked for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt, the International Finance Corporation, and the ITU. He is a Chevening scholar and received a master's degree in international development from the University of Birmingham in 2009. Moreover, he is currently the Programme Coordinator in the ITU Arab Regional Office where he coordinates with stakeholders in the region on several regional issues including Smart Learning, digital health, Arab Digital Content, digital agriculture, ICT Indicators, and digital innovation ecosystems.

Speakers

Mr. Jean-Marc Faurès | Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East, and North Africa

Regional Programme Leader, FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt.

M. Jean-Marc Faurès is a senior agronomist and water resources management specialist. He has more than 30 years of experience in dealing with issues related to agricultural development in the Near East, Africa and Asia, with special focus on land and water issues, climate change adaptation and rural livelihoods. In 2015, he joined the Team in charge of developing FAO's strategic programme on sustainable agriculture. Since February 2019, M. Faurès coordinates FAO's technical programme in the Near East and North Africa Region.

Mr. Paul Hector | Advisor for Communication and Information in UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States, UNESCO, Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States

Paul Hector is the Advisor for Communication and Information in UNESCO's Regional Bureau for Sciences in the Arab States. Over the course of his UNESCO career, he has supported project initiatives and policy actions in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East that through research, the design and implementation of policies, strategies and action plans have promoted access to information and knowledge for development and overcome related inequalities particularly on digital networks. These initiatives have sought to address information and knowledge divides linked to issues such as gender, language, literacy, island/rural living, and disability. Paul joined UNESCO through its competitive Young Professionals Program. He holds multiple master and doctoral degrees and is an alumnus of the J. William Fulbright Fellowship and US State Department International Visitor Leadership Programmes.

Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny | Chief of ICT Policies, UNESCWA

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 a number of Arab countries, with close nexus to the SDGs and to the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Dany Wazen | Digital Transformation Specialist at UNDP RBAS regional programme, UNDP RBAS regional programme

Dany Wazen, Digital Transformation Specialist at UNDP RBAS regional programme.

With over 18 years of experience with the United Nations System, Dany is acting as a digital transformation focal point for the Arab region with the UNDP Regional Hub, leading the planning, design and implementation of complex digital solutions and computer information systems on regional level and country specific (17 countries). Experienced in countries, digital transformation plans and national digital strategies development, identifying needs with ministries to develop sectoral digital roadmaps.

Dany has an extensive experience in digital maturity assessments for more than 6 countries, as well as in implementing digital governance services for public sector including governments agencies and ministries in addition to leading several emerging technologies project within the human development context.

Currently member of the UNDP Global Digital Governance Group representing Arab States bureau to oversee and approve technology services, strategy, and investments globally inside the organization to align with the corporate Strategic Plan and objectives.

Dany holds a master's degree in information technology and enterprise management from Université de Picardie – Jules Verne, France and has participated in several global and regional events on different digital transformation topics.

Mr. Mohamed Hassan Nour | WHO