

# Arab Digital Inclusion Platform (ADIP)- “The Age of Digital Inclusion: How technology can support the inclusion of persons with disabilities” (UNESCWA)

## Background

Technology and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Arab region

## Key Facts

- It is estimated that 15% of the world population are persons with disabilities
- Persons with disabilities are marginalized and excluded from many opportunities like education, health, and employment. Disability interacts with other vulnerabilities like gender, migration, and the urban-rural divide. Hence, persons with disabilities can face added layers of marginalization such as women with disabilities or refugees with disabilities.
- Digital inclusion, or E-Accessibility, holds great potential to support the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## Description

This session will explore the important role accessible information and communication technology can play in ensuring the inclusion of persons with disabilities. It will start by exploring the global frameworks that support e-inclusion, such as Article 9 on Accessibility of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Second, it will explore the interlinkages between research, universities, and industry in driving innovation for social and digital inclusion. Third, examine digital inclusion in the Arab region, some of the challenges and opportunities Arab countries face, especially in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Lastly, it will showcase some of the Arab regional initiatives to support digital inclusion, including ESCWA’s “Arab Digital Inclusion Platform”.

### Moderator



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

### Speakers



**Mr. Abraham Abdallah**  
Consultant on Disability, ESCWA



**Ms. Itab Shuayb**  
Inclusive Design Specialist  
at the Disability Hub-Centre  
for Lebanese Studies,  
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**Mr. Mostafa Attia**  
Researcher and Consultant  
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**Ms. Sumaya Almajthoob**  
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