

ARAB INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

ARAB IGF

AfriNIC-16 Meeting, Serekunda May 2012

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The Initiative



- In 2008, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) launched the Arab Dialogue (ArabDIG) on Internet Governance initiative
- In 2009, a study was published : "Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance: Framework, Principles and Objectives"
- In 2010, different stakeholders met in Beirut and issued the "Call of Arab Stakeholders – Towards Promoting Arab Cooperation for Internet Governance Regionally and Internationally", which states the need for a regional IGF for the Arab

Why Arab IGF ?



- To discuss and deliberate the priorities of the Arab region and to reach a common stand in global IGF
- Arab Telecommunication and Information Council of Ministers (ATICM) invited ESCWA and LAS to hold a consultation on the desirability of an Arab IGF and to discuss its structures

Consultation Phase



- An open multi-stakeholders consultation took place in Beirut (31st Jan-1st Feb 2012)
- Outcome of the consultation was blessed by the ministerial bureau of ATICM:
 - Arab IGF Mission
 - AIGF Structure
 - AIGF Format
 - Future Hosts

Arab IGF Mission



- Enhance the Arab discussion of international Internet-related public policies, in particular those tackled at the global IGF.
- Facilitate exchange of information and best practices especially among Arab policy makers, technical, and academic expertise, and publish its proceedings and achieved recommendations and proposals

Mission (cont.)



- Harmonize positions towards common Arab stands on IG priorities, and reflect the common Arab stands at the global level
- Support the Arab contribution in setting Internet-related public policies on an appropriate mechanisms to respond to the needs of the Arab region, without being of oversight nature or replacing any existing mechanisms or entities

Mission (cont.)



- Discuss emerging technology issues (that do not include the day-to-day operation), and making recommendations on them, as appropriate
- Contribute to human capacity development in the field of IG, and promoting the full participation of all stakeholders in order to fully utilize of expertise and resources
- Communicate with the global IGF and the other regional IGFs with a view to reach global governance of the internet, facilitate information exchange and knowledge transfer

Structure



 Arab Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (AMAG): in formation

- Secretariat: NTRA, Egypt
 - Mrs. Christine Arida
 - Mr. Hisham Aboulyazed

Format



- Inclusive of all stakeholders, in line with WSIS outcomes
- Non binding discussion forum
- Maintains a flexible non-centralized structure
- Capitalizes on various voluntary funding

Future Hosts



- Expressed interest to host the Arab IGF from government and non-government entities from:
 - Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS)
 - Lebanon, Algeria, Sudan, Bahrain, Qatar, and Egypt

Supporting Partners



- ESCWA: leading role in the Roadmap initiative
- LAS: leading role in the roadmap initiative; linkage with ATICM
- RIPE NCC: Support for remote participation
- Global IGF: Support for remote participation
- NTRA, Egypt: host of the secretariat

Arab IGF 2012



- First AIGF meeting will be in Kuwait, 9-11 October 2012 (Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS))
- Previewed Preparatory Work:
 - Mid-June: First AMAG meeting, Cairo
 - September 18-20: Open Consultation and

second AMAG meeting, Cairo

How Can You Contribute? 🏒



- Participate at the first Arab IGF in Kuwait
- Submit a contribution to the preparatory work
- Organize a side event at the Arab IGF
- Sponsor an activity within the Arab IGF

More Information



- Website: <u>www.igfarab.org</u>
- Contact the Secretariat:

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