







Meaningful Access and Inclusiveness Challenges of Meaningful access, to achieve digital societal inclusion in the Arab region

[Organized by Arab IGF AMPAC - STF]

Dear Participant,

In line with SDG 9, countries in the Arab region should devise universal internet access policies that allow affordable access to quality broadband services, facilitate digital inclusion, including the development of digital skills, access for women and persons with disabilities, and availability of relevant content and applications.

This session, under the Arab IGF track, discusses the main challenges to achieving the goals of meaningful access in the context of digital transformation revolve around three axes:

- Networking and connectivity challenges associated with financing and expanding broadband infrastructure
- Pricing/cost barriers that limit the uptake of digital services due to low purchasing power compared to high prices of services and end-user devices
- Challenges to Internet inclusiveness, which require eliminating digital divides, facilitating access to internet, developing digital skills, addressing gender disparities and accessibility of services for people with disabilities, and encouraging the development of digital content locally.

Moderator



Information Society and ology Cluster, ESCWA

Speakers:



Mr. Imad Kreidieh Chairman and Director General, OGERO, Lebanon



Ms. Leila Serhan Senior Vice President and **Group Country Manager** (NALP), Visa



Ms. Nermine El Saadany Regional Vice-President-Middle East, ISOC



Mr. Marco Brandstaetter **Business Development** Manager former Regional Director Middle East and South Asia, DE-CIX



Mr. Houssine Saf Member of I-APEBI. (Fédération des professionnels du Digital and MAG Member of NAIGF- North Africa Internet Governance Forum Morocco

We look forward to your participation.

Together, let us shape our digital future!

Best regards.

JOIN US!

Join the High-Level Inaugural Session

* About DCDF 2021: ESCWA is organizing the inaugural edition of the Arab International Digital Cooperation and Development Forum (DCDF 2021) from 13 to 23 December 2021 virtually on Zoom, in partnership with the League of Arab States and key actors in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Internet Governance Forum (IGF), including the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The event occurs under the One United Nations initiative and within the framework of the Arab States Action Programme on "Advancing Digital Cooperation and Development", launched by ESCWA in 2020. More information on this event is available on the event website: https://dcdf2021-.unescwa.org/