

Workshop on ICT Policy Making in  
ESCWA member countries  
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# Deglobalizing Pan-Arab ICT Strategies in terms of International Development

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## Definitions

- ICT Strategies: *Done*
- Pan-Arab: A consortium of:
  - ESCWA member states: *(Beneficiary)*
  - Other Arab countries *(Partnership)*
  - Friendly supporting countries *(Support)*
- International Development: *(Assistance in funds and/or knowledge by donors)*
- Deglobalization within the context of the above *(To come)*

## Globalization

(General)

### In general terms:

enabling wider scope and remove restrictions for global trade

Multinational corporations have more control

National interest loses priority

Socio-economic and political decision making becomes subject to pressures and under influence of foreign powers

## Globalization

(for ICT)

### In ICT terms:

Enabling priorities and strategies that serve wider scope, hence **less**

**sensitive** to the nation's needs trying to conform to international requirements

Change of current strategies by **importing foreign almost** ready-made strategies

National decision making is **influenced** by such strategies

## Deglobalization of ICT

Must be

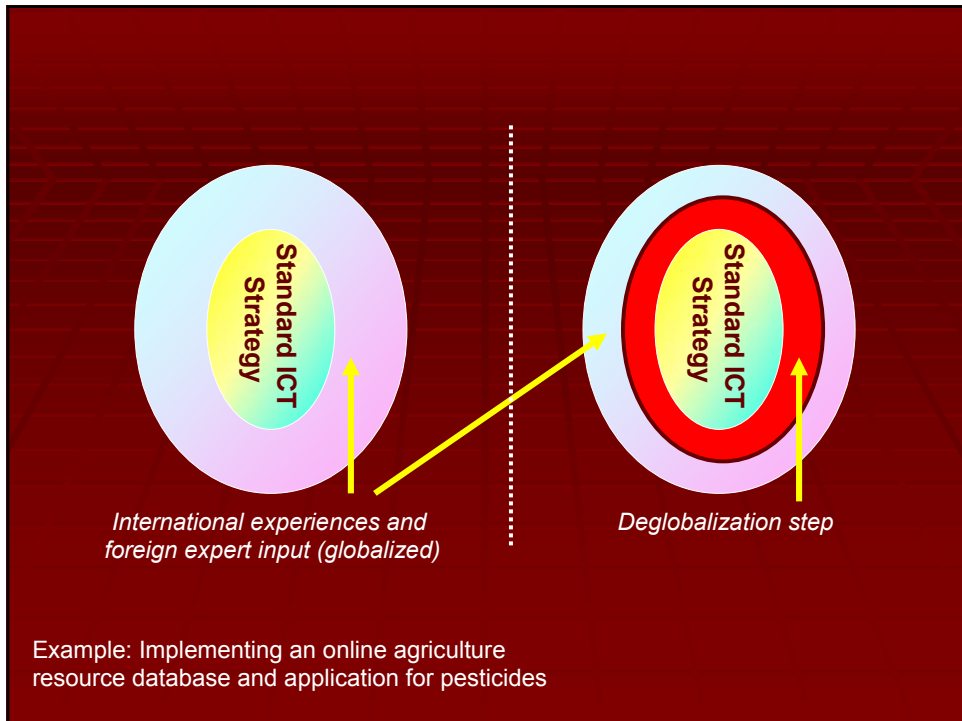
- Sensitive to **realistic** and pragmatic **national development** plan
- **Cross-sectorial** in nature, and hence should affect all **country's way of life**, not only trade and international relations
- Sensitive to **nation's socio-cultural characteristics** and priorities

## Methodologies: I

- Mathematical modeling of scales to measure indicators describing country's way of life,
- Scales and measures that represent general development strategies (in economics, industry, education etc.)
- Adopting weighing pattern to represent nation's priorities

## Methodologies: II

1. Construct a current status report, with **field data** gathering based on the measures and indicators adopted.
2. Use expert-driven method (*such as the **eForesight method***) to generate prototype plan (draft version).
3. Use **cross sectorial expert discussion workshop** to test the prototype in terms of the nation's development strategy
4. Finally, assess the changes (positive or negative) of implementing such a strategy on the nation's international relations (i.e. general globalization) and make amendments to the strategy in order to minimize the negative effect of the deglobalization.



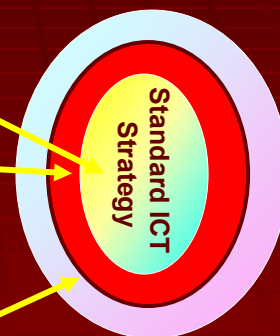
### Example:

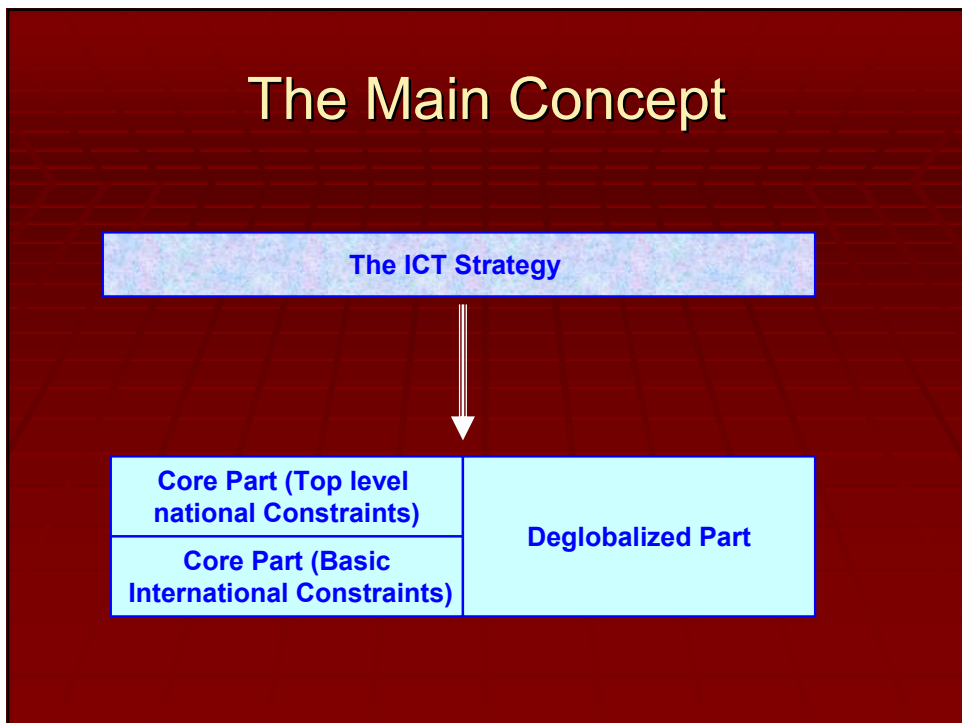
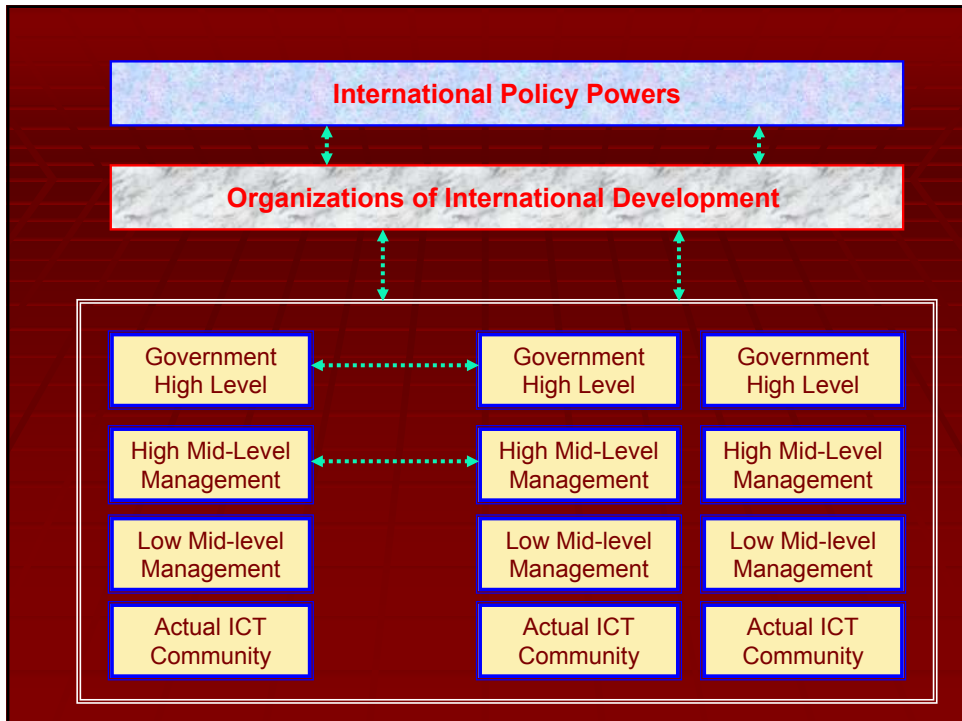
Implementing an online agriculture resource database and application for pesticides with e-business feature

**Goal:** USE ICT to search for pesticides and purchase them online

**deglobalize:** USE nation's indicators in order to "filter", "fine-tune" etc. so the results are the permitted according to type, prices or other criteria that is special to the nation

**eBusiness done:** Efficient search and location of pesticides





## The 3 D's

- **Deglobalization** to sustain national identity vis-à-vis the Information Society
- **Decentralization** for localization of the deglobalized part of the ICT
- **Divestment** in the sense of selective Investment to constrain and control the effect of large corporations

## If we, in Palestine, did this we would have avoided:

- Doing IT strategy three times (first is in 1996 WB)
- Doing ICT Strategy two times
- Doing ~~IT~~ **Agriculture** **Environment** **Education** strategy .....
- Overhead cost lost in ICT & IT “strategies” is estimated at about 80% (redundancy)
- Each plan’s “cost” ranged from 260,00 to even 700,000 US \$

**Result: Tons of papers and grams of action**

## Epilogue

- Latest “ expert & thinkers ” in the USA in terms of “ End of History ” *Fukuyama in March 2006, Example of Iraq*
- Căstell’s Trilogy, especially the first: “Information Age” and the last “Dual City” *Example of Venezuela and Bolivia*

THANK YOU

ESCWA Colleagues