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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Expert Group Meeting on “Artificial Intelligence and Local Industrial Development” *
UN-House, Beirut, 1-2 July 2019

Preliminary Agenda

Day 1: 1 July 2019

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr. Mounir Tabet, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCWA</i> - <i>Mr. Adel Sakr, Director General, Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization (AIDMO)</i>
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: AI Opportunities and Challenges</p> <p>Arab countries should anticipate opportunities and challenges that may develop because of AI borderless nature and presence in local economies and societies. The session aims to shed light on the power of AI in promising prosperity, and related risks of growing unemployment and inequality, revealing new ethical and social concerns.</p> <p>Keynote Speaker: Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, Jordan, “The Brave Knowledge World”, 2019</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Fouad Mrad, ESCWA</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ms. Tamara ElZein, Director doctoral fellowships program, National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS), Lebanon</i> - <i>Mr. Ammar Joukhadar, Deputy Dean of IT faculty, Damascus University, Syria</i> - <i>Ms. Soukaina ElAmri, Regional Director, Agency for the Promotion of Industry and Innovation (APII), Tunisia</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 2: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Concepts, Characteristics and Evolution</p> <p>The fourth industrial revolution converges many technologies as the driving force towards achieving sustainable development in the 21st century. On the forefront lies Artificial intelligence, its role and its multi-disciplinary development. The objective of the session is to overview the evolution of AI and foresight the future path especially reflected in Arab countries.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Nibal Idlebi, ESCWA</p> <p>Panelists:</p>

* A real time machine transcription and translation using AI from Qatar Computing Research Institute will be tested (Arabic / English).

- *Mr. Abbas Al-Bakry, Chancellor, University of Information Technology and Communications, Iraq*
- *Mr. Mohamed Gaith, Director, Scientific Research and Innovation Fund, Jordan*
- *Mr. Ayman Kaissy, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon*
- *Mr. Ahmed Ali, Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), Qatar*

12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
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13:30 – 15:00	Session 3: Education and the Fourth Industrial Revolution
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Education should provide youth with the ability to capture economic opportunities and drive sustainable development. The session discusses the gaps between the skillset currently produced by educational systems, and the attributes required to enable Arab youth to develop, apply and benefit from the fourth industrial revolution.

Moderator: *Mr. Haidar Fraihat, ESCWA*

Panelists:

- *Mr. Ahmed AbdelAziz, Vice Dean for Student Affairs-Engineering and Materials Science, German University in Cairo (GUC), Egypt*
- *Ms. Mountaha Banihani, Dean, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University College for Innovation (TAGUCI), Jordan*
- *Ms. Pierrette Zouein, Professor of Industrial and Mechanical Engineering, Lebanese American University (LAU), Lebanon*

15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
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15:30 – 17:00	Session 4: AI Impact and Foresight
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Noting that AI is a key driver of transformation in the fourth industrial revolution, it plays a critical role in maximizing the benefits to local sustainable development. In this session, it is crucial to understand AI's foresight in helping policymakers maximize the benefits of the fourth industrial revolution and consequently minimize adverse side effects.

Moderator: *Mr. Ayad Jalloul, AIDMO*

Speaker: *Mr. Imad El Hajj, ESCWA Consultant, "Impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on Development in Arab Countries", 2019*

Panelists:

- *Mr. Walid Gomaa, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, Egypt-Japan University for Science and Technology (E-JUST), Egypt*
- *Ms. Maysoun Ibrahim, Chairperson of The National Forum on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence, Palestine*

Day 2: 2 July 2019

09:00 – 10:00	Session 5: Applications of AI in Industry
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The ability to leverage AI enabled solutions will become a major attribute of competitive advantages across major industries for improved efficiency, productivity and performance

The session explores possible impact of AI on industry and manufacturing in the Middle East economy.

Moderator: *Ms. Mirna ElHajj Barbar, ESCWA*

Panelists:

- *Mr. Emad Oueis, President, Central Metallurgical Research , Egypt*
- *Mr. Emad Borai, Head of Nuclear Technology, Arab Atomic Energy Agency, Tunisia*
- *Mr. Claude Fachkha, Director, Steppa Cyber, United Arab Emirates*

10:00 – 10:30**Coffee Break**

10:30 – 11:30**Session 6: Investments in AI and Frontier Technologies**

Many investment funds, venture capitals and angel investors are stepping in to investment in AI and technology-based startups. Entrepreneurs are devising innovative ways to tackle the societal challenges of the fourth industrial revolution through technological breakthroughs. The session examines how investors, business leaders and policy-makers can encourage and support these entrepreneurs.

Moderator: *Mr. Nawar Al Awa, ESCWA*

Panelists:

- *Mr. Abdel Hadi Kashyout, CEO of Centre of Advanced and Future Studies, City of Scientific Research and Technological Applications, Egypt*
- *Ms. Stephanie Abi Abdallah, Programmes Director, Beirut Digital District (BDD), Lebanon*
- *Ms. Fadwa Murad, Director, ICT Incubator, Syrian Computer Society, Syria*

11:30 – 12:30**Session 7: Arab Initiatives in AI**

Many applications in communications, logistics, agriculture, education, and smart cities are becoming reality in Arab countries. In this session, Arab programs and initiatives will be presented

Moderators: *Mr. Fouad Mrad, ESCWA and Mr. Ayad Jalloul, AIDMO*

Panelists:

- *Mr. Nabeel Alfayoumi, Chief Data Officer, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan*
- *Mr. Mazen Saghir, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon*
- *Mr. Anas Dahabiah, Director of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Telecommunication and Technology, Syria*
- *Mr. Kais Mejri, Director General of Innovation and Technology Development, Ministry of Industry and Energy, Tunisia*

12:30 – 13:00**Discussions and Key Messages**

13:00 – 14:00**Lunch Break**

14:00 – 17:00**The Fourth Meeting of the Arab Nano Technology Group**
