



Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Regional Expert Meeting on National Digital Development Reviews 2.0 – Enhanced Methodology and Updated Guiding Template

Online Meeting, 15-16 December 2020

Day one: Tuesday, 15 December 2020 12:30-15:00 Beirut time

Day two: Wednesday, 16 December 2020 10:30-12:30 Beirut time

Tentative Agenda

Day one: Tuesday, 15 December 2020, 12:30-15:00

	Opening Session
12:30-12:50	<p>Welcome Notes & Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Juraj Riecan, Cluster Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA <p>Setting the Scene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA
12:50-14:20	<p>Session I: The Updated ESCWA Digital Development Guiding Template for the development of the NDDRs Round 2021- Core Track</p> <p>An interactive walkthrough based on the updated ESCWA digital development guiding template will be carried out with focus on major changes/enhancements. The session highlights some details of the guiding template, suggesting some solutions to minimize the challenges and to ease the collection of the quantitative and qualitative data and required information to the extent possible. In this session the changes introduced to the enhanced template will be explained, to cater for the emerging and unpredicted issues, such those imposed by the covid-19 pandemic and others, with the aim to reflect countries' reality and achievement as close as possible to reality. The walkthrough will navigate through details of the information elements, contained in its main five clusters, namely:</p> <p>Cluster 1: National, Regional and International Strategic Frameworks</p> <p>Cluster 2: Infrastructure, Governance and Legal Environment Policy Areas</p> <p>Cluster 3: Digital Economy, Employment and Trade Policy Areas</p> <p>Cluster 4: Digital Transformation and Social Inclusion Policy Areas</p> <p>Cluster 5: Culture and Media Policy Areas</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ICT Policies Section - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA</p>

	Presenter: Mr. Mansour Farah , Prime Consultant on Digital Development, ESCWA
14:20-14:50	Session II: Proposed ESCWA Strategic processes for the development of the NDDRs/ADDR Round 2021- Core Track
	<p>This session will present the revised ESCWA strategic process based on the feedback received from National Focal Points (NFPs) of the 10 participating countries regarding the 2019 NDDR/ADDR process. Changes to the process were reviewed and agreed upon in the first Expert Group Meeting (EGM1) held online on 18 Nov 2020, which highlighted the major obstacles encountered by countries through the different stages of the NDDRs/ADDR preparations from the designation of the national focal points till the production of the final output. This will also be reflected in the revised Terms of Reference (TORs) for the NFPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA - Presenter: Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ICT Policies Section -Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA
14:50-15:00	Quick Wrap up and conclusions from the first day

Day two: Wednesday, 16 December 2020, 10:30-12:30

10:30-10:40	Quick Recap on the first day
10:40-11:10	Session III: Proposed parallel tracks to enhance NDDRs/ADDR Round 2021- Core Track (through new evidence-based policy analysis tools) – The Concepts and Road Ahead
	<p>This session will focus on the roadmap for launching the second round of NDDRs for 2021, the next ADDR edition, the initiation of ADAICTS, and the development/piloting of the new proposed measurement and monitoring instrument.</p> <p>Sophisticated tools will be explored to automate reporting and avail near to real time data that help reflect the reality of the digital development status and monitor progress at the country and regional levels. Interested countries and organizations are welcome to join in the piloting exercise for testing the proposed tools – Introducing the Digital Development Maturity Index (DDMI) and the Smart Observatory/Online Platform/compendium/repository.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Mr. Mansour Farah, ESCWA Consultant - Intervener: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA
11:10-11:40	Session IV: Technical cooperation for Designing/Developing National Digital Development Agendas (NDDAs)
	<p>ESCWA will continue its support to member Governments to leverage the opportunities of the Digital Development through building enhanced capacities among policymakers to narrow ICT gaps, reduce barriers to ICT adoption and promote ICT application in accelerating socio-economic development and achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Policymakers and stakeholders in these countries are empowered to bring change in policy and practice, through applying newly gained knowledge and further developed products for policy reviews, analysis and planning pertaining to digital development in developing their own digital strategies and agendas at the national/regional levels</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA - Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mr. Nawar Al-Awa, ESCWA Regional Advisor on Technology for Development, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA. o Ms. Mirna El Hajj Barbar, Programme Management Officer, ICT Policies Section, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA
11:40-12:10	Session V: Technical cooperation for Designing and Developing a Unified Arab Digital Agenda /Arab ICT Strategy (ADAICTS)
	<p>ESCWA will continue its support to member Governments to leverage the opportunities of the Digital Development through building enhanced capacities among policymakers to narrow ICT gaps, reduce barriers to ICT adoption and promote ICT application in accelerating socio-economic development and achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Policymakers and stakeholders in these countries are empowered to bring change in policy and practice, through applying newly gained knowledge and further developed products for policy reviews, analysis and planning pertaining to digital development in developing their own digital strategies and agendas at the national/regional levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderator: Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development - Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA - Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mr. Khaled Wally, Director of ICT Development, LAS o Mr. Ibaa Oueichek, Consultant ESCWA
12:10-12:30	The Way Forwards and Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny, Chief of ICT Policies, Information Society and Digital Development, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Juraj Riecan, Cluster Leader, Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, ESCWA