**Draft Program Paper for the**

**First Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF)**

**"A Better Internet for A Better Arab World"**

**Kuwait, (9- 11) October 2012**

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# Introduction:

This paper is a draft program for the First Meeting of the Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF) that will be held in Kuwait from 9 to 11 October 2012. This draft program reflects:

* The outcome of the Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab IGF, jointly organized by LAS and ESCWA in Beirut, during 31/1-1/2/2012, and the consent reached during the conference with regards to the importance and the need to launch the Arab IGF.
* ESCWA’s experts group meeting on the Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance, held in Beirut, between 25 and 26 October 2010,
* The recommendation of the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunication and Information Technology Council of Ministers (ATICM).to endorse the outcome of the Conference and Public Consultations to Establish the Arab IGF.
* The recommendation made by the Permanent Arabic Committee for Communication and Information in its 31st meeting, held in Dubai, between 24-25/5/2012 to launch the Arab IGF.
* The endorsement of the Arab Telecommunication and Information Technology Council of Ministers (ATICM).to launch the Arab IGF.

Furthermore, It reflects the discussions and outcomes of the first Arab IGF MAG meeting, held in Cairo, between 18-19/6/2012 on topics and organizational issues related to the first Arab IGF meeting to be held in Kuwait between 9-11/10/2012.

# The Open Consultation

During the open public consultation conference, held in Beirut during 31/1-1/2/2012, a consensus was reached among the participants on the importance of having an Arab IGF. The outcome of the open public consultations conference recommended the launch of the Arab IGF process, a light structure for the Arab IGF consisting of a multistakeholder advisory group (MAG) and a secretariat, a website for Arab IGF, and an open consultation part of the preparatory process. This open public consultation in Beirut emphasized that the nature of Arab IGF will be:

* Multistakeholder based on the practises of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).
* Non-Binding dialogue forum that publishes its proceedings and any recommendations.
* Decentralised and flexible structure.
* Multi source sponsorship.

These recommendations were forwarded to the Executive Bureau of the Arab Telecommunication and Information Technology Council of Ministers (ATICM), who welcomed the outcome, endorsed it and recommended the active participation of all stakeholders, including governments, in the Arab IGF process. Outcome of the open consultation and the Executive Bureau could be found at: <http://igfarab.org/docs/meeting.pdf>.

## 2.1 Scope of the Arab Internet Governance Forum:

* Focus on discussing public policies related to Internet Governance especially in the areas of access, stability, security and development.
* Facilitate the exchange of information, best practices, knowledge and lessons learned by involving experts, technical community and academics.
* Gather different opinions and build consensus for harmonized Arab views on priorities and on mechanisms to respond to Arab countries needs related to Internet governance issues.
* Discuss emerging issues and develop recommendations on them, as appropriate.
* Build and develop capacity in Internet Governance as well as improve the participation of all stakeholders to benefit from all possible resources of knowledge and expertise.
* Communicate the Arab positions globally and enhance the Arab role in formulating global Internet Governance policies.
* Engage in outreach with the Internet Governance Forum and other regional IGFs with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and expertise.

## 2.2 The AIGF Host 2012

The Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS) offered to host the first annual meeting of the Arab IGF, during the open public consultations conference. The conference participants unanimously endorsed KITS as the host of the first Arab IGF meeting. It is expected that this meeting will be held in the State of Kuwait during 9-11 October 2012.

# Basic Meeting Structure

Based on the discussions undertaken during the first arab MAG meeting (Cairo, 18-19 June 2012) , it was agreed that the the proposed Arab IGF structure will build on the practises followed by the global IGF and other regional IGFs. This structure is based on main sessions and workshops that are conducted in a multistakeholder format. The themes for the main sessions and workshops are Access, Content, Critical Internet Resources (CIRs). Openness, Security and privacy, and Youth.Main sessions and workshops will be developed around these main themes. Capacity building will be a cross cutting topic among all of the five themes. It should be noted that the format and focus of the meeting will be adapted to best suit the needs of the Arab region.

It is important to note that a key success factor of the global and regional IGF meetings is the multistakeholder, open and interactive format that needs to be maintained as a guiding principle for the Arab IGF process. The meeting is open for all entities and individuals with expertise, experience and interest in matters related to Internet governance. Registration and participation in the event should be open to all interested parties.

Based on the experience from previous IGF meetings, the following points need to be considered:

* Main Sessions of 90 minute duration with a maximum of 5 -7 panellists.
* The format of the Main Session needs to be adapted to the subject (theme) matter and may allow for the possibility of having keynote speakers.
* The relationship between Main Sessions and Workshops needs to be detailed and linked (report back, questions, discussions, participants views, issues of concern).
* Enough space will be made available for formal/informal interaction and networking among participants, both in terms of physical space and time in the structure of the program.
* Emphasis on reflecting Arab (regional) prospective and sharing best practices related to themes of the AIGF, especially the ones that have been beneficial for developing and less developed countries.
* Case studies, including examples of successful initiatives and approaches by different stakeholders should also be used in main sessions and workshops to foster dialogue on controversial themes.
* A ‘stock-taking and the way forward’ main session to allow participants to provide input on the functioning, the structure and the evolution of the Arab IGF, including the role of the Arab Multistakeholder Advisory Group (Arab MAG), and how to deal with the issues they consider most challenging and important to the Arab region.
* A session or a workshop on emerging issues that allows participants to discuss new and future Internet trends with relation to Internet Governance and impact on users.

The objectives of this structure is to maximise the opportunity for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas; to try and create feedback loops between the different types of sessions; to create opportunities to share best practices, successful experiences and lessons learned, to listen, debate and learn as well as to identify key themes that would, in the future, benefit from the multi-stakeholder perspective of the Arab IGF.

During the preparatory process, the draft program paper will be subject to stocktaking including open consultations, online comments and recommendation from the Arab MAG members. Based on the stocktaking, the Arab MAG will finalize the Arab IGF program in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. Stocktaking on the first meeting will take place during the preparatory process for the second Arab IGF meeting.

With the exception of the Keynote speakers, there will be no prepared statements read out during the main sessions. However, prepared statements can be recorded in a specially equipped audiovisual-studio and shown in a loop in selected areas of the conference venue and made available on the Arab IGF website. Prepared statements can also be submitted in advance to the Arab IGF Secretariat for posting on the website.

A meeting point will be set up within the conference premises to allow all interested entities to showcase their activities free of charge. This meeting point is an open area where all participants gather between sessions for sharing experiences and exchanging information.

# Meeting Types

## 4.1 Main Sessions

The main focus of the meeting will be on the substantive Main Sessions. Each session will have a chairperson and a panel of not more than five to seven people. A moderator will ensure a focus to the debates. These sessions will take place in the main meeting hall and they will be organized around the main themes of the Arab IGF debates, namely, Access, Content, Critical Internet Resources (CIRs). Openness, Security and privacy, and Youth. In addition, there will be an opening ceremony and closing ceremony including taking Stock and the Way Forward in the same meeting hall. Interpretation will be provided in 3 languages (Arabic, English, and French) for all meetings taking place in the main hall. The Main Sessions will be webcast and will be rendered in real-time transcription (if available).

Duration of the Main Sessions: 90 Minutes.

## 4.2 Workshops

Workshops are designed to explore detailed issues related to the main themes. As such, all interested stakeholders are invited to submit proposals for workshops in a similar way to the global IGF. The Arab MAG will assume the role of approving the workshops or merging similar ones together. The scheduling of these workshops will be determined by the host & Arab MAG on the basis of maintaining a balance across the issues, efficient use of meeting space and an attempt to avoid conflicts in topic or speakers. Workshops that will deal with the main themes will be scheduled before the Main Session dealing with the same theme, thereby allowing detailed debate to be fed into the Main Sessions. These workshops will be supported and facilitated by the host & Arab IGF Secretariat, but organised by the workshop proposer. Other general workshops can be organised, as needed, distinctly from feeder workshops. The Workshops will conform to the principles of multi-stakeholder participation.

Duration of workshops: 90 minutes.

Each workshop will be required to produce a report on the workshop.

Deadlines for submitting workshop proposals and for completing speaker list will be announced at [www.igfarab.org](http://www.igfarab.org).

## 4.3 Other Meetings

Unallocated meeting rooms will be given to interested stakeholder groups on a first-come-first-served basis, as available, in accordance with practices and principles followed by the global IGF. A number of slots will be reserved for this purpose for the duration of the meeting itself, to accommodate ad-hoc requests.

# Logistics

## 5.1 Meeting Rooms

The following meeting rooms will be available:

* Main Meeting Hall, for opening and closing ceremonies and main sessions, in a theatre-style setting. All proceedings in this room will be webcast, interpreted in all 3 languages (Arabic, English, French) and rendered in real-time transcription
* Two Workshop Rooms, in a theatre-style setting. All proceedings will be Audio cast. One Workshop Room will have facilities for interpretation (interpreters can be provided by workshop organizers, if desired).

## 5.2 Remote Participation

Remote participation will be made available for the main sessions and for workshops if requested. Workshops organizers will be responsible to allocate a designated remote participation moderator to facilitate the full engagement of remote participants. Remote participation moderators will also be assigned for main sessions.

## 5.3 Other facilities

* A fully equipped AV-studio to record prepared statements. The studio can also be reserved for TV interviews.
* A media center, with a room for media conferences, in theatre style setting and workspace for journalists.
* A Meeting Point “Arab IGF Village” to allow interested entities to present themselves for free and have meetings and poster sessions. The village will include squares (with chairs and tables) for ad-hoc meetings and poster sessions. The “Arab IGF Village” will also contain the cyber-café.
* Restaurants/refreshments:
	+ A food court/Buffet with moderately priced food will be available.
	+ Coffee/Tea will be served in the conference premises.

The Secretariat/host is responsible for the allocation of all meeting rooms.

# Format and schedule

The proposed order and flow of the meetings will be set out in the draft meeting schedule posted on the Arab IGF Web site [www.igfarab.org](http://www.igfarab.org). The final scheduling will depend on the interest expressed for the various meeting types. The MAG, Secretariat and Host will coordinate together the final schedule to make best possible use of the facilities that are available at the conference venue.

# Main Themes Agenda:

The overall proposed theme planned for The First Arab IGF meeting is: "A Better Internet for A Better Arab World".

Based on the outcome of the Arab MAG meeting, held in Cairo, between 18-19/6/2012 which took into consideration [The “Arab regional roadmap for Internet governance, framework, Principles and Objectives”](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=1021)[[1]](#footnote-1), The main themes planned for the agenda are as follows:

* Access;
* Openness
* Security and Privacy;
* Content;
* Managing Critical Internet Resources;
* Youth

## 7.1 Access Theme

The Access theme will focus on the following issues:

* New sustainable Internet business model.
* The Arab world broadband experience, Initiatives on increasing broadband penetration, Public Private Partnership (PPP) Models on infrastructure investments.
* Technology adoption and mobile broadband.
* Access for rural areas and marginalized people in the Arab world.
* Regional interconnectivity: establishing IXPs and hosting Arabic content regionally.
* Equitable and affordable access to youth.

## 7.2 Content Theme

The Content Theme will focus on the following issues:

* Increasing the volume of Arabic digital content on the Internet and its role in protecting the Arabic identity and culture.
* Legal and ethical dimensions related to Arabic digital content including parental control, children protection (awareness), and publishing trusted content.
* Intellectual properties dimension related to Arabic digital content.
* Creating incentives for Arabic content development (industry monetization).
* Content as an enabler for Access and the increasing role of mobile content in the Arab World.
* Open source tool, content tools and Applications (CMS Industry).
* ICT and Arabic digital illiteracy in the Arab world (norms transformation).
* Arabic digital Content initiatives in the Arab world.
* Reinventing Arabic content: digital media and digital advertisement.

## 7.3 Openness Theme

The Openness Theme will be based on the issues suggested and presented by The Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) during the first meeting of the Arab MAG. The [presentation](http://www.igfarab.org/docs/meetings/01/Openness_ARADO.pdf)[[2]](#footnote-2) is posted on the Arab IGF website. The main issues suggested by ARADO:

* Freedom of Speech in the Internet
* Good Governance
* E-participation
* Advocacy (Social Networks)
* Information sharing (with focus on scientific research).
* Content filtering

## 7.4 Security and Privacy Theme

The Security and Privacy Theme will focus on the following issues:

* Balance between individuals' rights and States rights with the respective role of each stakeholder.
* The impact of spam and phishing.
* Personal data privacy with a perspective on cross-border environments and impact of new trends like Cloud computing.
* The regulatory environment related to the Internet security and privacy matters.
* Enhanced user awareness on Internet security and privacy issues.
* Traffic Routing and Monitoring: The balance between the side of government and private sector cooperation and the side of user's rights.
* Social aspect of security and privacy: building confidence of people on using the Internet.
* Improving National Cyber security: The gap between the developed world and the developing world, Improving National capabilities, CERTs, regional and international cooperation.

## 7.5 Critical Internet Resources (CIR) Theme

The scope of Critical Internet Resources (CIR) covers: IP#, DNS, ccTLDs, gTLDs and root servers. The CIR Theme will focus on the following issues:

* Background on CIRs.
* Arabic Domain Names: Experience and Knowledge.
* IPv6 adoption, deployment and capacity building.
* IPv4 depletion and Markets.
* DNS, DNSSec and IPSec protocols.
* Identifying and building relations with Internet Governance related organizations.
* Diffusion of Arabic Domain Names: The role of regional registrars.

## 7.6 The Youth Theme

The Youth Theme was regarded by the members of the Arab MAG as an important theme that provides the youth with the space they need to address their concerns. In their first meeting, the Arab MAG members recommended outreaching the various youth communities across the Arab World to outline the issues of importance and concerns for them before outlining the issues that will be discussed in the first Arab IGF meeting in Kuwait. However there were some initial ideas that were discussed:

* The role of the Internet in spreading the culture of entrepreneurship and SMEs.
* The Internet as a tool for innovation.
* The Availability of financial mechanisms such as venture capital funds and incubation.
* Connecting youth communities.

# Preparatory Process

The preparatory process for the first meeting of the Arab IGF is expected to have at least one open consultation process and two Arab MAG meeting. During the preparatory process, the draft program paper will be subject to discussion and update based on the open consultations, online comments, submissions and recommendation from the Arab MAG. The program paper will be prepared by the host and will be finalised by the Arab MAG in an open, transparent and inclusive manner.

# Preliminary Time Management Plan

During the The Arab MAG first meeting Arab MAG meeting, held in Cairo, between 18-19/6/2012, the following preliminary time schedule was suggested for the first Arab IGF meeting in Kuwait:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Day 1** | **Day 2** | **Day 3** |
|  | *09/10/2012* | *10/10/2012* | *11/10/2012* |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | Opening Ceremony & Plenary (1)*Access and Content*  | Plenary (3)*Openness* | Plenary (5)*Critical Internet Resources* |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 12:30 | Workshops |
| 12:30 – 13:00 | Coffee Break |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | Workshops |
| 14:30 – 15:30 | Lunch |
| 15:30 – 17:00 | Plenary (2)*Youth*  | Plenary (4)*Privacy and security* | Plenary (6)*Taking stock and the way forward* |
| 20:00 – 22:00 | Networking Events |

# Time-line:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deadlines for :** | **Dates** |
| * AMAG Membership Announcement
 | April 18,2012 |
| * AMAG Nomination Deadline
 | May 15, 2012 |
| * AMAG Selection
 | June 10,2012 |
| * First AMAG Meeting
 | June 18-19, 2012 |
| * Open Consultation round
 | September 4, 2012 |
| * Second MAG Meeting
 | September 5-6, 2012 |
| * Workshop Proposals Announcement
 |  |
| * Selection of Workshops
 |  |
| * Finalizing Workshop selection
 |  |
| * Finalizing Panellists List
 |  |

1. http://www.escwa.un.org/information/pubaction.asp?PubID=1021 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.igfarab.org/docs/meetings/01/Openness\_ARADO.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)