



UN-ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



ESCWA and Information and Communication Technology Division (ICTD)



ESCWA in the UN System



ESCWA forms part of the United Nations Secretariat and operates under the supervision of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The other four regional commissions are:

- The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
- The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

Membership



ESCWA comprises 14 Arab countries in Western Asia:

- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- the Syrian Arab Republic
- the United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

Objectives



- To support economic and social development in the countries of the region;
- To promote cooperation between the countries of the region;
- To encourage interaction between member countries and promote the exchange of experience, best practice and lessons learnt;
- To achieve regional integration between member countries;
- To ensure interaction between Western Asia and other regions of the world, familiarizing the outside world with the circumstances and needs of the countries in the region.

ESCWA Substantive Divisions



- Sustainable Development and Productivity
- Social Development
- Economic Analysis
- Globalization and Regional Integration
- **Information and Communication Technology**
- Emerging and Conflict Related Issues
- Statistics
- ESCWA Centre for Women
- Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation

Aspires to play a major role with ESCWA member countries in their transformation toward knowledge-based society and global competitiveness, while striving to increase employment, reduce poverty and enhance quality of life through state-of-the-art ICTs and their applications.

ICTD Major Tasks



- Use of ICTs as a means for development and regional integration;
- Follow-up efforts of member countries to implement the outcomes of the WSIS;
- Facilitating coordination and cooperation for building the information society;
- Assisting member countries in the formulation of policies and strategies for ICT;
- Strengthening the ICT sector at both the national and regional levels;
- Developing indicators of ICT for development contributing to capacity building in member countries in the area of measuring the information society;
- Providing member countries with technical assistance on issues related to information technology and communications.

ICTD Objectives during 2009-2011



- Increased implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society;
- Enhanced the capacity of member countries to provide e-services in Arabic promoting socio-economic development.
- Perceptible improvements in the region's information and communications technology (ICT) production and service sectors;
- Enhanced capacity of member countries to measure and benchmark their progress towards the realization of the information society, and realign policies and strategies accordingly, giving due consideration to gender dimensions

Main Areas of Work and Cooperation



- Follow-up on Building the Information Society: Regional Conference - National Profiles
- ICT Sector: National and Regional Policies and Strategies – Public/Private Partnerships
- Digital Content and Information Applications: Studies - Incubators - Arabization of Internet Domain
- The Enabling Environment: Development of Cyber Legislation - Community Centres
- Information Society Measurements: ISPER Portal – Workshops
- Science and Technology Capacity-Building: Studies - Scientific Observatories
- Technical and Advisory Services to Member States