



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

Report of the 2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States

Hammamet, Tunisia
17 to 18 November 2015



**The 2nd Meeting of the
Centres of Excellence Steering
Committee for the Arab States Region
17-18 November 2015
Hammamet, Tunisia**





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1. Introduction

The Second Steering Committee (SC) Meeting for the ITU Arab Centres of Excellence Network was held in Hammamet-Tunisia from 17 to 18 November 2015 and kindly hosted by CIFODECOM of Tunisia as side event to ICT4ALL event. **H E, Noomane FEHRI**, the Minister of Telecommunications Technologies and Digital Economy of Tunisia, officially opened the meeting. The General Manager of CIFODECOM accompanied the Minister.

Representatives attended the meeting from the Steering Committee members, ITU, as well as representative from the sector member and these are:

- 1- Dr. Ahmed Hassan Awad El Sayed, Director General, SUDACAD, Sudan
- 2- Eng. Atif Hamad, Planning Director, SUDACAD, Sudan
- 3- Mr. Abderrahman RAFI, Secrétaire Général, INPT, Morocco
- 4- Dr. Iman ASHOUR, Acting Director General, NTI, Egypt
- 5- Ms. Sara Ahmed Attia, Marketing Manager, NTI, Egypt
- 6- Ms. Wala T. Latrous, Director of International Relations - CERT, Tunisia
- 7- Mr. Zied ROUISSI, Finance and ADM Director, CIFODECOM, Tunisia
- 8- Faisal I. Moghiseeb, International Regulatory Relations- Saudi Telecom Company (STC)- KSA
- 9- Mr. Mike Nxele, HCB, BDT/ITU
- 10- Eng. Mustafa Al Mahdi, CoE Regional Coordinator at ITU Arab Regional Office.

2. Meeting Agenda

The Annex 1 shows the meeting detailed agenda.

3. Meeting Activities

Opening Session:

H E, Noomane FEHRI, the Minister of Telecommunications Technologies and Digital Economy of Tunisia, officially opened the meeting. The minister welcomed the participants of the meeting in Tunisia and he expressed his full support of the works of the CoEs Network and highlighted some areas that the CoEs could intervene and provide capacity building which are the Mobile development related applications. The General Manager of CIFODECOM accompanied the minister.

The outgoing Chairman of the ITU Arab CoEs Steering Committee (SC), Dr. Ahmed, from SUDACAD-Sudan in his opening remarks, He thanks the Tunisia for hosting the second meeting of the ITU Arab CoEs Network Steering Committee. He welcomed the members of the Steering Committee and the ITU representatives. He highlighted member's expectations from the meeting and the importance of the cooperation among the regional and global network of the ITU CoEs.

Dr Ahmed emphasized on the importance participation of the Arab countries and the private sector in the activities of the Network and role of the chairperson of the SC for better management of Network operational plan.



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

First Session:

Dr. Ahmed Hassan Awad El Sayed, Director of SUDACAD, The outgoing Chairman, welcomed the participants of the meeting and presented the meeting agenda and invited the participants to approve the meeting's agenda it had been approved unanimously.

Second Session:

The outgoing Chairman, Dr. Ahmed proceeded in the agenda items and presented the Minutes of the 1st Steering Committee (SC) Meeting for Arab CoEs of 2015. The SC approved the report.

Dr Ahmed gave an overview of the activities organized by the Arab Network in 2015. He highlighted the obstacles facing the Network and the challenges of remitting funds to some CoEs in view of the sanctions imposed on countries, and requested that an exception be made for these CoEs for example SUDACAD to be allowed to collect fees themselves and then remit the 20% to ITU.

The implementations report showed that, the region would by the end of the year have implemented 6 out of the 8 actions on the program for 2015. SC members showed their appreciation to the ITU CoEs regional coordinator for the works done.

Handover of the chairmanship of the Arab CoEs Network SC from SUDACAD to CIFODECOM:

According to the new strategy of the ITU CoEs Network, the legal reference for the network's work, which states that the host country is to be the Chairman of the Steering Committee. Therefore, the Chairmanship was then handed over to CIFODECOM of Tunisia.

Third Session:

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Zied ROUISSI, Finance and ADM Director, CIFODECOM, Tunisia, headed the meeting and requested Mr Mike Nxele to make his presentation on "The Operation Methods of the CoEs based on adopted New strategy of ITU CoE".

Mr Mike, presented the update of the ITU to:

- The CoE Strategy Implementation
- Development of Training Materials (the SMTP, QoSTP, ICT & Climate Change Training Programme (ICT&CCTP)).
- Capacity Building Through Partnerships
- Capacity Development Symposium

Mike had replied to the enquiries raised by SC members that related to the operational aspects of the CoEs activities.

Eng. Mustafa Al Mahdi, The representative of the ITU Arab Regional Office presented the activities that are organized and continuing to be delivered under Objective 4.1 of the WTDC-14 and in collaboration with Intel and ITSO including the business model that ITU used with these partners.

Eng. Mustafa, spoke about the potential partnership in the region, he highlighted the need for a mechanism of bringing more financial resources and partners, and he suggested that a Concept Note on "Resource Mobilization" could be best option to address the issue of fund raising and bring more partners to the Network.



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

The ideas welcomed by the SC members.

Fourth Session:

The Chairman of the meeting, Mr. Zied ROUISSI requested Mr Mike Nxele to provide his second presentation on the ITU Academy Platform, Developments and Updates.

Mr Mike showed the members the new development on the ITU Academy Platform and the works that's ongoing on the platform to resolve the challenges that faced the CoEs especially the linkage between the online registration and online payment.

Mike confirmed that the offline payment that include invoicing will be ready to be used in 2016.

Fifth Session:

During the session on Challenges and obstacles for the implementation of the activities of the Network, the SC members raised many operational challenges and obstacles that they faced which listed below:

- Online Registration
- Online Payment
- Governance of the CoEs activities (How to do their reports)
- Identification of the priority areas that were no Arab CoE selected for and asking the ITU for the possibility of allowing the new six centers of Arab region to work in these areas in addition to the areas that were the CoEs selected for.

Mr Mike adequately attended to all the issues raised by SC members. ITU addressed all the issues that were not clear to the members and helped guide the SC in how best to conduct their work based on the New Strategy Document of the ITU CoEs. He also took the opportunity to notify of the Global Human Capacity Development Symposium that will be held in September 2016 and hosted by Kenya. He indicated that for this Forum, Academia and Centres of Excellence would be expected to play a key role. He called on the region to mobilize participation for the Forum so that we make it a big event.

Closing session: Meeting Outcomes & Date and Venue of the next meeting

During the ensuing discussions, the following issues were raised and agreed:

1. SC would like CoEs to be promoted more on the ITU Academy website, including having their logos and URLs linked to their websites.
2. SC requested for a short Video movie done on "How to register for a Course "on the ITU Academy, covering how to create an account.
3. SC is looking forward to seeing the new additions to ITU Academy covering payments made through Bank Transfer.
4. SC requested that Focal points be given access to Registration information on the ITU Academy.
5. SC were requested to include in their 2016 activities capacity building in Internet Governance in coordination with TRA-Bahrain as CoE for Capacity Building in Internet Governance.
6. For Operational Plan of 2016, each CoE will implement a minimum of three activities, and each will submit the full details of their actions to the ITU regional Coordinator by end of November (attached in Annex 2 (to be provided by the CoEs)).



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

7. The Arab region would mobilize participation for the global F Symposium as soon as details on the event are available.
8. SC will develop a concept paper on Resource mobilization and building partnerships for the Centres of Excellence network in the Arab region.
9. SC agreed to maintain the same business model that they had in 2015 which are:
 - In the case of Face to Face (F2F) training courses to be charged \$ 100/day.
 - In the case of Online training courses, the following categories will be applied:
 - ✚ Type number (1): in case of using the training content directly (Streaming Training) be charged \$ 50 per 40-hour training.
 - ✚ Type number (2): in the case of training courses, interactive (Interactive Training), the trainer, is charged \$ 100 for every 40 hours training.
 - ✚ Type number (3): in the case of virtual training (Virtual Training/Class), you get \$ 150 for every 40 hours training.
10. SC suggested that the CoEs should be given the opportunity to work in priority areas where no Arab CoEs have been selected for and highlighted some areas which are:
 - Cyber Security
 - Digital Broadcasting.
11. SC emphasized the need for representatives from Arab administrations and sector members that they don't have CoEs been selected, to take part in the Steering Committee and attend its meetings and share their experiences with network members.
12. SC took note of the cooperation agreement signed between SUDACAD and CIFODECOM and assured on the cooperation between regional Arab CoEs and the ITU CoEs globally.
13. In the absence of the TRA-Bahrain as CoE for Internet Governance, SUDACAD and CIFODECOM had proposed that could organize a regional awareness workshop on Internet Governance in 2016 in coordination with TRA-Bahrain. Place and date of the event to be identified before end of 2015.
14. SC requested for a workshop to be organized jointly between the Francophone countries in Africa and the Arab States.
15. Saudi Arabia offered to host the next Steering Committee meeting. However, should there be problems with this as Saudi Arabia is not a Steering Committee member, Morocco also offered to host the meeting in Rabat. The meeting would be held in November 2016.



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

Annexes:

1- Agenda of the meeting

2nd Steering Committee Meeting of ITU Arab CoEs Network

Hammamet-Tunisia, 17-18 November 2015

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday 17 November 2015 (Day-1)	
08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:30	Opening Session - Speech of ITU Arab CoE Network SC Chairman - Speech of the General Manager of CIFODECOM, Tunisia - Opening Remarks by the Minister
09:30-10:30	SESSION 1: Minutes of the 1 st Steering Committee Meeting for Arab CoEs – Dr. Ahmed (Chairman of the Arab CoEs Network SC)
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:00	SESSION 2: Report on the Performance of the ITU Arab CoE Network activities for the 2015 – Dr. Ahmed (Chairman of the Arab CoEs Network SC) – Handover of the chairmanship of the Arab CoEs Network SC from SUDACAD to CIFODECOM
12:00-13:00	SESSION 3: Part I: The Operation Methods of the CoEs based on adopted New strategy of ITU CoE - Mr. M. Nxele – HCB BDT-ITU PART II: Activities of Capacity Building at regional level and Partnership Models - Eng. M. Al Mahdi- ITU ARO
13:00-15:00	LUNCH BREAK



2nd Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Centres of Excellence Network for the Arab States, Hammamet, Tunisia 17 to 18 November 2015

15:00-16:00	SESSION 4: the ITU Academy Platform, Developments and Updates - Mr. M. Nxele – HCB BDT-ITU
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Wednesday 18 November 2015 (Day-2)	
09:00-10:30	SESSION 5: Challenges and obstacles for the implementation of the activities of the Network. – Representatives of the Network
10:30-11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11:00-12:00	SESSION 6: Action Plan for the year 2016 – Presentations By the ITU Arab CoEs Network Members
12:00-12:30	SESSION 7: Any other Business
12:30-13:00	CLOSING SESSION: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING
13:00-15:00	LUNCH BREAK

2- Proposed Actions for 2016 (to be sent to regional coordinator by CoEs)