

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- **Session Title:** Digital inclusion in Africa

- **Date:** DEC.20, 2017

- **Time:** 17: 00-18:30

- **Session Organizer:** IDSC "information decision and support centre"

- **Chair/Moderator:** Nirvana Farrag

- **Rapporteur/Note taker:** Heba Abd El-Hamed.

- **List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations: -**

- Nirvana Farrag, Director-General, International Cooperation Department, IDSC.
- Mary Uduma, coordinator of the Internet Governance Forum in Nigeria as well as West Africa.
- Dr. Hoda Dahroug, Head of the Central Division for Community Development Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and Member of the Presidential Advisory Council For Community Development.
- Dr. Jimson Olufuye, Chair of AFICTA.
- Dr. Atef Elshabrawy, CEO-founder, Social Innovation Expert.
- Mr. Mohamed Hassan, Deputy Head ,Crisis and Disaster Sector, IDSC.
- Nancy Yacoub, Monitoring and Evaluation, WFP

- **Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):**

The forum discussed the actions required to confirm digital inclusion in Africa? What should governments do to promote digital literacy? What policies do we need to refine technology skills? There are many steps taken by African governments to change policies and strategies to bridge the divide between Africa and the rest of the world, such as financing policies and licensing for the private sector to introduce mobile phone penetration and expansion of e-services in the continent and support efforts to develop the information society since 2001 in Africa. As for Egypt, the Egyptian government is trying hard to implement the goals of the World Summit on the Information Society. In addition, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) agreed with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 2002 to establish a trust fund to stimulate the power of ICT and help the Egyptians achieve sustainable development goals in various aspects Life, as well as empowering people with special needs through many initiatives to improve their skills and push them to find suitable jobs, in addition to child protection programs.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

1. A presentation tackled Digital Inclusion as a key pillar in Egypt in Building smart communities in remote areas.
2. Another presentation tackled The Economic Inclusion and Digital transformation in Egypt

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

One of the crucial discussion asked why digital inclusion will take a long time in Africa. This is due to the fact that heads of government and ministers need to carry out many awareness programs and conferences. In other words, we need political will and infrastructure. On the other hand, digitization became one of the priorities of the AU agenda at its November 2016 summit. According to the 2017 World Bank report, Some 42 countries have already adopted national policies and strategies for development in the ICT sector as well as other countries that provide public and administrative services through e-governments. Despite all this, about 60 percent of Africa remains offline, partly because of poor infrastructure and digital literacy. On the other hand, reference was made to the disadvantages of digital inclusion as it opens up a field for the black market where the sale of bad goods.

It was also mentioned, the crisis and disaster management sector at the Information and Decision Support Center. Africa in general and Egypt in particular are suffering from an increasing number of disasters, which have a negative impact on infrastructure. This requires a collective response to disaster risk reduction. The SANDAI Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2013, which outlines the need for a better understanding of crisis risks, is mentioned. As for Egypt, it has developed a national strategy to reduce crisis risks, taking into account the role of early warning technology and public awareness. A team from the Information and Decision Support Center has benefited from international expertise and best practices in this field. Egypt is trying to coordinate between all stakeholders at different levels locally, regionally and internationally until a comprehensive framework for monitoring and evaluating policies is implemented, using an integrated database of all types of accidents, knowing levels of risk and plans for rapid response to emergency matters and the use of geographic information systems.

One of the recommendations is that the first step in digital containment is to provide people with online access as a first condition. Also, online collaboration and cooperation between stakeholders, governments and organizations should be established to determine the best trends and policies for business growth, support incubator centers for development in communication and technology.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 8

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 4

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment? to good extent.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

Increasing digital literacy and equipping people with digital skills can enable critical information to reach marginalized communities at a rate and scale never before possible. The term digital inclusion reflects what access, adoption, and literacy in the digital world mean today. On a broader level, digital inclusion refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and can use ICTs. Digital Inclusion is further concerned with addressing inequalities, where those unable to access the affordance of technologies are disadvantaged and marginalized in society and therefore digitally excluded.