

General information

Country: Arab Republic of Egypt

Organization(s) or entity(s) responsible for the preparation of the report: Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Officially designated contact person/institution: Ms. Nermine El Saadany, Director of International Relations Division, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Name(s) of designated official(s) certifying the report: Dr. Noha Adly, First Deputy to the Minister, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report:

- This report was developed by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The report is an extract from the WSIS+10 overall report. More than 50 entities were consulted in producing the WSIS+10 report. In addition, the activities of the affiliates were incorporated. The production of the report rested on a multi stakeholder approach.
- This report also draws on the newly developed e- content Strategy of Egypt. Key stakeholders from the government, the private sector and NGOs were involved in the committee which produced the strategy.

Elements for reporting on the specific provisions of the Recommendation

1. Development of multilingual content and systems

1.1. Please furnish detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers.

- **Please refer to Annex 4 Overall presentation delivered at the Multilingualism conference of UNESCO in 2014 for a more detailed explanation.**

1.2. Please provide information on support given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.

- MCIT supports a number of initiatives and programs, in cooperation with its affiliated entities, other governmental bodies, museums, libraries, cultural institutions and the private sectors, to enhance capacity of traditional communities to develop their local content in their own language and to share their traditional knowledge in the information society.
- The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology pays great attention to human development for all members of society, especially youth, based on the fact that capacity-building and human skills are the key factors of progress towards a knowledge-based society. The development of the capacity of human resources helps in supporting the national economy, creating new job opportunities, enhancing the value of knowledge and creativity, encouraging the acquisition of ICT skills and training future generations on ICTs uses. **Affiliated entities including the ITI, TIEC, ITIDA and others avail different capacity building programs in this context.**
- **Egypt's e-Content Strategy for 2013-20** fosters cooperation between government bodies, museums, libraries, cultural institutions and the private sector to: enhance the capacity of local communities to develop content and share their knowledge in the information society; build capacity for the national e-content industry; and promote the generation of Arabic- content on the internet. **Please consult www.mcit.gov.eg on a full description of the e- content strategy for 2013- 20 including efforts in capacity building. The English version of the document will be availed soon.**

- The government is keen to address this gap by promoting Arabic language e-content generation, **born-digital material in particular, as well as supporting activities related to translation, localization, adaptation, digital archiving and the combining of digital and traditional media.** Egypt's e-Content Strategy seeks to build on Egyptians' growing use of the internet to promote the development of user-generated content catering to real needs and offering quality knowledge. This is a vital area of activity as the internet plays an important role in local content creation, providing users the tools to create content, store it and disseminate it globally, contributing to the establishment of rich repositories of knowledge. The internet is also a powerful platform for collaboration, where crowdsourcing and community-based sites help aggregate and disseminate knowledge at low cost.
- Egypt has made significant progress in the field of documenting and preserving local cultural heritage through ICTs, reflecting the value and contribution of all communities in the country to the national fabric. Such as the Coptic and Islamic Heritage of Egypt.
- **For a list of Projects please refer to Annex 1**

1.3. Please describe the measures taken for formulating appropriate national policies on the issues of language survival, revitalization, development and promotion in cyberspace. Please include information about main legislation and/or policy measures, if any, and date of their introduction/adoption.

- Concerning measures taken for formulating appropriate national policies on the issues of language survival MCIT and the ICT sector in Egypt consider the support of Arabic digital content on the internet, a top priority that allows the internet to reach more Arabic-speaking communities around the world, and hence preserving and promoting Arab heritage and identity for coming generations by: .
 - Availing Infrastructure
 - Capacity Building development
 - Encouraging the availing of PSI and OGD
 - Developing Arabic Content
 - Ensuring Sustainability
- **For the objectives of the Arabic e-content strategy refer to Annex 2**
- **Legislation and policy measures**
 - Law No. 365 1954 on the establishment of Egyptian National Archives
 - Law No. 121 1975 Preservation of Official Documents
 - Draft Law on Cyber Security

1.4. Please provide information, including references, on major events, projects, publications and examples of best practices identified during the reporting period that contributed to the promotion of and use of multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace

Information

- The government has worked to consolidate ICT infrastructure in Egypt in cooperation with stakeholders from all relevant sectors. The steps taken reflect to a large extent principal areas of focus of the WSIS, including: fostering government policies to support an enabling and competitive environment for ICT; adopting universal access policies and strategies; providing and improving ICT connectivity in public institutions; developing and strengthening ICT backbones and broadband infrastructure, including

satellite and wireless delivery systems and internet exchange points; developing affordable global connectivity through commercially negotiated internet transit and interconnection costs; addressing issues of accessibility and affordability for marginalized populations; and promoting the development and use of technological convergence.

- Building a knowledge-based society with universal access to information resources is served by the National Broadband Strategy to expand the geographic coverage of infrastructure providing high-speed internet and to increase internet penetration, particularly in marginalized and under privileged areas. The strategy aims to raise the number of subscribers to high-speed internet to 13 million by 2015, through the expansion of the broadband network, especially last mile links and fiber optic cables for telephone exchanges. The strategy also seeks to raise the proportion of Egyptian households using personal computers to 40%, to provide a national network of 1,000 Technology Homes and 2,000 IT Clubs, to connect all schools and educational institutions to high-speed internet, to expand e-commerce by 20%, to increase the number of secured Egyptian websites by 810% to increase the proportion of banking customers using online or mobile banking to 30%, and to increase use of e-signature applications by government bodies.

- **References**

<http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Publications>

- **Major events**

- First Regional Forum for the Digital Arabic Content – Cairo December 8 2013
- Second Regional Forum for the Digital Arabic Content – Cairo November 12-13 2014

- **Projects:**

- Please refer to Annex 3 for a complete list of the projects

- **Publications**

<http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Publications>

2. Facilitating access to networks and services

2.1. Please report on national efforts to recognize and support universal access to the Internet as well as to promote access to the Internet as a service of public interest.

- adopting universal access policies and strategies; providing and improving ICT connectivity in public institutions; developing and strengthening ICT backbones and broadband infrastructure, including satellite and wireless delivery systems and internet exchange points; developing affordable global connectivity through commercially negotiated internet transit and interconnection costs; addressing issues of accessibility and affordability for marginalized populations; and promoting the development and use of technological convergence.
 - In November 2011, MCIT launched the eMisr National Broadband Plan to increase broadband internet penetration in Egypt and promote the development of a digital society. The multidimensional plan has the key strategic objectives of positioning Egypt as a frontrunner in digital communications; stimulating economic growth, social cohesion and job creation; supporting the use of ICTs across government sectors to improve quality of life for citizens; and minimizing the digital divide between urban and rural communities and different sectors of society.

- **Dot Masr Domain Name**

With the increasing usage of the Internet by diverse societies and communities using non-Latin languages, the demand for the usage of multiple-language domain names, including the Arabic language, has increased as well. As ICANN has announced that it allows registration of non-Latin domain names, it has become possible for the user to register the domain name of its own website on the Internet in the Arabic language.

The commencement of the public phase for registration of Arabic Domain Names with Arabic letters under the international Top-Level Domain (TLD) '.Masr' was launched in January. The step is an important one to promote the Egyptian identity on the internet and an effective mean to provide access to local content from any country in the world in the Arabic language. Domain name registrations under '.Masr' are to support the increase of Arabic content on the Internet and preserve Egypt and Arab culture online, paving the way for larger investments and creating new job opportunities.

- The Universal Service Fund
- The Government's Cloud Computing

For more details pls consult the WSIS+10 report on www.mcit.gov.eg

2.2. Please also describe what mechanisms have been established at the local and national levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable and accessible telecommunications, and internet costs:

- Enabling a competitive environment for ICT
- Adopting a universal access policy and strategies
- ICT connectivity in public institutions
- ICT backbones and BB infrastructure, satellite and wireless delivery systems and internet exchange points
- Development and use of technology convergence

For more details, please check C2 of the WSIS+10 Country Report

http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/WSIS_Country_Report_Final.pdf

2.3. Please indicate the measures taken for encouraging the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and support cooperation on information and communication technologies (ICT) among public service institutions, including community telecentres, libraries, Internet access units, and others.

- The Egyptian Telecentre Network project aims to support the creation of a strong and independent national telecentre network that provides on-demand support services to IT Clubs/Technology Homes in Egypt, and spearheads the creation of a vibrant telecentre community across the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA).
- In 2011, MCIT launched an initiative to convert a number of the national network of IT Clubs which was launched in 2000 – of which there were more than 2,000 at the end of 2010 – into Technology Homes, which function as ICT-led community service centers. The initiative was created to build on the success of IT Clubs by expanding their scope as a means to elevate levels of ICT knowledge as Egypt transitions to a knowledge-based society
- The Mobile IT Clubs project provides rural and remote communities with access to

ICTs and related training with the aim of raising computer literacy levels, promoting use of computers and the internet, and closing the digital divide between these areas and Egypt's urban centers. The mobile units consist of a fleet of buses and caravans equipped with computer labs and satellite internet connections that tour remote and underserved areas to raise awareness of ICTs and introduce basic computer skills.

The Projects include: Mobile IT Clubs, IT Clubs/Technology Homes, Telecenters.org, and others such as People's with Disabilities Initiative

For more details, please check C3 in Profiles of Progress for a full listing of [projects](http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/Profiles-of-Progress.pdf)

2.4. What efforts have been made in order to encourage Internet service providers to consider provision of concessionary rates for Internet access in public service institutions?

The National Telecommunication regulatory Authority have created an enabling and competitive environment in this respect. Please consult C2 of the Country Report for a full exposition of policies

3. Development of public domain content

3.1. Please explain the legal and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of this part of the Recommendation:

(a) recognizing and enacting the right of universal online access to public and government-held records,

Open Data Initiative

- The purpose of Egyptian Open Data initiative is to make data publicly available and visible. Open government data will ultimately enhance transparency and improve accountability as well as improve citizen involvement and participation. It is the initiative's role to avail data in forms that make it possible for users to analyze and create value from public sector information. Below are links to such public data:
- MSAD strategy for 2012-17 focuses on rational management, with the goal of pushing forward the administrative apparatus with respect to information systems, administrative organization and human capacity in order to foster fairness, accountability, transparency, justice and public participation, thereby helping to boost public trust in the government. Through this strategy, MSAD seeks to redefine the role of government and government institutions, and to promote open government.
- The OGD is a major component of MCIT's e- content strategy, in addition a draft law for the freedom of availing data and information has been drafted by the legislative committee within MCIT.

(b) identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all, in particular persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities, women and girls and,

- **PWD's**
 - The launch of an accessible web portal to enhance access, navigation and interaction on the internet for persons with disabilities, facilitating communication and integration, and providing information on disability-related issues and resources, including the government services available and assistive technologies

- Development of inclusive and special needs schools
- Development of Centers for Disability Services at state-run universities to support access to higher education
- Development of a Unified Egyptian Sign Language Dictionary, in cooperation with the MoE, to facilitate communication for deaf and hearing impaired people nationwide
- Support of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), the main government authority working in support of persons with disabilities, in the development of network infrastructure connecting the council's headquarters with its branches around the country, and providing the NCDA with the equipment and software necessary to establish and maintain an accessible website
- Establishment of a database relating to persons with disabilities, covering types and causes of disability, geographic distribution, qualifications and skill levels, training required by persons with disabilities and those involved in their teaching, and details of the official and non-governmental entities serving and representing persons with disabilities

- **Linguistic minorities**

- The Nubian Heritage Documentation Project: The project seeks to document all aspects of Nubian heritage, including customs, traditions, crafts, art, music, poetry, sculpture, architecture and natural resources. It also includes a training program for Nubian youth on modern techniques of heritage documentation. CULTNAT has already issued two books entitled Nubia Through Two Eras and Nubian Days, and produced five documentary films.

- **Women and girls**

- MCIT addresses gender and community barriers to ICT knowledge acquisition by providing training for target groups and communities, especially in rural and underserved areas, and promoting the production of useful and socially relevant content.
- Efforts relating to specific target groups include the establishment of the Community Development Portal for Women, an international project implemented by Egypt's National Council for Women, in partnership with IBM, to provide women with access to multidisciplinary resources covering areas such as legislation, employment and business opportunities.
- Women in ICTE initiative, which aims to empower women in the ICTE sector, build capacity and encourage entrepreneurship.

(c) promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, as well as information and media literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.

- **Promoting and facilitating ICT literacy**

- Egypt views ICT literacy and capacity building as priority areas, and will continue working to spread and raise ICT skills and to enhance the education process. These efforts support all sectors of the economy by equipping Egyptians with the business, technical, research and entrepreneurial skills needed to fulfill and sustain the country's

development plans.

- **Building trust in ICT**

- Availing information by the government to the public through appropriate channels to establish a relationship of trust based on transparency and interaction. These channels should include a forum for community dialogue allowing for an open discussion among citizens and between citizens and government concerning draft laws, decrees and national projects.
- Building a relationship of trust between the government and local communities. Indeed, the improvement of the quality and scope of basic services reflects the government's commitment to respect, meet and safeguard citizens, rights and to save natural resources in the interest of future generations

- Projects:

- EG-CERT
- Egypt's Child Online Protection Program

3.2. Please also provide information on whether open access solutions and web accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how, including supporting data, reference to best practices, examples and solutions.

4. Reaffirming the equitable balance between the interests of rights-holders and the public interest

4.1. Please indicate what action your Government has taken in order to update the national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace. Please indicate also what consideration was given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied. Please provide information on open access policies adapted, conditions to access open scientific data and any favourable conditions applied for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.

- **National Copyright legislation:**

- The Law No. 82 of 2002 is the main IP law in Egypt; it includes four books which cover all fields:
 - Book One : Patents and Utility Models, Layout -Designs for Integrated Circuits, and Undisclosed Information
 - Book Two: Marks, Trade Names, Geographical Indications and Industrial Designs
 - Book Three: Copyright and related Rights
 - Book Four: Plant Varieties
- MCIT remained ardent to ascertain the economic implications of different dimensions of IP protection on ICT firms in Egypt, in light of worldwide interest in measuring the economic impact of intellectual property (IP) in the field of ICT, including the relation of IP rights to the dynamics of the innovation process.
- MCIT has developed a social responsibility strategy for Egypt ICT sector as a guideline that aims to maximize benefits of projects and regulate existing and future discussions with ICT concerned bodies to avoid duplication of projects and disseminate good practices, thereby maximizing societal benefits

- The ICT sector focuses on adapting ICTs to find solutions to issues of concern to the community. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology seeks to embrace digital citizenship in a technological society using ICTs. It aims to empower the elderly and people with disabilities, serve marginalized and remote communities, develop people's ability to communicate and connect with their environment and promoting online safety.
- **PWD's**
 - The ICT for Empowering People with Disabilities Initiative, is a long-term strategy, involving the participation of people with disabilities and organizations representing their interests. The Initiative focuses on integrating people with disabilities in the Egyptian society, and empowering them through ICTs. It aims at removing barriers and facilitating opportunities for people with disabilities – using ICTs to develop their abilities and potential – and enabling them to enjoy their rights, fulfill their responsibilities, and participate fully in developing their communities and society.

Projects:

- 1) Development of Centers for Disability Services at Egyptian Universities
- 2) The ICDL Fellowship for People with Disabilities
- 3) Employability Enhancement Program for PWDs
- 4) Tamkeen Competition for PWDs

4.2. Please also indicate what are the actions planned to give consideration to the development of technological innovations, including Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), and to their potential impact on access to information.

- MCIT adopted National Free and Open Source Software Strategy (FOSS) to boost the establishment of a well-developed open source software ecosystem, which will co-exist and compete within the local ICT market with proprietary software. This is to provide space for new businesses that bring efficiency, innovation and maximize the benefits for the public and private ICT communities and consumers in Egypt.
- The mission is to promote the development and adoption of high-quality open-source software solutions and services as one fundamental pillar of the knowledge society. The expected benefits are classified into four areas: human development (e.g. decentralization and democratization of Knowledge, maximizing the potential for self-development and learning), economic growth (e.g. equalizing market competition and reducing total cost of ownership), social development (e.g. localization and Arabization) and national security.
- The development of the Open Source Software industry in Egypt contributes to the achievement of technology independence and knowledge economy benefitting from a balanced ecosystem of IT-producing and IT-using sectors, promoting prosperity, freedom and social equity.
- Many challenges may face Egypt in terms of implementing the national open source strategy. As FOSS is still in its preliminary phase of development in the country, the most pressing challenges will touch on the market's uptake, awareness, education, training and business know-how for FOSS start-up companies.

- the FOSS strategy is a key component and a step in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology's mandate to extending the reach of ICT tools to all societal segments, marginalized communities and youth in particular. This is in addition to unleashing the innovative potential of young people and encouraging a transformative and empowering ICT industry, as well as fostering digital citizenship, equity and expanding the role of ICT as a main tool for development and growth. We hope that this document, written in a multi-stakeholder spirit will be a concrete step towards the achievement of these objectives.

5. Final comments

5.1. What efforts has your Government made to establish a system of continuing monitoring of the implementation of the decisions taken at the World Summit on the Information Society and other internationally agreed development goals and commitments and what time-related goals and benchmarks has your Government set in this respect?

- Egypt participated in both WSIS 2003 in Geneva and WSIS 2005 in Tunis, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) has been keen to start on implementing various projects for the development of the Egyptian society by reducing the digital gap.

Egypt has always been eager to participate at the annual review process of WSIS outputs, sharing as well its achievements in regard with applying the WSIS outputs in the "Digital Outreach for Better Future" book.

- Regular indicators reports are issued by the Ministry

5.2. What are, according to your Government, the main issues, new challenges and actions that need to be further addressed for promoting multilingualism and universal access to cyberspace, including the evolution of the Internet and its governance? Please provide a brief description in your final comments.

Meeting the rising expectations by the different communities through better pricing of services, updating legislations and capacity building, this requires a serious upgrading of the infrastructure in order to meet what we have coined as the explosion in expectations from the internet and enabling young people whether entrepreneurs or consumers. Most importantly reaching out to the different marginalized and underprivileged regions with quality services, good speed and reasonable cost.

5.3. Please provide references to the main sources of information and data used in compiling this report and that could be of interest to share with other Member States, such as recent public policy strategies, reviews or evaluations; latest research or studies, and statistical data.

- Bibliotheca Alexandrina http://www.bibalex.org/Home/Default_EN.aspx
- Digital Arabic Content National Strategy (http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/Publications_12112014000_Digital_Content_Strategy_Document.pdf)
- Egyptian Government Portal (<http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/home.aspx>)
- Ministry of Communications and Information Technology Website (<http://www.mcit.gov.eg/>)
- National Free and Open Source Software Strategy in ICT Sector (http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/Publications_18112014000_National_FOSS_Strategy_EN_17_11_2014.pdf)

- National ICT Strategy 2012 – 2017 Towards a Digital Society and Knowledge-based Economy (<http://mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/ICT%20Strategy%202012-2017.pdf>)
- Social Responsibility Strategy (http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/Publications_18112014000_Social_Responsibility_Strategy_Arabic_17_11_2014.pdf)
- Tamkeen (<http://tamkeen.gov.eg/>)
- WSIS +10 Overall Review of the Implementation of The WSIS outcomes (http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/WSIS_Country_Report_Final.pdf)
- WSIS +10 Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS outcomes Profiles of Progress (<http://www.mcit.gov.eg/Upcont/Documents/Profiles-of-Progress.pdf>)

Annex 1- Capacity building programs

- The National Training for Employment Project
- The Professional Operation and Maintenance of computers and Networks
- The 9 Month Professional Training Program
- EDUgana
- The 5-Month Professional Training Program
- The NTI Telecommunication Policies and Regulation e-Training Program
- University Training Intervention for Creating ICT Talents
- University Training Intervention Content and Material Development
- The Regional Information Technology Institutes' Advanced Management
- Information Technology Academia Collaboration Program
- Grow IT enterprise Capacity-Building Program
- Reinforcing Cooperation Capacity of Egypt Project
- NU100 Project
- Undergraduates/Postgraduates Technical Training
- Imagine Cup
- Connecting Communities
- Masr Ta3mal

Annex 2

- Establishing a national strategy with a clear vision and objectives to enrich and digitize Arabic content, promote creativity in the Arabic digital content industry, and develop indicators to monitor and evaluate progress
- Promoting the creation and dissemination of public sector information/ open government data
- Promoting the digitization industry and developing an easily replicable model for content creation
- Providing a suitable legislative and regulatory environment to protect Arabic content
- Promoting research and development in the field of Arabic language technology
- Promoting the development of tools to enrich Arabic content and the improvement of infrastructure through use of advanced technologies
- Promoting translation into Arabic of scientific and technological content from developed countries in order to increase access to knowledge, expertise and experience
- Supporting SMEs working in the content industry
- Implementing training and capacity-building programs to ensure the availability of human resources qualified to work in the content industry at more developed levels than mere data entry
- Enhancing Arab cooperation in the field of Arabic digital content through implementation of joint projects and exchange of expertise
- Promoting the export of Arabic digital content and related technologies that will create job opportunities
- Raising awareness of the importance of Arabic digital content and its development
- Encouraging companies to develop and market innovative technologies to protect
- Raising awareness in the business community of intellectual property rights
- Developing specialized courses for universities, and accredited training courses to follow, to prepare students for work in the digital content field
- Promoting a culture of e-purchasing for digital content
- Providing suitable guarantees and protection to attract investment in e-publishing
- Opening new avenues for Arabic digital content in Egypt through partnerships with international organizations

Annex 3

- Automation of the Egyptian Parliament's Work Process
- Digital Assets Repository
- The Arabic Digital Library
- The Arab Digital Expression Foundation
- The Documentation of Botanical Gardens and Horse Breeds in Egypt
- Culturama
- Eternal Egypt
- The Arab Memory Project
- Digitization of Manuscripts and Masterpieces featuring Arabic and Egyptian Culture
- Digital Archives documenting the Modern History of Egypt
- Digital Library of Inscriptions
- Internet Archive
- The Digitization of the National Archives of Egypt
- The Digitization of the Egyptian Cabinet Documents
- The Cultural Map of Egypt
- The Archaeological Map of Egypt
- The Documentation of the Architectural Heritage in Cairo Downtown
- The Documentation of the Scientific Islamic Manuscripts
- The Arabic Musical Heritage Program
- Documenting the Heritage of Banque Misr and Talaat Harb
- Siwa Heritage Documentation Project
- The Nubian Heritage Documentation Project
- Digitization of Historical Editions of Al-Ahram Newspaper
- Cooperation with Al-Ahram Foundation
- Developing the publications of Al-Gomhouria newspaper
- Memory of Al-Azhar Project
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Manuscripts Preservation Project
- Luxor Portal
- Community Development Portal

- Annex 4
- Highlights on the overall activities of Egypt in the area of Multilingualism