

Roundtable on AI Trends, Government Leadership and Private Sector Innovation

2 October 2024 | 10:00AM - 12:15PM CET | Online

ROUNDTABLE ON AI TRENDS, GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AND PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION

2 October 2024 | Zoom

10.00 AM-12.15 PM CET | 11.00 AM-01.15 PM Beirut

INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries and societies across the globe, by automating tasks, enhancing decision-making processes, and creating new economic opportunities. The potential economic impact of AI on the MENA region's economic growth is significant, with the region estimated to accrue \$320 billion by 2030 from value added by AI^[1]. This roundtable aims to explore current AI trends, showcase successful implementations in key industries, and discuss the critical roles of both government and the private sector in advancing AI. By bringing together policymakers, industry experts, chambers and innovators, this roundtable will provide a platform for insightful discussions and collaborative strategies for harnessing the power of AI.

Co-organized by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the roundtable is hosted by the ICC-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship and engages primarily Chambers of Commerce and ICC National Committees from across the Arab region, with a particular focus on Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

[1] PwC, *The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)*, 2020.

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The roundtable will explore the transformative impact of AI through three focused sessions:

- The first session will provide an inspirational overview of current AI trends globally and in the region, highlighting success stories, where AI has significantly improved overall business performance.
- The second session will emphasize the pivotal role of governments in advancing AI, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in policymaking to avoid fragmentation and ensure interoperability. It will showcase how governments can create enabling policy environments that support AI innovation through collaboration with the private sector, adopt AI in their operations and engage in global efforts to shape cohesive and effective AI policies.
- The third session will delve into the private sector's contributions to AI development, focusing on attracting investments and highlighting innovative applications in agriculture, clean energy, supply chains, and more. This session will also cover the crucial aspects of skills and talent development needed to support these advancements. In addition to showcasing AI's diverse and impactful applications across various industries, the discussion will emphasize the private sector's commitment to developing and deploying trustworthy AI, demonstrating the vital role of industry self-regulation in AI governance alongside government policies.



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TARGET AUDIENCE

- Primary: Chambers of Commerce, ICC National Committees, Policymakers/ Government Representatives; SMEs; Startups and Entrepreneurs; Business Support Organizations; Innovators; Industry Experts.
- Secondary: Academic Researchers; AI and Technology Enthusiasts; Investors; Media Representatives; NGOs; Students in related fields.

AGENDA

<p>10.00-10.10 AM CET</p> <p>11.00-11.10 AM Beirut time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ullas Marar, Head, ICC Centre of Entrepreneurship• Kareem Hassan, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre <p>MC: Joelle Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, ICC-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship</p>
<p>10.10-10.40 AM CET</p> <p>11.10-11.40 AM Beirut time</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1: Inspirational AI Trends and Success Stories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reema Diab, AI Expert and CEO of Galaxy for Technology, Jordan• Youssef Jalloul, Founder of Inova Solutions, Dubai AI Campus, UAE <p>Moderator: Rudy Shoushany, Award-Winning Podcaster & Technology Strategist – Founder of DxTalks</p>

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<p>10.40-11.25 AM CET</p> <p>11.40-12.25 AM Beirut time</p>	<p>Session 2: The Pivotal Role of Government in AI Advancement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Nibal Idlebi, Acting Director of the Statistics, Information Society and Technology Cluster, UN-ESCWA• Dr. Mona Demaidi, Dean of the Faculty of Digital Sciences at the Arab American University and Developer of the AI National Strategy & AI and Ethics Policy, State of Palestine• Dr. Hany Ayaad, Executive Director of the Innovation Support Fund under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), Egypt <p>Moderator: Timea Suto, Global Digital Policy Lead, ICC HQ</p>
<p>11.25-12.10 PM CET</p> <p>12.25-01.10 PM Beirut time</p>	<p>Session 3: Private Sector's Role in AI Investment and Ecosystem Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lara El Khoury, Director of Programs, Berytech Innovation Hub, Lebanon• Afif Barhoumi, Investment Promotion Expert, UNIDO-Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain• Tarik Alma, Head of Engineering Services for Entrepreneurship, The National Agency for the Promotion of Skills and Competencies (ANAPEC), Morocco <p>Moderator: Kareem Hassan, Executive Director, ESCWA Technology Centre</p>
<p>12.10-12.15 PM CET</p> <p>01.10-01.15 PM Beirut time</p>	<p>Closing</p> <p>Joelle Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, ICC-ESCWA Centre of Entrepreneurship</p>

