



# IGF Presentations

Satish Babu



## **50. “Data is the New Oil”: Shaping the Digital Economy of MENA**

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# Overview

- **Official submission from APRALO**
- **Jointly submitted by Ali AlMeshal (Vice Chair, APRALO) and Satish Babu (Chair, APRALO)**
- **The Workshop focuses on the Economy of the Middle East and North Africa Region**

# Focus areas

- Impact and influence of the Internet on the Global Economy and regions
- The disparities between the North and the South in leveraging the economic potential of the Internet; the Middle East as an exceptional example
- The state of the Middle East after the global recession, crashing of oil prices, impact of the Arab Spring, and subdued local demand, leading to a prediction of an economic slowdown
- Leveraging the Internet, MENA has turned around, despite direct predictions in 2012-13

# Discussion points

- Factors contributing to the resilience of MENA
- The role of Internet in the turn-around, in particular the “...massive digital disruption”, cross-border data flows, e-government, e-business, e-commerce etc
- Enabling policy measures
- Best practices for other regions

# Technical aspects

- **Format: Round-table**
- **Speakers: 4 (3 from MENA + Satish)**
- **Proposers: Bahrain + India**
- **Tags:**
  - Internet Economy
  - Internet & ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals
  - Digital Economy
- **Co-organizers: 3 from Africa, AP, L. America**

# Technical aspects (2)

- **Session format:**

1. Welcome and Session Objectives: Moderator (5 min)
2. The Digital Economic Future: Domain Expert (10 min)
3. The Middle East Experience in Leveraging the Digital Economy: Domain Expert (10 min)
4. Sharing of experiences (3-5 min x 10 = 40 min)
5. Open Q & A (20 min)
6. Summing up and Conclusions: Moderator (5 min)

- **Remote moderation by senior expert**



## **8. Open Source: Defending Freedoms in the Digital Future**



# Focus Areas

- The Internet has been seen as the “great liberator”, that would uphold the freedom of speech and democratic values
- There have been new developments that threaten these core values:
  - Fake news
  - Post-truth politics and “alternative truth”
  - Surveillance & Censorship
  - Data & identity theft, online hate & abuse

# Questions to be discussed

- Is the Internet losing its grip on truth?
- Are social media narratives being weaponized?
- Are elections being remotely controlled through the Net?
- How does one sift truth from propaganda?
- How can civil society defend itself?
- What can Free/Open Source Software do to protect communities in the digital future?

# Questions (2)

- **What are the tools, technologies, platforms and methodologies that are relevant?**
  - Privacy tools (eg. ToR)
  - WikiTribune and Fake News filters
  - Resisting the Rise of algorithms and dehumanization
  - Using Cryptocurrencies and the Blockchain
  - Convergence of Cyber-physical worlds, IoT
  - Access, Network Neutrality, Digital Divides

# Technical Aspects

- **Type: Breakout Group Discussions (90 min)**
- **Proposers: India, Kenya, USA**
- **Speakers: Brazil, US, Canada, Uganda**
- **Remote Moderator: Kenya**
- **Tags: Digital Future, Openness, Security**



**Thank you!**