The Arab ICT Organization

UNCITRAL, 21-22 April, 2016
“The Arab ICT Organization”

SUMMARY

I. About AICTO: creation, organs, membership objectives

III. Action Plan

IV. Working groups

V. Projects: the Arab PKI Forum

VI. Regional & International cooperation: Future perspectives
About AICTO

AICTO is an Arab governmental organization working under the aegis of the League of Arab States,

Operational since 1st/01/2008

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Organs

The General Assembly

The Council

The Secretariat-General
Membership

Member States:

**Arab countries** members of the League of Arab States.

Associate Members:

- **Private & Public** companies active in the ICT sector in Arab countries, namely:
Associate Members:

- ICT regulators
- Communication network operators
- Communication Service Providers
- Hardware manufacturers
- Software developers & producers as well as ICT study and expertise centers
- ICT Research centers and Universities
- The Civil Society active in the field of ICT

Honor Members: Arab Personalities
Main Objectives

- Promoting and enriching common strategies for ICT development in the region,
- Identifying the Arab needs and skills in the field of ICTs,
- Providing the adequate environment to prepare, upgrade and attract Arab ICT skills,
- Promoting regional and international cooperation in the field.
Action Plan
Scope

- The Arab Strategy for ICTs: “Building the Information Society”
- The WSIS recommendations (Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005)
- “Connect the Arab States Summit” (Doha, March 2012)
- The Arab Economic & Social Summits
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Main Topics

1) Develop Arab common action

2) Promote and achieve Arab capacity building in ICT

3) Identify and promote ICT Arab skills

4) Seek Arab & international partnership in ICT

5) Develop new regional initiatives and projects

6) Boost technological watch
Main Topics

I. Initiatives & Projects
   - E-inclusion
   - E-transformation
   - Research & Technological Innovation
   - Consolidating the Arab Common Action

II. Regional & International Cooperation

III. Arab capacity building in ICT
Working Groups

[WG1] E-content development
[WG2] Technological Convergence
[WG3] e-certification & Cybersecurity
[WG4] Cloud Computing
[WG5] ICT & Employment
[WG6] ICT & Agriculture
[WG7] ICT & Arab Women Empowerment
Projects

AICTO Current Projects:

- “Promotion of e-accessibility within the Arab region” (WG1)
- “Digital Broadcasting switchover & Mobile TV in the Arab Region” (WG2)
- “Arab PKI Forum” (WG3)
- “Promoting Cloud Computing in the Arab Region” (WG4)
- “Arab Youth Empowerment through ICT” (WG5)
- “Arab Women empowerment through ICT” (WG7)
- “Connecting schools in the Arab Least Developed Countries” (WG1)
- “ICTs for a Sustainable Agricultural Development in the Arab Region” (WG6).
Main objectives:

Considering the heterogeneity of the progress level of the different Arab countries in deploying e-services, the objectives of this project are to:

- Provide a unifying framework to address the issues related to identity management and digital signature in the Arab region.
- Establish cooperation with the international organizations and consortia involved in PKI and identity management.
- Cross-certification agreements and exchange experiences and skills.
- Collect valuable indicators related to the use of digital certification and signature technologies in the Arab Region.
“Arab PKI Forum”

**Project components:**

1. Assessment of the electronic transactions security and the PKI development in Arab Region
2. Establishment of the Arab PKI forum
3. Development of a website for the Arab PKI forum
4. Technological prospection in the PKI and e-transactions security.
1. **Assessment of the electronic transactions security and the PKI development in Arab Region**:

Leading a survey of the current Arab legal, technical and regulatory frameworks.
Launched in 2013:
“Certification authorities structures & legal frameworks for e-transactions in Arab region”

- **Objective**: collect data on: e-certification & PKI authorities in Arab countries, e-signature, and the available legal and regulatory frameworks governing the e-transactions.
- **Part one: e-certification and PKI bodies in the Arab countries**
- E-certification authorities/ Root certification authorities
- E-services & applications and solutions for certification and e-signature
- **Part Two: Legal frameworks**
- E-transactions
- E-transactions protection (e-signature, encryption…)
- E-certification providers
- Personal Data Protection
Survey (continued)

• **Part Three: Statistics (2012-2013)**
  - Number of certificates for e-signature
  - Number of certificates for servers
  - Number of certificates VPN

• **Part Four: Joining the "Arab Network for e-certification authorities"/Arab PKI Forum**
  - Objectives
  - Expectations from the Arab PKI Forum

• **Recommendations**
  - Participating countries:
    Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, and Qatar.
"Survey outcomes"

### e-services and solutions for e-certification & e-signature

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- **Available**
- **Not available**
- **Planned**
“Survey outcomes”
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Legal frameworks

E-certifications providers
Joining the "Arab Network for e-certification authorities"
Relevant activities: regional seminars and workshops aiming at:

- The setting up of guidelines related to PKI deployment and identity management in the Arab Region,
- Establishing regional conventions ensuring the mutual recognition of the digital signatures even between Arab countries or other foreign countries,
- Defining the set of standards and specifications that should be followed for identity management and PKI deployment.
- Assisting Arab countries in setting up secure e-applications and e-services.
Previous events:

- 2010-2015: 5 forums organized including conferences and training workshops
- May 2015: in partnership with the UNCITRAL

This Forum agenda included:

- 06/07 May 2015: 2 Training workshops dealing with:
  - Setting up an “Electronic Certification Authority”
  - e-ID & e-signature management
- 08 May Global 2015: Conference on: “PKI & the global e-commerce law”
Previous events: Outcomes

- **Recommendations**:
  - Setting up e-certification authorities in Arab countries, if unavailable, while promoting the use of the existing e-authentification certificates in the others.
  - Promoting the use of secure e-transactions between Arab countries, namely in relevant government sectors.
  - Providing the necessary legal framework to promote e-commerce and e-certification recognition.
Recommendations (continued):

- Setting up authorities dedicated to protect personal data, and information systems.
- Adopting an annual gathering to be organized by AICTO for awareness and experience share.
- Promoting cooperation between Arab countries in matter of Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTS) either through ‘AICTO’ or within bilateral cooperation.
- Boosting investment in launching projects on secured e-transactions through mobile.
Recommendations (continued):

- Launching an **Arab task force with a legal and technical profile** which will work on opening direct communication channels, and fostering information and experience share.
- Giving further importance to critical information infrastructure protection (CCIP).
- Promoting e-signature recognition in the accounting system.
- Working on harmonization between Arab ‘PKI’ authorities to ensure mutual recognition and interoperability.
Training workshop on:
“e-ID & e-signature management” | Banks & Telcos case studies
Tunis, 25-28 April 2016

Main objectives:

- Giving clear vision about international trends in matter of e-ID and e-signature management.
- Helping Arab countries in their process of building a trustworthy IT systems.
- Exploring the future evolution of e-ID technologies and solutions.
- Building capacities to select, design and exploit e-ID solutions relevant to the Arab context.
Current situation: Identity management & Trust services are indeed new concepts: lack of understanding of relevant legal issues by Businesses and States.

Requirements:

- e-trust services: local, regional and International cooperation is fundamental to find solutions to overcome the global issues and to come up with harmonized frameworks leading to the interoperability of e-trust services.
Being a Regional, multistakeholder organization, AICTO can play a major role.

AICTO is ready to:

- Join all ongoing efforts and partners to facilitate the deployment of identity management & trust services.
- Enable legal harmonisation by promoting the development of appliable uniform international legal framework throughout the Arab region.
Thank you for your attention

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