Tripartite Committee Review Meeting (Board Meeting)
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MCIT Premises, Bldg. 1, Room No. 52, Smart Village, Giza

May 2nd 2018

Notes of the Meeting

Agenda:

10:00 - 10:15	*Opening remarks by MCIT and UNDP representatives*
10:15 - 10:45	Presentation of "*Enhancing Access to Knowledge for Development" project's achievements and discussion" and* the new Project *"Maximizing Egypt's Resources through ICT (MERC-ICT)*
10:45 - 11:15	Presentation of "*ICT for comprehensive community development project's achievements and discussion"*
11:15 - 11:45	Presentation of "*Supporting the NTRA (Phase II)" project's achievements and discussion"*
11:45 - 12:15	Presentation of "*Supporting Information Technology Institute Activities (ITI)" project's achievements and discussion"*
12:15 - 01:15	Presentation of "*Supporting the activities of Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC)" project's achievements and discussion*"
01:15 - 01:45	Presentation of "*Promoting and Scaling up NTI Services in the Region (NTI)*
01:45 - 02:00	*Final remarks by MoFA, UNDP, MCIT*

Summary of Proceeding

Opening Remarks:

- Mr. Samer Saeed, Director of Finance representing Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and Chair of the Meeting, welcomed all the participants. He highlighted the important role of ICT in promoting socio-economic development of Egypt. He also praised the long and successful collaboration with the UNDP Country Office.

- Mr. Samer mentioned that the new project document drafted by MCIT and reviewed by UNDP has been presented to MoFA by both parties and MoFA expressed no objection to its submission for formal clearance, but in fact welcomed it. This was confirmed during the meeting and the project document will now be sent to MoFA. As a core support of MCIT, the new project would be very important for supporting the implementation of the national 2025 ICT Strategy focusing on the transformation to the digital society, developing financial inclusion, and extending universal ICT access and services to all citizens.

- Mr. Samer also mentioned that the new phase of the project with ITI was presented to MoFA, and was very well received. The phase will soon be submitted to MoFA for formal clearance.

- Mr. Samer also mentioned that the new phase of the project with NTI, to be presented during the meeting, would also be submitted to MoFA for formal clearance.

- Ms. Nadine Abou El Gheit, UNDP, regretted that Ms. Passant Eissa representing Egypt Post, was not able to attend the meeting for an emergency on her part. A report she had prepared on "*Egypt Post Modernization Project Phase II Brief Report – EOY 2017 Major Achievements*" was promptly shared though, with MCIT and UNDP via email.

- Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, United Nations Development Programme Country Director; expressed her deep gratitude for the work and project achievements by UNDP's partners and encouraged that successful collaboration to continue with the different projects. She stressed the importance of documenting the projects' accomplishments for the needed outreach to various parties and stakeholders and for achieving the targeted goals.

Presentation by Enhancing Access to Knowledge for Development (presentation attached)

- Ms. Noha Gaballah presented the many achievements of Enhancing *Access for Development* (EA2K4D) Project that started on October 1st 2013 and scheduled to end on December 31st 2018 with plans to build on these achievements in year 2018 and the new project.

- Based on Mr. Samer's request, Ms. Noha presented a short outline and summary of the new project's goals and objectives entitled "*Maximizing Egypt's Resources through ICT*" (MERC-ICT) that would represent the 4th phase of successful collaboration with UNDP. It would go in line with supporting the implementation of the national ICT strategy 2025 and scaling up on the current project scheduled to be terminated by December 31st 2018.

She said that the project had a unique nature and very important for being a core project that would support MCIT's different activities and help in developing the sector at large. The new Project would start in July 2018 for eight years.

- Mr. Samer reiterated that the new project document had been reviewed by UNDP and was ready for MOFA's clearance process. He stressed the fact that the new project would support the implementation of ICT 2025 Strategy focusing on the transformation to the digital society, developing financial inclusion and extending universal ICT access and services to all citizens.

- Mr. Samer requested that a file be compiled of the notes of the meeting, hard copy of the new MCIT-UNDP Project document "*Maximizing Egypt's Resources through ICT* (MERC-ICT), along with a USB and print-out of all presentations, to be shared with MoFA after the meeting.

Presentation by ICT Trust Fund (presentation attached)

- Eng. Hoda Dahroug welcomed attendees and representatives from UNDP for their continuous support of the activities of the ICT Trust Fund. She mentioned that they would draft a new project and would send its outlines to MOFA after formulating it during this year.

- Eng. Rehab Yehia started the presentation by addressing the main achievements of the ICT for Comprehensive Community Development Program in 2017. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed highlighted the integral and strategic role of KenanaOnline as one of the largest and most impactful Arabic language platforms in the region.

- Dr. Hala El Sadek also spoke about the efforts done by the ICT-Trust Fund towards achieving the Gender Seal. This would make them the first national institution to receive this certification.

- Eng. Hoda Dahrough praised the UNDP's continuous support for the activities of ICT Trust Fund and explained that the activities could not be separated over years' course as they had always been accumulating.

Presentation by National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) Phase II (presentation attached)

- Ms. Dina Kabeel presented the project achievements in 2017 and the main planned activities of 2018. She highlighted the role of the project in strengthen and enabling an integrated digital system on the national level to gain access to knowledge and services in simple and cost-effective ways at any time and any place for all citizens. She put focus on Mobile Money and the related new technologies for enabling cash transfers through the mobile networks which actually started in 2013. She hoped that the project would grow wider and stronger.

- Mr. Samer pointed out that NTRA would also prepare a new project to measure the coverage and quality of mobile networks all over Egypt.

Presentation by Information Technology Institute (ITI) (presentation attached)

- Mr. Bishoy Louis described the major achievements realized by the Information Technology Institute in 2017 and presented the main planned activities of 2018. He highlighted the fact that the project would continue to work on expanding the South-South cooperation links, one of the key components of the ongoing project and planned project, and planning to cooperate with South-South Development Academy. He also spoke about the new partnership with UNDP in Somalia. Mr. Bishoy added that UNDP had always been a partner and a stakeholder in all the activities presented.

Presentation by The Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center (TIEC), part of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency ITIDA (presentation attached)

- Mr. Tarek Salah presented the project achievements in 2017 and the main planned activities of 2018. He reported that TIEC launched in September 2010 had always aimed to drive innovation and entrepreneurship in ICT for the benefit of the national economy. TIEC has become the leading regional hub and world class center for ICT based on innovations and entrepreneurship. TIEC has focused on stimulating an innovation-based economy through strategizing, facilitating, and promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and the creation of intellectual property in ICT and its applications.

Presentation by National Telecommunication Institute (NTI) (presentation attached)

- Ms. Sara Attia presented the concept note of the new project entitled "*Promoting and Scaling up NTI Services in the Region*". She reported that the aim of the project would be to support different services offered by NTI. The services would include educational, training and development activities to create professional cadres in ICT in Egypt as well as in the region. To achieve these goals and as a center of excellence, NTI would provide high-quality education and training services for the telecommunication engineers, prepare and implement specialized training programs to keep pace with the latest global trends in ICT field to achieve human resource sustainable development. Ms. Sarah promised to finalize formulating the new project and to submit it shortly to MoFA and UNDP.

Final Remarks:

- H.E. Ambassador Hany Selim, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director of the Department of International Cooperation for Development, MoFA thanked and congratulated UNDP and MCIT for their successful cooperation over the past years and their accomplishments. He stated that he was very much impressed by all the presentations made at the meeting. He emphasized the importance of decentralization for future activities and policies as a tangible way to get all needed funds in order to implement what we all dream of for our county. He thanked MCIT's team for all their efforts, integrity, and efficiency in implementing projects and protocols. He highly praised MCTI activities as related to financial inclusion and law enforcement projects that would go in line with the country's sustainable development goals achieving social justice, transparency, and the socio-economic development of the country at large.

- Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, Country Director, UNDP congratulated all participants for the achievements implemented by different projects. She expressed that she was very happy to hear about all the activities and programs presented. She suggested accelerating the delivery of project outputs to achieve the targeted goals and highlighted the following:
  - All projects should take into consideration a wider outreach of their activities over a shorter time period to be able to get more funds.
  - All activities should be promoted on a much wider scale in addition to better assessment to help avoid any past drawbacks.
  - She commended the effort of the ministry and project staff in adopting a gender lens in the design and implementation of all programmatic interventions. She also encouraged the ICT TF team to accelerate progress towards the Gender Seal; something they will be very proud to earn and will significantly empower them as a development partner.

- Eng. Hoda Dahroug requested the presentation of a video on ICT Trust Fund achievements in Nubia at the end of the meeting related to Telemedicine Project connecting Primary Health Care units with professors at the main hospitals through specialized high-tech medical instruments connected over internet. This greatly helped spread the benefit of ICT in far and under-privileged areas as Nubia with plans to spread the services in other under-privileged governorates all over Egypt.

- As the Meeting Chairman, Mr. Samer Said thanked MoFA, UNDP, and all the project directors and staff members. He concluded the meeting wishing fruitful cooperation with all the involved stakeholders to achieve projects' goals. He mentioned that all the projects were going in line with implementing the national ICT strategy developing the sector at large and corresponding with achieving UNDP's sustainable development goals.

Meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m.

Notes taken by:
>   Noha Gaballah
>   Executive Manager
>   International Finance Department, MCIT
>   May 2nd, 2018

List of Attendees:

MoFA:	H.E. Ambassador Hani Selim, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director of the Department of International Cooperation for Development, MoFA
UNDP:	Ms. Randa Aboul-Hosn, Country Director, UNDP
	Ms. Nadine Abou El-Gheit, Program Officer, UNDP
	Ms. Fatma Yassin, Communications Officer, UNDP
	Ms. Heba Younes, Asst. Program Officer, UNDP
MCIT:	Mr. Samer Said, Financial Director, MCIT
	Mr. Basem Abdul Latif, Financial Controller
EA2K4D:	
	Ms. Noha Gaballah
	Mr. Ramy El Khateeb
	Mr. Shady Zaki
	Mr. Walid Salah El Din
	Ms. Nemat Salah El Din
	Mr. Amir Youssef
	Ms. Inas Fatim
ICT-Trust Fund:	Eng. Hoda Dahroug
	Mr. Amgad Abd El Aziz
	Ms. Asmaa Saber
	Ms. Ghada Mohamed
	Dr. Hala Sadek
	Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed
	Ms. Iman Mahdy
	Ms. Marwa El Noqrashi
	Mr. Mohamed Atef
	Mr. Mohamed Aziz
	Mr. Mohamed Megahed
	Mr. Mohamed Mostafa
	Ms. Nagla Seddik
	Ms. Nesrine Ismail
	Eng. Rehab Yehia
	Dr. Sohair El Kilany
Egypt Post:	
	Mr. Walid Abdel Rahman
NTRA:	Ms. Dina Kabeel
ITI:	Mr. Bishoy Louis
TIEC:	Eng. Tarek Salah
	Mr. Ahmed Agamy
NTI:	Ms. Sarah Attia