

Final Report – Ninth RIPE NCC Roundtable Meeting for Arab Governments and Regulators

Cairo – 4 December 2025

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) of the Arab Republic of Egypt, in cooperation with the RIPE NCC, hosted **the ninth annual RIPE NCC Roundtable Meeting for Arab Governments and Regulatory Authorities** on Thursday, 4 December 2025, at the Nile Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Cairo. The event convened high-level governmental delegations from ten Arab countries, including heads and senior officials of regulatory authorities, the League of Arab States, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and AFRINIC.

This year's meeting was held under the theme **“Strengthening Regional Synergies in Internet Infrastructure and Governance.”** Discussions focused on developing the Internet across Arab states through enhanced regional cooperation, expanded connectivity, adoption of global routing security standards and keeping pace with global developments in Internet governance, including the WSIS+20 process and the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

Opening Session

H.E. Eng. Mohamed Shamroukh, CEO of NTRA, opened the meeting by affirming Egypt's leadership in supporting digital stability in the region, stating: *“Egypt's hosting of this meeting reinforces our regional role in safeguarding Internet stability and developing Internet-related policies. Together, we are building digital infrastructure capable of addressing geopolitical complexities and meeting the requirements of digital transformation. Arab digital integration is no longer optional: it is essential for service continuity and for building resilient and robust networks.”*

H.E. Hans Petter Holen, CEO of the RIPE NCC, emphasised the importance of technical cooperation with Arab governments: *“This year saw remarkable progress in IPv6 deployment and routing security across the Arab region. We remain committed to supporting regulators, governments and the Internet community through capacity-building and transparent measurement data that enables long-term planning. Our role is to safeguard the foundations of an open Internet and support governments in developing evidence-based policies that protect global technical operations.”*

H.E. Dr Khaled Wali, Plenipotentiary Ambassador, Director of the Communications and IT Development Department at the League of Arab States, highlighted the importance of joint Arab cooperation: *“Strengthening digital infrastructure in the Arab region is a top priority. Collaboration with the RIPE NCC has yielded significant progress in IPv6 deployment and network security. We are now integrating measurement tools into the Arab institutional framework, enabling decision-makers to rely on accurate and*

transparent data. This meeting is another step towards a more balanced and sustainable Arab digital future.”

H.E. Dr Noah Al-Shayab, Commissioner at Jordan’s Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, stressed the value of a unified Arab position: *“The experience of the past year shows that joint Arab action delivers tangible results, whether in IPv6 deployment or routing security. Jordan is proud to have contributed alongside Egypt and Lebanon to drafting the unified WSIS+20 submission, most of which was adopted, demonstrating the power of speaking with one voice.”*

H.E. Dr Jenny Gemayel, CEO of Lebanon’s Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, spoke about Lebanon’s new regulatory phase: *“Lebanon is undergoing a renewed regulatory phase aimed at revitalising the authority’s institutional mandate and strengthening cooperation on priority topics such as IPv6, routing security and IXPs. Lebanon’s participation in the WSIS+20 process reflects our commitment to supporting unified Arab positions and reinforcing our region’s presence in global digital governance.”*

H.E. Eng. Abdulbaset Al-Baour, CEO of Libya’s General Authority for Communications and Informatics, stated: *“Libya continues implementing its National Communications Strategy 2023–2027, with IPv6 deployment as a core objective. We are advancing next-generation networks, expanding national measurement systems and deepening cooperation with the RIPE NCC and AFRINIC to build infrastructure capable of meeting global developments.”*

H.E. Dr Al-Sadiq Jamal El-Din, Director General of Sudan’s Telecommunications and Postal Regulatory Authority, emphasised network security: *“Digital stability begins with strong, secure networks capable of protecting critical data and services. This roundtable provides a vital platform for developing a shared vision that enhances routing security and strengthens Arab digital infrastructure.”*

H.E. Eng. Abdulrahman Al Marzouqi, Acting Director General of the UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, underscored the role of innovation: *“Adopting modern technologies and developing digital infrastructure are essential to boosting regional competitiveness. A strong Arab digital future requires collaborative work rooted in innovation and skills development.”*

H.E. Eng. Manal Mazyad, Vice Chair of the Communications and Information Technology Authority of Kuwait, added: *“Arab experience shows that integrated digital infrastructure development is the most effective path for sustainable digital transformation. Kuwait continues to support IPv6 deployment, routing security and IXP development, alongside capacity-building and cooperation with the RIPE NCC.”*

H.E. Eng. Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Director of Technology and Network Security at Bahrain’s Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, highlighted: *“Routing security and resilient digital infrastructure are essential for service sustainability and user trust.”*

Achieving this requires broad Arab cooperation and continuous coordination between governments and technical bodies.”

From Qatar, H.E. Eng. Maryam Al Ishaq, Director of Infrastructure at the Communications Regulatory Authority, noted: *“Qatar has achieved remarkable progress in IPv6 deployment. We are working with the RIPE NCC to strengthen measurement capabilities at the national IXP. IXPs are essential for reducing dependence on external routing paths and improving network efficiency.”*

AFRINIC representative Ms Wafa Dhamani confirmed the organisation’s return to normal operations: *“AFRINIC has entered a new phase of stability and governance. We thank Arab states, Egypt and the RIPE NCC for their support during challenging years and look forward to renewed cooperation with all stakeholders.”*

Session 1 – Scaling the Internet for the Digital Economy (IPv6)

Discussions focused on the central role of IPv6 in meeting rising Internet demand, supporting digital economies and enabling secure, scalable services. Arab delegations, including from Egypt and the UAE, shared national experiences. RIPE NCC experts presented detailed regional IPv6 adoption statistics, remaining gaps, lessons learned and the need for clear national strategies.

Session 2 – Securing Routing Infrastructure (RPKI)

This session addressed security challenges related to route hijacks and leaks and the importance of **RPKI** as a foundational standard for protecting networks. Regional statistics highlighted uneven progress across the Arab region. Delegations called for regulatory frameworks that incentivise RPKI adoption and integrate it into national digital security strategies.

Session 3 – Enhancing Resilience through Local Connectivity (IXPs)

Discussions highlighted the growing role of Internet Exchange Points in improving service quality and reducing reliance on international paths. Measurements showed that **over 70% of the region’s traffic still transits external routes**, despite the potential for local exchange. Delegates explored ways to strengthen IXPs, promote peering and encourage local content hosting.

Session 4 – Regional and Global Internet Governance Pathways

Participants reviewed the latest developments in WSIS+20 preparations, the Global Digital Compact (GDC), IGF, GSR and WTDC. The session emphasised the importance of preventing Internet fragmentation by distinguishing technical coordination from Internet governance and digital policy. It also discussed increasing the participation of Arab regulators in regional and global technical and governance forums, including RIPE, ICANN, MENOG and AFRINIC.

Recommendations of the Cairo Roundtable

Recommendations to be submitted to the Arab Permanent Committee for Postal and Telecommunications Affairs and then to the Council of Arab ICT Ministers:

Infrastructure and Connectivity

- Accelerate IPv6 adoption through clear national strategies.
- Support the development of IXPs and promote local content hosting.
- Expand use of regional measurement tools such as **RIPE Atlas**.

Routing Security and Infrastructure Protection

- Adopt **RPKI** as a core requirement for routing security.
- Develop unified Arab guidelines with the RIPE NCC and AFRINIC regarding routing security best practices.
- Strengthen protection of critical infrastructure, international routes and data centres.

Capacity-Building and Human Development

- Launch a unified Arab training programme on IPv6 and RPKI, led by NTRA, AFRINIC and the RIPE NCC in cooperation with the LAS and ITU Regional Office.
- Support the expanded use of measurement tools.
- Integrate Internet governance and digital infrastructure topics into academic curricula.

Policies and International Governance

- Strengthen Arab participation in the IGF, ICANN, RIPE NCC, AFRINIC, MENOG and similar forums.
- Prevent Internet fragmentation by reaffirming the distinction between technical coordination and digital policy.

Data and Best Practice Exchange

- Establish a permanent Arab platform for technical data exchange, measurement statistics and regulatory best practices.

Follow-Up and Reporting

- Approve the Cairo report and submit it to the LAS Permanent Committee and the Council of Arab ICT Ministers as 2026 priorities.
- Review the progress at the tenth RIPE NCC Roundtable Meeting for Arab Governments and Regulatory Authorities.

Conclusion

Participants agreed that this roundtable meeting has become a central Arab platform for harmonising efforts in Internet development and strengthening cooperation between regulatory authorities and regional Internet registries, specifically the RIPE NCC and AFRINIC.

The Cairo meeting marked a significant step toward a **more integrated, sustainable and secure Arab digital ecosystem**. Delegations expressed deep appreciation to NTRA of Egypt and the RIPE NCC for hosting and organising this successful gathering.