

Mission permanente
de l'État du Qatar
auprès de l'Office
des Nations-Unies à Genève



الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
جنيف



2017/0005152/5

Re: الوفد الدائم لدولة قطر / جنيف

Subject: Information for the purpose of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to the latter's Verbal Note dated 30 November 2016 in which it requested information on the *ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective* for the purpose of preparing the report which will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty –fifth session in June 2017.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar is pleased to attach herewith the requested information in response to the questions prepared by the OHCHR, as received from the competent authorities in the State of Qatar.

The Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, January 18th, 2017

OHCHR

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✍ N. A.



Subject: Information for the purpose of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective

Referring to the Verbal Note of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner dated 30 November 2016 in which it requested information on the ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective for the purpose of preparing the report which will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty –fifth session in June 2017.

Our response to the questions prepared by the OHCHR is as follows:

1. While increased Internet adoption has helped many people, embrace technology in their daily lives, for some groups digital disparities remain. Women and specially housewives scored the lowest in terms of PC and Internet use and the main problem seems to be their lack of technical skills.
2. Individual's livings in households are surveyed at national level for monitoring ICT progress. Findings are published in Qatar's ICT Landscape report (one in two years) and indicators are made available on Qatar-s ICT Observatory. Following are the Website links that may be consulted for gender based ICT report and data in Qatar.
 - A. Qatar's ICT Landscape Report:
(<http://www.motc.gov.qa/en/documents/document/qatars-ict-landscape-2014-households-and-individuals>)
 - B. Qatar's ICT Observatory:
(www.ictobservatory.gov.qa)
 - C. Ministry of Development Planning& Statistics for census and other national surveys:
(<http://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/knowledge>)
 - D. Qatar information Exchange:
(<http://www.qalm.gov.qa/>)

UN-ITU database may also be consulted for relevant ICT indicators. Qatar maintains latest indicators and data there.



Recently a specific study on the use of internet by children was conducted by Ministry of Transport and Communications, which looks specifically at three main areas of youth interaction with ICT:

- A. Introduction to socialization with ICT
- B. Purpose and uses of ICT
- C. Concerns related to youth use of ICT

The survey segregates the data between girls and boys and will be launched early 2017. Rights of women are embraced in the Qatar National Vision 2030 pillar " the right to Development":

http://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/knowledge/Doc/HDR/Qatar_Fourth_National_HDR_Realising_QN_V2030_The_Right_to_Development_2015_EN.pdf

3. MOTC Digital Inclusion team launched a program back in 2012 to help give women in Qatar the basics skills they need to use the technology effectively and safely. The program was tailored for the needs of non-working Qatar women and was set in the context of Qatar's culture and traditions. The program was structured around three elements (Contextualized content, Qatari women trainers and partnerships with local community organizations) as follow:
 - A. Knowing you PC
 - B. File management
 - C. Getting connected to the Internet
 - D. Discovering the Internet (to develop your personal interests)
 - E. Accessing news online
 - F. Connecting with family and friends I&II
 - G. Mobile devices and Apps
 - H. Accessing schools and government services online
 - I. Online learning for personal and professional development
4. There are no major challenges faced by government in implementing programs and policies aimed at women other than ensuring that ensuring that all solutions take into consideration the Arab culture. Girls are as likely to own devices and make use of the internet. To support this the state through its telecom provides blocks inappropriate content, to give confidence to the community and to make internet safe within the local cultural and religious context.

Girls have equal access to free WI-FI wherever it is provided, currently in a number of iParks across the country and strategic public settings such as The Pearl and



Katara etc. WI-Fi is provided by the private sector in cafes and restaurants and equally accessible to all.

5. Qatar had developed and implemented the Broadband Plan, which is available from:
(<http://motc.gov.qa/en/documents/document/qatar%E2%80%99s-national-broadband-plan>)

The plan was aimed at providing high quality affordable broadband services that are essential to future innovation and socio-economic development .

6. Qatar a national vision 2030 which embraces all communities including women, and in particular mentions women in Social Development Goal
(<http://www.mdps.gov.qa/en/qnv1/pages/default.aspx#qnvSocial>)

7. Legal mandate is within the auspices of the Ministry of Justice. Public documents provided by the Ministry of Justice are available from:
Qatar Legal Portal Al Meezan
(<http://www.almeezan.qa/default.aspx?language=en>)

There are no specific laws or policies to address gender based violence online. Laws are applied for online breaches in the same way as they are in real life.