EGM on "Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region: A Fact or Illusion?"

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ICT and SDGs : an Arab Region Gender Equality Lens

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Outline

• Gender, ICT and the United Nations
• SDGs and ICT
• Gender and ICT in Numbers: Global and Regional
• Conclusion
Gender, ICT and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Then vs. Now**

**Two parallel processes**

- **MDG TRACK**
  - Strong focus on social dimension

- **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRACK**
  - Focus on environmental sustainability

**One holistic 2030 agenda**

- Completing the unfinished business of the MDGs and leaving no one behind
- Revisiting sustainable development with an integrated and balanced view of all key dimensions

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**Declaration**

Vision, shared principles and commitments, a call for action to change the world

**Sustainable Development Goals**

17 Goals and 169 Targets

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Follow-Up and Review**

National, Regional and Global

**Implementation**

Means of implementation and Global Partnership
Gender, ICT and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Goal 5 Targets

- **Goal 5**
  - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 5 Means of Implementation**

1. **End discrimination against all women and girls**
2. **Eliminate violence against all women and girls**
3. **Eliminate all harmful practices such as child marriage**
4. **Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work**
5. **Ensure women’s participation and leadership in decision-making**
6. **Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights**

**Enabling Technologies (ICT)**

**Policies and Legislations**

**Reforms**
Gender, ICT and the United Nations
Major Milestones

Beijing Platform for Action
(Fourth World Conference on Women)
1995
- ‘full and equal participation of women’ in and through media and new technologies of communication, as well as in all areas of science and technology

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
2003
- Affirmation that ICT development provides enormous opportunities for women, as an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society

WSIS 2003 and 2005
- ICT provides empowerment opportunities for women, as an integral part of, and key actors, in the Information Society (IS).
- Mainstreaming a gender equality perspective and using ICTs as a tool.
- Governments called for removing the gender barriers to ICT education and training,

WSIS +10
- Recognition of the potential of ICTs as a tool for promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment as well as the gender divide in ICTs

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Goal 5)
2015
- Gender Mainstreaming across all 17 Goals and a dedicated Goal to Gender Equality with ICT as 1 out of 3 suggested means of implementation

UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW 55, 2011:
“Access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”
SDGs and ICT: An Overview

The spread of information and communications technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy.

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
4.b By 2030, substantially increase support for scholarships available to developing countries, in particular LDCs, SIDS and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.
One of the 1st conventions and summits that began shedding light on the issues of technology and gender as well as using ICTs as a tool for women empowerment and gender equality.
Gender and ICT in Numbers: Global

In low- and middle-income countries:
- Women are 10% less likely than men to own a mobile phone.
- Over 1.2 billion women do not use mobile internet.
- Women are 26% less likely than men to use mobile internet.
- There is a significant gender gap in mobile usage, particularly for more transformational services.

Other key barriers, often felt more strongly by women than men:
- Lack of perceived relevance, safety and security-related issues, and low digital literacy and literacy.
- Women are less aware of mobile internet compared with men.

Cost:
- Is the greatest barrier to both mobile ownership and mobile internet use.

$15 billion:
- The estimated incremental 12 month revenue opportunity if mobile operators in low- and middle-income countries could close the gender gap in mobile ownership and mobile internet use today.
## Gender and ICT in Numbers: IDI – Arab Region

### IDI Development Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>IDI 2017 Value</th>
<th>IDI 2016 Rank</th>
<th>IDI 2016 Value</th>
<th>Rank Change</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7.60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.46</td>
<td>↓</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>1.80</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above lists the Arab countries ranked by their Gender and ICT Development Index (IDI). The index is based on three sub-indexes: ICT Readiness (infrastructure and access), ICT Use (intensity), and ICT Capability (skills). The rank change indicates whether the country has improved (↑) or deteriorated (↓) in terms of the IDI from 2016 to 2017.
Gender and ICT in Numbers: Digital Divide

The 2016 global Internet user gender gap is 12%.

Structural inequalities in
- Education
- Employment
- Income level

Have contributed to
- Gender inequality and the digital gender gap
  - Least-developed countries: 31%
  - Developing countries: 16.8%
  - Developed world: 2.8%
Gender and ICT in the Arab Region

Proportion of individuals not using the Internet, by type of reason, 2016

Note: Data for Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Singapore refer to 2015 and 2017, respectively. Source: ITU.
Gender and ICT in Numbers: Digital Divide

### Table: Internet Penetration Rate for Men and Women, 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>97.5</td>
<td>99.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>59.6</td>
<td>47.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>91.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>88.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ITU
Note: *Estimates. Penetration rates in this chart refer to the number of women/men using the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female/male population. CIS refers to the Commonwealth of Independent States.
Gender and ICT in Numbers: Digital Divide

By 2021, over 90 percent of the world’s population will be covered by mobile broadband networks. Source: Ericsson Mobility Report 2015 (Ericsson, 2015)

The gender gap in mobile internet use in low- and middle-income countries, by region

The gender gap in mobile ownership in low- and middle-income countries, by region

Source: GSMA 2017
Conclusion

• Using ICT for Gender Equality in the Arab Region is challenging but the existing good practices give us hope.

• Using ICT to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, Goal 5 in specific, requires a detailed analysis of the targets from a technology perspective.

• Thus, the importance of the study on “Technology as a Renewed Hope to Achieving Gender Equality in the Arab Region: A Fact or Illusion?”
Thank You

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