

Dear Preetam Maloor,

Following HE Dr Toure letter dated 22 November 2013, Qatar Ministry of Information and Communications Technology "MICT" is happy to provide Qatar inputs on actions that have been undertaken or will be undertaken in relation to international internet related public policy issues.

Indeed, MICT considers that Internet's success and major role in the socio-economic developments worldwide is due to its multi-stakeholders nature and cooperative approach. Governments, service providers, businesses, researches and academia have contributed, all in their respective roles and responsibilities, to this achievement.

ITU has contributed also significantly to Internet growth through the development of global telecommunications standards. It resulted in the impressive list of accomplishments listed in ITU's Council Resolution 1305, Annex 1. To that regards, MiCT welcomes ITU focus on the international perspective of Internet related public policy issues, as opposed to technical policies implementation and/or day to day operation of the Internet.

Below are policies and initiatives which has been implemented by MICT:

- Combating Cybercrime :

MICT has established Qatar Computer Emergency Response Team (Q-CERT) in December 2005, in cooperation with the Carnegie Mellon's Software Engineering Institute (CERT Coordination Center). QCERT is a national, government-sponsored, organization setup under the auspices of Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology (ictQATAR).

- Availability, affordability, reliability, and quality of service, especially in the developing world :

Amongst the various missions of ictQATAR Regulatory Authority, it has to ensure that telecommunications services, including the internet, are available, affordable and offered with a high quality of service in all the state of Qatar.

MICT has also developed a program offering internet connectivity to the public, free of charge, in several parks throughout the country.

- Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries :

MICT is supporting the Arab Internet Governance Forum "AIGF" and actively participating to the Global Internet Government Forum "IGF".

Recently, an Internet Society chapter has been established also. It will represent the voice of the Qatari internet users community in the multi-stakeholder development of Qatar future Internet Policy.

- Development aspects of the Internet :

MICT closely follows the impact of the Internet and its governance on the progress of society through its "Internet and Society" department. This department is serving as a research hub for studying Internet technology, policy and economics. The overarching objective of the researches is to determine the most effective ways for individuals and businesses to benefit from ICT/Internet innovations.

- Respect for privacy and protection of personal information and data :

Data privacy and protection of personal information are paramount for Qatar. Qatar is currently developing a comprehensive legal framework to provide the highest protection standards to its citizens and residents.

- Protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation :

MICT is committed to helping people in Qatar stay safe online, with a primary focus on children.

Staying safe online requires the involvement of the entire community. MICT is working directly with teachers and parents to educate them about keeping their children safe online, while being smart in their own practices.

MICT Cyber Safety program is working closely with Q-CERT team to launch safespace.qa, a comprehensive online safety resource to help protect children online. This website provides educational games and tips, along with up-to-date information to help parents and teachers protect kids from cyber-bullying and other dangers. To further supplement these efforts, ictQATAR is creating a hotline for families and educators to report online threats and receive guidance on how to handle specific situations.

More globally, MICT supports ITU activities in all these areas at regional and international level. In that perspective, ITU should be the global platform to debate, discuss and agree on approaches and mechanisms related to Internet public policies which can foster great progress at a regional and international level.

MICT remains at your disposal should you need further information.

Best regards,  
Pascal Dutru

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