The 3rd Arab Forum

"Empowering Arab Women Through ICT"

Khartoum - Sudan

14-16 October 2014

"Recommendations"

We the participants at the 3rd Arab Forum on "Arab Women Empowerment through ICT" organized by the Arab ICT Organization 'AICTO' within the scope of its project "Empowering Arab Women through ICT" under the high patronage of **the Sudan first lady**, **Mrs. Widad Babiker**, President of Higher Council of the Arab Women Organization, and in partnership with the ministry of science and communications and the Islamic Development Bank Group, in Khartoum, Republic of the Sudan, 14-16 October 2014.

Considering the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS, Tunis November 2005) which emphasized the necessity to enable women in participating in the ICT sector and contribute to decision-making,

And within the scope of the 'Arab General Strategy for ICT – building the Information Society' which insists on "ensuring the global access and improving the quality of services by using ICT"

And the recommendation of the Arab Summit for social and economic development (Riyad, 21-22 January 2013) related to the

importance of pursuing efforts aiming at improving the organizational and legal framework likely to develop the skills and capacities of the Arab woman so that she contributes in the political, economic and social life at the same level as men,

and considering that :

- The right to e-access has become a basic human right,
- ICT helps women to play a major role and contribute to the development of the Arab region, and enable the development of a sustainable Information Society,
- The Arab women's access to the digital space is the basis of her access to the different fields of life,

We recommend the necessity to:

1. Bridge the gender digital divide by removing barriers impeding access to the technology which allows women to evolve, grow, and be autonomous.
2. Organize forums, conferences and specific training workshops for women in general and project initiators in particular, showing namely the role of the ICT means and tools in building knowledge and allowing women to be competitive.
3. Call upon all relevant parties to help Arab women wherever they are to develop their projects by using ICT and set up a guidebook related to business plan.
4. Ensure networking between project initiators and Arab business women through www.aicto.org
5. Work on disseminating the culture of project piloting between Arab women through social networks.
6. Promote e-marketing to increase income.
7. Encourage the presence of women's project leaders on the Net, namely the professional networks.
8. Evaluate and follow up business trainees through ICT within a year to follow up their project development and marketing through internet.

9. Encourage professional unions between project initiators and business women to help them develop their business.
10. Provide the Arab women in rural areas with the necessary ICT tools and relevant requirements.
11. Encourage Arab project initiators to use ICT safely so that they can play the expected role with high skills.
12. Give priority to and focus on gender surveys in the ICT field.
13. Generalize computer culture, and enable women of all classes to own and use ICT tools while using them adequately.