Consultation Document

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Digital Economy Policy

Date: October 2025 | Version: 1.0.0 | Ref: P00X

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The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), has designed and created this publication, entitled Digital Economy Policy, reference P00X (hereinafter referred to as the "Work"), primarily as a resource for public, private and third-sector organizations already engaged in, as well as those looking to participate in or invest in, the State of Qatar's digital economy.

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Legal Mandate

Pursuant to Article 17 of Amiri Decree No. 57 of 2021, the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) is vested with the authority to supervise, regulate, and drive the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Qatar. As part of this mandate, the MCIT will establish a regulatory framework designed to foster innovation, safeguard fair competition, and support the nation's broader development goals.

In accordance with the Amiri Decision No. (17) of 2024 the Digital Economy Department (DED) was established under MCIT. The DED is mandated to accelerate the growth of the nation's technological ecosystem through targeted policies, guidelines, and technical frameworks. As well as the DED is empowered to formulate and enforce policies pertaining to the Digital Economy that are fully aligned with Qatar's national strategies. These include enhancing ICT infrastructure and capabilities including connectivity and data, attracting foreign investment, supporting local entrepreneurs and increasing the Digital economy contribution to GDP.

Strategic Alignment

Qatar National Vision 2030		*Build a **skilled workforce*** *Foster innovation in a **knowledge-based economy*** *Leverage **advanced technologies** to support **sustainable development** and **economic growth***
Third National Development Strategy (2024 – 2030)	استراتيجية التنمية الوطنية National Development Strategy	***Develop Qatar's digital economy** and long-term strategic capabilities in AI and other emerging technologies* *Foster a vibrant business-led **innovation ecosystem*** *Accelerate private sector's **adoption of emerging tech*** ***Grow digital payments** through ecosystem integration*
Digital Agenda 2030	2030 الأجندة الرقمية Digital Agenda	***Establish a leading digital economy** powered by an attractive and efficient business environment with high-yield digital investments.* ***Advance SMEs & enterprises** digital transformation programs* *Establish **digital export support** program* *Develop **cross-border digital economy framework***

Document Summary

Name	Digital Economy Policy
Version	1.0.0
Document Reference	P00X
Document Type	Policy
Summary	This digital economy policy document aims to drive economic diversification and build a knowledge-based economy by enhancing digital skills, fostering innovation, and promoting digital transformation across key sectors like finance, healthcare, education, and logistics. It provides a strategic framework to develop a secure, inclusive, and globally competitive digital ecosystem.
Publishing Date	October 2025
Applicable To	All stakeholders in Qatar's digital ecosystem, including government, businesses, academia, and investors.
Owner	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT)
Contributors	Digital Industry Policies Department, Digital Economy Department

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Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APIs	Application Programming Interfaces
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
CI	Capital Investment
DA	Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030
DED	Digital Economy Department
DEP	Digital Economy Policy
EGDI	E-Government Development Index
EmTech	Emerging Technologies
FinTech	Financial Technology
FREI	Future Readiness Economic Index
GII	Global Innovation Index
GVA	Gross Value Added
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
InsurTech	Insurance and Technology
IoT	Internet of Things
MCIT	Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
MS	Market Signaling
NDS 3	Third National Development Strategy 2024 - 2030
OER	Open Educational Resources
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships

QFMP	Qatar Freight Master Plan
QNV	Qatar National Vision 2030
R&D	Research and Development
Reg	Regulations
RegTech	Regulatory Technology
SDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SupTech	Supervisory Technology
TI	Tax Incentive
TASMU	Qatar's Smart Nation Program focused on digital transformation and innovation
WCY	World Competitiveness Yearbook

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1. Executive Summary

This Policy is guided by the understanding that a comprehensive and forward-looking Digital Economy Policy is essential to **establishing a leading digital economy in Qatar** - built on **value-driven digital investment decisions, an attractive and efficient business environment,** and a **digitally empowered society.**

To achieve this, the Policy sets out eight strategic objectives designed to shape and guide decision-making at the national level. These include:

1. The adoption and integration of appropriate digital economy **regulations and legislative frameworks**.
2. Promoting an **innovation environment** that supports the adoption of emerging technologies.
3. Addressing the **digital skills gap** by attracting and fostering world-class talent.
4. Building on existing **digital infrastructure** to establish a robust and interoperable digital ecosystem that enables connectivity, scalability, and innovation for Qatari businesses.
5. Expanding **digital utilities** to create a robust foundation of platforms that underpin the digital economy.
6. Embedding transformative digital solutions into **business models** to enhance competitiveness.
7. Positioning Qatar's **digital sector** as a global innovation leader with a dynamic digital ecosystem.
8. To accelerate **integration of digital technologies across all sectors** of the economy to drive value creation.

This Policy recognizes that rapid technological advancements, such as artificial intelligence are continuously reshaping how organizations, individuals, and governments operate. Instead of focusing narrowly on specific technologies, this Policy is intentionally designed to remain technology neutral. Its goal is to foster a robust and flexible digital ecosystem that supports not only the adoption and advancement of today's technologies but also the emergence of next-generation solutions.

Ultimately, this Policy provides a unified framework to guide and coordinate digital efforts across public, private and third sectors. By aligning with international best practices and national development priorities, it ensures consistency, inclusivity, and strategic coherence, while extending the benefits of the digital economy to all communities in Qatar.

2. Introduction

Advancements in digital innovation and adoption continue to progress at an ever-increased pace, transforming industries, economies, and societies to the extent that it is commonly referred to as the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Digitally enabled businesses are projected to drive 70% of new value creation over the coming decade[1]. This fundamental change to the economy requires policy clarity and guidance, as the way in which businesses create new growth and value is central in delivering Qatar's National Vision.

For the purpose of this Policy, the definition developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is used to define the digital economy as:

> *"All economic activity reliant on, or significantly enhanced by the use of digital inputs, including digital technologies, digital infrastructure, digital services, and data; it refers to all producers and consumers, including government, that are utilizing these digital inputs in their economic activities"*[2]

This broad definition includes all producers and consumers — including governments — that incorporate digital inputs into their economic activities, and it is through this wide-ranging impact that the digital economy emerges as a **strategic enabler of national progress**, delivering value to the public, private and third sectors alike.

By strengthening connectivity across networks and enhancing the interoperability of digital platforms, the digital economy enables the seamless delivery of convergent services across various sectors. Moreover, it underpins industrial and national competitiveness by fostering innovation, supporting entrepreneurial, and enabling businesses of all sizes to adopt transformative digital solutions that boost productivity and open access to global markets. Together, these advances contribute to economic diversification, workforce development, and long-term economic sustainability.

[1] World Economic Forum. The Digital Economy. 2025. Available at: https://intelligence.weforum.org/topics/a1Gb0000001SH21EAG

[2] OECD https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66f50b2f30536cb92748274b/defining_and_measuring_the_uk_digital_economy.pdf

2.1 Qatar's Digital Economy Aspirations

The economic development of Qatar is guided by its National Vision 2030[3] (QNV 2030). From this, Qatar has embarked on its Third National Development Strategy[4] (NDS-3) supported by the Digital Agenda 2030[5] (DA 2030). These overarching strategic frameworks have positioned the digital economy as **a core enabler of sustainable development and economic diversification**, intended to reshape Qatar's economic landscape, foster innovation and support long-term development. National goals focused on **modernization, resilience, and economic sustainability** seek to position Qatar as a **regional digital leader,** acting as a catalyst for long-term prosperity. A key objective of NDS3 is to accelerate economic growth to an average of 4% per year to 2030, driven by expanding gas production and economic diversification. The digital economy will be a cornerstone for this vision.

Qatar's aspiration is to position itself as a **gateway business center** and a **regional hub** for the digital economy, enabling both local and international enterprises **to serve global markets** while providing an environment where innovators can **develop, test, and scale advanced digital solutions**. This ambition is anchored in world-class physical and digital infrastructure and reflects a national commitment to fostering high levels of digital adoption across all sectors of the economy and society. By doing so, Qatar seeks to harness technology as a driver of innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth, reinforcing its role as a leader in the regional and global digital economy.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) leads the nation's digital transformation efforts by nurturing innovation, supporting start-ups, and building a dynamic, robust digital ecosystem. This policy, rooted in international best practices, establishes a cohesive and structured approach for all stakeholders to contribute to Qatar's digital transformation objectives. Through collaboration and a shared commitment, Qatar aims to secure sustained digital economy growth and strengthen its role in the global digital ecosystem.

[3] The State of Qatar, *Qatar National Vision 2030*, https://www.gco.gov.qa/en/state-of-qatar/qatar-national-vision-2030/our-story/
[4] The State of Qatar, *Third National Development Strategy*, https://www.npc.qa/en/planning/nds3/Pages/default.aspx
[5] The State of Qatar, *Digital Agenda 2030*, https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/digital-agenda-2030/

2.2 Qatar's Offer & Digital Strengths

Globally, the digital economy is projected to grow three times faster than the overall economy, reaching $24 trillion – or 21% of global GDP - by 2025[6]. Almost 40% of the workforce globally will need retraining to meet the changing needs of the economy, driven by the green transition, digital expansion and demographic shifts[7]. The economy of the Middle East reflects this momentum and mirrors many of these changes, with the region's digital economy expected to quadruple, reaching $780 billion by 2030[8].

Qatar's digital economy is expected to account for a greater share of the national economy, enhancing its global competitiveness and market integration. **Key drivers** enabling this growth include **strategic partnerships** at both an international and regional level, the development of new **digital skills** programs, and **strengthened collaboration** within the region that are creating synergies and driving the exports of digital services.

Strategic investments have further reinforced Qatar's reputation as a leader in the digital economy, with initiatives such as *smart cities* (e.g., Lusail), *FinTech* innovations, and AI-driven solutions playing integral roles.

Together these partnerships, programs, and investments seek to increase the digital sector's **contribution to GDP**, **fostering innovation and entrepreneurship**, and supporting **economic sustainability goals**; creating a globally competitive business environment that fosters and incubates businesses, drives efficiencies, accelerates innovation, creating employment opportunities, sustainable economic growth.

In recent years, Qatar has made significant progress towards these objectives in growing and developing its digital economy, as evidenced by its improving performance in key global indices and rankings:

[6]Digital Cooperation Organization, *Digital Economy Trends 2025*, p. 8, https://dco.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Digital-Economy-Trends-2025.pdf

[7]World Economic Forum, *The Future of Jobs Report 2025*, https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/

[8] UBS. Middle East: *The next major digital frontier market within global tech*, https://www.ubs.com/qa/en/wealth-management/insights/2023/middle-east-the-next-major-digital-frontier.html#:~:text=Based%20on%20data%20from%20World,4.1%25%20of%20the%20region's%20economy.

- 49th in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, making it the third-fastest-improving nation in the innovation index globally[9].
- 11th in the World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2024, excelling in areas such as economic performance, government efficiency, and business efficiency[10].
- 53rd globally in the E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2024, moving from 78th, making Qatar the5th in terms of progress[11].
- 8th in the Digital Policies Sub-Pillar of the Future Readiness Economic Index (FREI) 2023[12], highlighting its progress in implementing advanced digital policies.
- 2nd in the world for mobile internet speeds nearly 511 Mbps and the entire population is covered by 5G and fiber connectivity[13].
- Ranked among the top globally in the International Telecommunication Union, ICT Development Index[14].

[9] WIPO, *Global Innovation Index 2024 - GII 2024 results,* https://www.wipo.int/web-publications/global-innovation-index-2024/en/gii-2024-results.html
[10] IMD, *WCR-Rankings,* https://www.imd.org/centers/wcc/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-competitiveness-ranking/rankings/wcr-rankings/#_ta
[11] United Nations, *UN E-Government Knowledge Base 2024,* https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data-Center
[12] B. Lanvin, *Future Readiness Economic Index - Digital Policies Are the Linchpin of Future Readiness*, https://futurereadinessindex.com/pdfs/Global%20Future%20Readiness%20FREI%20Report%20Descartes%20Institute%202023.pdf
[13] Ookla, *Speedtest Global Index — August 2025,* https://www.speedtest.net/global-index
[14] ITU, *ICT Development Index 2025*, https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/idi2025/

2.3 Policy Aspirations

To sustain momentum and fully realize its digital economy potential, **Qatar will continue its efforts on** addressing **barriers to growth**, innovation and competitiveness. These include:

- **Scale**: Expand the reach of Qatari enterprises beyond the domestic and regional markets to improve scale.
- **Risk-aversion**: Foster a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, where experimentation and calculated risk are embraced as drivers of growth.
- **Funding:** Advance the development of a mature funding landscape that supports investment into early-stage and established enterprises by expanding access to capital and strengthening Qatar's network of professional investors and support services.
- **Market Entry:** Improve ease of entry and reducing regulatory obstacles for start-ups and digital businesses to access and grow in the Qatari market.
- **Status quo inertia:** Promote a culture of continuous transformation and proactive change, fostering organizational agility and readiness to adopt transformational technologies.
- **Talent and Skills:** Strengthen the digital talent pool by easing barriers that limit the attraction and retention of highly skilled digital talent.

This Policy aims to address the barriers to growth outlined above, and to realize the opportunities presented by a growing digital economy. Combined, this policy outlines policy goals and priority interventions which seek to advance the following aspirations:

- Increase private sector involvement in the economy
- Link knowledge between research institutions and industries
- Broaden commercialization of emerging technologies
- Upskill and attracting the best digital talent to Qatar
- Advance financial technology
- Bolster areas of competitive advantage

3. Guiding Principles

The Digital Economy Policy is underpinned by the following **guiding principles** which collectively aim to address existing challenges and unlock digital economy growth:

3.1 **Global Leadership:** Commit to positioning Qatar as a global leader in digital economy transformation, delivering world-class outcomes across both public and private sectors.

3.2 **Clear Communication of Aspiration:** Ensure that the goals and scope of the digital economy policy are clearly and consistently communicated, both domestically and internationally.

3.3 **Focus on Foundational Enablers:** Prioritize investment in the core enablers of a digital economy, such as connectivity, skills, innovation, regulation, and digital trust, to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

3.4 **Strategic Alignment:** Align the policy with existing and planned national strategies, ensuring coherence between long-term vision and short-term implementation.

3.5 **Policy as a Guiding Framework:** Provide a clear and central reference point for stakeholders - government, industry, and society - on Qatar's digital economy objectives and direction.

3.6 **Balanced Trade-Offs:** Acknowledge and manage the trade-offs between rapid digital transformation and social inclusion, ensuring that all residents can benefit and adapt to technological change.

3.7 **Long-Term Vision:** Establish a forward-looking digital economy vision that complements and informs shorter-term, delivery-oriented strategies and initiatives.

3.8 **Anchored in Qatari Values:** Ground the digital economy policy in Qatar's unique cultural identity, constitutional framework, and long-term national aspirations, leveraging the country's distinct strengths and opportunities.

3.9 **Future-Oriented:** Anticipate emerging trends, technologies, and global shifts to ensure Qatar remains agile, competitive, and resilient in an evolving digital landscape.

4. Strategic Policy Objectives

The Digital Economy Policy reinforce Qatar's Digital Agenda 2030 vision of **embracing digital advancement to drive Qatar's competitiveness and prosperity.** It outlines how Qatar will **establish a leading digital economy** - built on **value-driven digital investment decisions, an attractive and efficient business environment,** and a **digitally empowered society.**

The Policy seeks to support this vision by delivering on the following strategic objectives:

4.1 Governance and legislative framework: Establish a clear, agile, and enabling policy and **legislative environment** that promotes stakeholder coordination, accelerates adoption of both mature and emerging technologies, and balances innovation with robust governance.

4.2 Innovation & EmTech ecosystems: Promote an effective and supportive **innovation environment** which cultivates high-impact, high-growth businesses, that supports the strategic adoption of **emerging technologies** that solve national innovation challenges.

4.3 Digital skills & talent: Address critical **digital skills gaps** to position Qatar as a global hub for world-class tech talent by attracting, retaining, and fostering a sustainable pipeline of advanced tech skills in areas such as data science, cyber security, and AI among others.

4.4 Digital infrastructure: Strengthen Qatar's world-leading **digital infrastructure** by maintaining and building upon Qatar's investments in high-speed internet access, cloud computing, and secure data systems; to establish a fully interoperable digital ecosystem.

4.5 Digital utilities: Develop and support robust public and commercial foundational platforms that deliver secure, inclusive, and interoperable **digital utilities** that underpin sustained growth and innovation across the digital economy.

4.6 Digital business models: Encourage and foster new **business models** which embed transformative digital solutions into their value chain, enhancing competitiveness in local and global markets.

4.7 Digital sector: Position Qatar's **digital sector** as a global innovation leader, fostering a dynamic ecosystem that creates high-value jobs, drives high-growth enterprises, and attracts international digital innovators.

4.8 Digitalized sectors: Accelerate the **digitalization and integration** of digital technologies across all sectors, to drive value generation, competitiveness, and efficiencies across all industries within the economy.

In delivering on the strategic objectives set out above, Qatar will be well-positioned to achieve its long-term vision of becoming a global leader in the digital economy.

5. Digital Economy Policy Framework

The Digital Economy Policy uses a mission-based framework to ensure that it addresses all components of the digital economy. Ultimately, to move forward and achieve national goals, the policy articulates missions which describe a future state of Qatar for ***digital economy drivers*** and the ***priority sectors***. These act as layers within the economy which interact as shown in Figure 1.

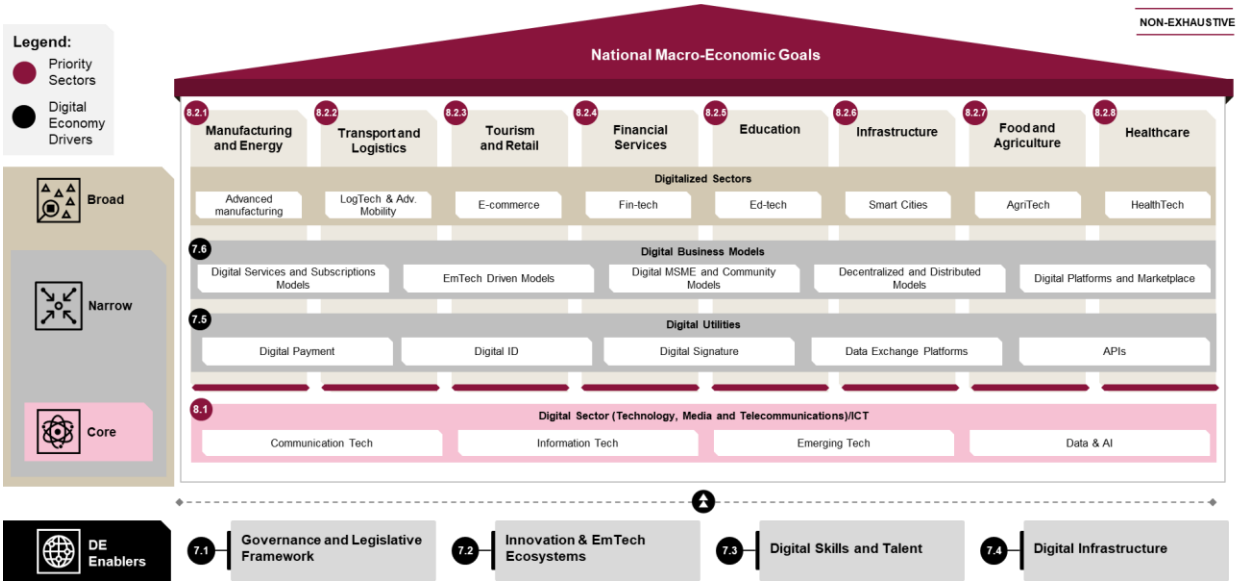

Figure 1: The structure of the digital economy drivers and priority sectors within the digital economy

To better understand the structure presented in Figure 1, the layers of the policy framework are explained below:

Priority Sectors for Growth and Digitalization

1. **Digital Sector (Core) -** Covers technology, media, and telecommunications. These constitute the *core* of the digital economy, as defined by the OECD, and represent the infrastructure and base industries from which all other layers emerge.

2. **Digitalized Sectors (Broad) -** Traditional economic sectors that are being transformed through digital adoption. It demonstrates how digital transformation permeates the wider economy and drives productivity, efficiency, and new forms of growth.

Digital Economy Drivers

3. **Digital Utilities (Narrow) -** Fundamental services that enable digital transactions, interoperability and trust – such as Digital ID, digital payments, and data exchange platforms. They are considered *narrow* components of the digital economy, as they build directly on the *core* and act as shared infrastructure for broader economic activity.
4. **Digital Business Models (Narrow) -** The transformation of how enterprises operate, create and deliver value in the digital economy. These business models capture how innovation reshapes commerce and industry in practice.
5. **Digital Economy Enablers –** The essentials that enable the digital economy to function, expand and achieve sustainable growth. These include:
    - **Governance and Legislative Framework** – ensuring clarity, stability, and trust in the rules that govern the digital economy.
    - **Innovation and Emerging Technology Ecosystems** – fostering research, entrepreneurship, and collaboration to drive continuous digital innovation.
    - **Digital Skills and Talent** – building the human capital necessary to lead and sustain digital transformation.
    - **Digital Infrastructure** – ensuring resilient, secure, and advanced infrastructure to underpin digital services and growth.

Together, these layers create a comprehensive framework for Qatar's Digital Economy Policy. The structure shows how core technologies evolve into utilities, then into business models, and finally into sector-wide transformation, all underpinned by enabling conditions and guided by national macro-economic goals.

6. Policy Scope and Application

The provisions of this Policy are applicable to:

- **Government entities** which have influence over or will be interacting with the digital economy.
- **Regulatory bodies** while executing their duties in relation to the digital economy.
- **Public sector institutions** that are responsible for digital transformation initiatives.
- **Private enterprises,** including multinational corporations, startups, SMEs operating in the digital economy.
- **Research institutions and universities**: which are engaged in digital innovation, workforce development, and technological advancement.
- **Investors and international stakeholders:** who invest and participate in the digital economy.
- **Individuals and communities:** which interact with digital platforms and services.

The remainder of this Policy describes individual Government Policy Goals and priority policy interventions which the MCIT and other entities will seek to progress across each of the digital economy drivers and priority sectors *(as outlined in Figure 1)*. These are separated into three roles, as outlined below:

- **Deliver:** It is incumbent on MCIT to actively lead, manage and run the initiative.
- **Drive:** To proactivity encourage and support other actors to convene and work towards achieving the objective
- **Support:** To be reactive in supporting actors to deliver on the stated objective.

These priority policy interventions form the framework within which the MCIT and its partners will operate, setting out clear ways of working and guiding principles.

This Policy goes on to outline which arms of Government and industry will be involved in delivering the vision set out herein.

7. Digital Economy Policy Drivers

The success of any digital economy rests on the foundational drivers that underpin its competitiveness. Collectively, these foundational drivers foster an environment conducive to successful digital businesses and innovation. They form the backbone upon which businesses can innovate, scale, and compete both locally and globally. By strategically investing in these key drivers, Qatar will empower enterprises, nurture talent, and create sustainable pathways for inclusive economic growth and technological advancement.

The following section explores these digital economy drivers, as outlined in figure 1, describing what success looks like and what activities the Government of Qatar will do to deliver change:

7.1 Governance and legislative framework

7.1.1 Policy mission:

Qatar is globally recognized as a leading digital economy, characterized by a collaborative, pro-business environment, agile and clear regulations, and a dynamic legislative framework. This provides an effective environment for companies to innovate, scale rapidly, and successfully commercialize and export emerging digital technologies.

Qatar recognizes that the current regulatory landscape governing the digital economy involves multiple entities and lacks a clearly defined central custodian. By fostering coordination via clear governmental and legislative frameworks, stakeholders within the digital economy can ensure consistency in achieving national digital transformation goals. Agile regulation which considers the needs of an innovative environment can be achieved in tandem with safeguards in data privacy and consumer protection.

7.1.2 Policy goals:

7.1.2.1. **Enhanced Collaboration and Coordination:** Qatar fosters joined-up thinking across government entities, clarifies institutional roles and responsibilities, and builds strategic partnerships with industry leaders and community stakeholders, to inform and support effective policymaking, promote innovation, and drive successful implementation of digital economy initiatives.

7.1.2.2. **Pro-Business & Innovation Environment:** Qatar maintains an agile, transparent, and pro-business and innovation regulatory environment that supports business growth, reduces barriers to entry, accelerates technology adoption, encourages investment, and robustly safeguards consumer rights and data privacy.

7.1.2.3. **Effective Regulatory & Innovation Sandboxes:** Qatar offers regulatory and innovation sandboxes across strategic sectors enabling controlled, safe experimentation, rapid innovation, and accelerated commercialization of emerging technologies.

7.1.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.1.3.1. **Deliver:** Ensure coordinated policy development through enhanced information sharing and strong strategic alignment by involving key government entities, industry experts, and community stakeholders. Together, this will improve policy making agility and responsiveness.

7.1.3.2. **Drive**: Develop and institutionalize an evidence-based, anticipatory and agile regulatory approach, enabling the systemic assessment, revision, and development of regulations, policies and frameworks that underpin the digital economy – including areas such as intellectual property, procurement, business enablement, and emerging technologies.

7.1.3.3. **Support:** Actively encouraging industry to innovate by broadening the scope and accessibility of regulatory and innovation sandboxes across priority technology sectors, and providing clear guidance that facilitates experimentation, learning, and accelerated commercialization.

7.2 Innovation and emerging technology ecosystems

7.2.1 Policy mission:

Qatar is renowned for its vibrant innovation ecosystem that nurtures businesses through strategic support and collaboration. National innovation opportunities and challenges are driven and solved by a culture that encourages research, bold ideas and the adoption of emerging technologies.

Qatar has made significant progress in developing its innovation ecosystem through the establishment of various innovation and research hubs – strengthening its position in the regional innovation ecosystem. Despite these achievements, Qatar recognizes that inefficiencies and fragmented efforts have limited its ability to meet the R&D investment levels of other advanced

economies both regionally and internationally[15].

The success of a robust innovation ecosystem hinges on fostering collaboration – such as strengthening links between research and industry - and providing strategic support to businesses, underpinned by a mature funding landscape that expands access to capital and mentorship.

Qatar is committed to enhancing its innovation ecosystem that sets the stage for empowered businesses to thrive both locally and internationally. Emphasizing innovation as a cornerstone enables Qatar to position itself prominently on the world stage, continuously driving forward the boundaries of technological progress.

7.2.2 Policy goals:

7.2.2.1. **Effective and collaborative innovation environment:** Qatar fosters an innovation environment that promotes strong collaboration and partnerships between government, industry, innovators, start-ups, research institutes, and academia. This environment drives solutions to national innovation challenges, ensures that R&D outputs are translated into practical value, and strengthens growth in emerging technologies and the broader digital economy.

7.2.2.2. **Promote growth of high-value enterprises:** Qatar drives growth in high-value enterprises, particularly those at the innovation frontier in priority sectors by providing incentives and support, thereby creating a robust ecosystem where innovation is commercialized and technology is adopted at scale.

7.2.2.3. **Regional and global digital competitiveness:** Qatar boasts a culture of innovation, risk taking, and growth, celebrating failures as much as successes and benefiting from a depth of innovation actors across funding, research, and entrepreneurship - making the country's industries globally competitive in a digital age.

7.2.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.2.3.1. **Drive:** Expand the role of digital innovation hubs and associated incubator activities in driving a culture of research and innovation, accelerating the adoption of emerging technologies and broader leadership in digital solutions.

7.2.3.2. **Drive:** Explore cross-border digital trade frameworks and agreements to enhance

[15] World Bank, "Research and development expenditure (% of GDP) | Data," data.worldbank.org. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/GB.XPD.RSDV.GD.ZS?most_recent_value_desc=true

international cooperation, enabling seamless data flows, and promote digital trade.

7.2.3.3. **Support:** Strengthen pathways for local technology enterprises to emerge and scale effectively — through access to markets, diverse sources of financing, mentorship, expertise and global partnerships.

7.3 Digital skills and talent

7.3.1 Policy mission:

Qatar is positioned as a global leader in digital talent, attracting, retaining and nurturing world-class expertise. By fostering a talented workforce and sustainable skill pool, Qatar boasts an environment where advanced digital skills thrive, cementing its position at the forefront of the global digital economy.

Developing and maintaining a competitive edge in the global digital landscape requires a strategic approach to cultivating digital talent. By setting a proactive stance in addressing digital skills gaps, Qatar sets it apart as a leader in digital expertise. An environment that attracts and nurtures top-tier expertise not only fills current skills gaps but also ensures a sustainable talent pipeline for the future. Continuous investment in the development and support of digital talent will further Qatar towards its vision of being a leading digital hub.

7.3.2 Policy goals:

7.3.2.1. **Digital skills development:** Qatar fosters homegrown digital talent by upskilling its workforce, addressing critical gaps in digital talent, strengthening organizational readiness (including human capabilities, culture and leadership), and providing an attractive business environment for tech talent to prosper.

7.3.2.2. **Digital talent attraction:** Qatar attracts and retains top global digital talent and entrepreneurial minds, positioned as a regional hub for world-class talent that supports its digital transformation and economic diversification goals.

7.3.2.3. **Digital society:** Qatar has established a culture of life-long learning and digital inclusion across all stages of life, supercharging the growth of a knowledge-based digital society and ensuring that all residents benefit from the country's digital transformation.

7.3.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.3.3.1. **Deliver:** Establish fit-for-purpose digital talent training pathways to cultivate homegrown digital expertise, ensuring the long-term retention of top professionals, and addressing critical gaps in digital talent.

7.3.3.2. **Deliver:** Implement programs that enhance the recruitment and retention of top global digital talent by offering attractive visa options, incentives and employment packages.

7.3.3.3. **Drive:** Expand and tailor existing public sector upskilling programs to industry and other stakeholder groups, working with local and international academic institutions. These programs will go beyond technical training to also build the soft skills needed to effectively adopt and scale emerging technologies.

7.4 Digital infrastructure

7.4.1 Policy mission:

Qatar will sustain and continuously advance world-leading digital infrastructure, anchored in next-generation connectivity, resilient telecommunications networks, advanced data centers, and secure physical systems. This will strengthen its digital sovereignty and proactively provide the foundational backbone needed for an attractive, thriving and fully interoperable digital ecosystem.

In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, advanced digital infrastructure is essential for maintaining an international competitive economy. Building on Qatar's world leading digital and physical infrastructure, the Government will continue to invest in technology infrastructure excellence (including but not limited to advanced compute capacity, sovereign/trusted cloud platforms, and sustainable data centers) to enable an innovative and fully interoperable digital ecosystem. In doing so, Qatar will reinforce its position as a global leader in digital connectivity and infrastructure, while stimulating widespread use of these capabilities by researchers, industry, and society.

7.4.2 Policy goals:

7.4.2.1. **Advanced digital infrastructure**: Qatar continues to advance a resilient, cutting-edge digital infrastructure that underpins the growth of its digital economy and empowers innovation across all sectors.

7.4.2.2. **Digital adoption and awareness:** Digital adoption and penetration by residents is widespread and supported by a robust infrastructure network that prioritizes affordability and accessibility. Businesses and individuals leverage the breadth of digital infrastructure and services available to them, with the public sector's digital integration serving as a model to encourage private sector innovation.

7.4.2.3. **Government infrastructure interoperability:** Qatar maintains a fully interoperable data sharing and government ecosystem that delivers public services and streamlines government-business and government-citizen interactions.

7.4.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.4.3.1. **Support:** Continuously invest in cutting-edge digital infrastructure to stay ahead of the growing shifts and demands of emerging technologies, advanced research, and sector-wide digital innovation.

7.4.3.2. **Deliver:** Establish a fully digital and interoperable government ecosystem that delivers public services and supports government operational excellence.

7.4.3.3. **Drive:** Encourage demand and use of Qatar's digital infrastructure by promoting awareness of available digital services and creating programs/incentives for the private sector, research institutions, and international companies to make use of national infrastructure capabilities for innovation, resilience, growth and enhanced market access.

7.5 Digital utilities

7.5.1 Policy mission:

Qatar commits to developing and sustaining robust digital utilities - user-centric platforms, digital services, and applications - that ensure secure, inclusive, and seamless interoperability, unlocking opportunities for innovation and accelerated growth across the nation's digital economy.

Robust digital utilities - such as digital ID, digital payments, digital signature, APIs, data exchange platforms, open data portals - are crucial for driving digital transformation. These utilities act as critical enablers of the digital economy, providing the trust, scalability, and interoperability needed for digital solutions to be adopted across sectors.

Realizing the full potential of digital utilities in Qatar – including state-enabled and private solutions – requires expanding their availability, enhancing their sophistication, and increasing adoption across all sectors. By doing so, Qatar will create an environment where businesses and the public sector can innovate rapidly, deliver more efficient services, and capture new opportunities in the digital economy.

7.5.2 Policy goals:

7.5.2.1. **Trust and advanced digital utilities:** Qatar develops and delivers a comprehensive range of sophisticated state-enabled digital utilities that are trusted, easy to access/use, inclusive and interoperable.

7.5.2.2. **Widespread adoption:** Qatari industry and government adopts digital utilities across all sectors of the economy to drive improvements in digitalization of businesses and improve customer experience.

7.5.2.3. **Comprehensive ecosystem:** Qatar benefits from a diverse marketplace of commercial digital utilities that complement state-enabled platforms.

7.5.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.5.3.1. **Drive:** Develop and enhance the maturity of state-owned digital utility offerings, ensuring they address the needs of government, businesses, and society.

7.5.3.2. **Drive:** Accelerates the use of digital utilities across the economy by institutionalizing their consistent use within government and state-owned entities, while simultaneously promoting uptake in the private sector and wider society through awareness, incentives, and seamless usability.

7.5.3.3. **Support:** Encourage the introduction and use of essential commercial digital utilities (e.g. payment solutions, cloud utilities, business service utilities etc.) by attracting trusted international providers to expand services to Qatar, thereby supporting the wider Qatari technology ecosystem.

7.6 Digital business models

7.6.1 Policy mission:

Qatar champions innovative digital business models where enterprises adopt transformative digital solutions, enhancing competitiveness, adaptability, and resilience in local and global markets, and driving sustained economic growth and a dynamic business environment.

The reinvention of traditional business models into digital models will enable enterprises in Qatar to move beyond physical constraints and scale through platforms, services, and ecosystems that exist in the digital economy. By fostering these models, Qatar can strengthen competitiveness in regional and global markets, create new markets for SMEs and startups to participate in value creation, and unlock growth opportunities. These digital-native models not only diversify the economy but also enhance resilience by allowing enterprises to remain agile and responsive to changing market demands and global dynamics.

7.6.2 Policy goals:

7.6.2.1. **Digital norm:** Qatari businesses and consumers operate in an environment where digital business models are the norm.

7.6.2.2. **Unique business models:** Qatar's business environment creates the conditions that continually champion new and competitive digital business models which are recognized both globally and regionally as leading.

7.6.2.3. **Scale and agility:** Qatari businesses leverage new technologies, solutions and value creation models to flex and scale quickly based on changing market conditions.

7.6.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

7.6.3.1. **Deliver:** Continue to provide financial support and incentives to businesses undertaking digital transformation, with a focus on enabling the adoption and growth of digital business models.

7.6.3.2. **Support:** Release new guidance and market signaling to encourage mature and well-established firms to engage in business model reinvention, by investing in and adopting new digital business models.

7.6.3.3. **Deliver:** Enhance digital business models by continuing to operate high-impact accelerator programs which further the integration of new business processes into the digital economy and ultimately bolster scale and agility.

8. Priority Sectors for Growth and Digitalization

To drive inclusive economic growth and position Qatar as a global leader in digital innovation, several priority sectors have been identified for accelerated digitalization and technology adoption. These sectors, selected for their strategic potential and transformative impact. Increased digitalization within these priority sectors will boost productivity, improve service delivery, enhance competitiveness, and unlock new opportunities for sustainable economic development.

8.1 Digital sector (Technology, Media and Telecommunication)

8.1.1 Policy mission:

Qatar establishes its digital sector as a global industry leader, boasting dynamic and globally competitive digital businesses, high-value jobs, and high-growth enterprises. This propels and accelerates the digitalization of all sectors of the economy, reinforcing Qatar's position as digital leader.

By fostering and supporting a core digital sector, Qatar can both further the development of a digital ecosystem and unlock productivity growth across all other sectors of the economy. Through actively seeking partnerships in the sector, developing an environment conducive to and maintaining support and incentives for high-value digital jobs and businesses, Qatar could establish itself as a global industry leader in the digital sector.

8.1.2 Policy goals:

8.1.2.1. **Digital value:** Qatar's digital sector continues to grow and mature, moving up the value chain with a renewed focus on developing high-value digital products, tools and solutions across key digital industries such as digital media and creative, emerging technologies, and cyber security.

8.1.2.2. **Digital exports:** Qatari's globally competitive digital businesses export their knowledge and services globally, generating significant export earnings.

8.1.2.3. **Industry strengths:** Qatar is positioned as a globally recognized industry leader, leveraging its strengths as a hub for priority industries, including fintech, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, smart-city technologies, and digital media; attracting international investment and driving economic prosperity.

8.1.3 Priority Policy Interventions:

8.1.3.1. **Deliver:** Continuously engage with industry stakeholders to identify and articulate Qatar's competitive advantages within targeted digital industries, assessing strengths and areas for improvement.

8.1.3.2. **Deliver:** MCIT to effectively implement the Digital Economy Department Strategy, prioritizing actions aimed at fostering the growth and development of digital SMEs and startups.

8.1.3.3. **Support:** Actively support and facilitate foreign direct investment in Qatar's digital sector, promoting both greenfield (new operations) and brownfield (partnerships and acquisitions) investment opportunities.

8.2 Sector digitalization

8.2.1 Policy mission:

Qatar drives value creation, competitiveness, and efficiency by strategically digitalizing priority sectors of the economy and embedding advanced digital technologies to enhance productivity and innovation. This solidifies Qatar's leadership in digital transformation, positioning key industries for sustained growth and global competitiveness.

In tandem with the core digital sector itself, Qatar must focus on digital transformation within the broader economy. The embedding of advanced digital technologies has the potential to drive growth in non-hydrocarbon industries on a large scale, especially given the increasingly widespread and pervasive nature of new and emerging technologies.

This Policy has identified eight sectors in which increasing digitalization efforts would further national goals. The priority sectors are:

1. Energy and Manufacturing
2. Transport and Logistics
3. Tourism and Retail
4. Financial Services
5. Infrastructure
6. Education
7. Food and Agriculture
8. Healthcare

8.2.2 Cross-cutting policy goals:

- **Advanced digital adoption**: Qatar has embedded digital technologies across all sectors of its economy, including emerging technologies, which underpins a responsive and agile economy. Digitalization efforts are guided by national and sector-specific priorities, addressing gaps and driving achievement of sector objectives.

- **Enhanced productivity through digitalization:** Qatar's priority sectors enhance their productivity through efficient and effective digitalization of their respective value chains, leveraging technology to proactively drive sustained productivity gains.

- **Enhance competitiveness internationally:** Leading Qatari businesses across all sectors of the economy are globally competitive; recognized for their embedded approach to digital innovation, adoption, adaptability, and dynamism.

8.2.3 Energy and Manufacturing

Integration of digital solutions into the energy and manufacturing sector has significant potential to increase both efficiencies and the productive capacity of Qatar due to the outsized role of energy exports in the economy. Using new technologies available to create a dynamic energy sector will not only create high-skilled jobs and boost export earnings, but will also act as a buffer to shield against any international economic shocks, ultimately bolstering the national economy.

8.2.3.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Accelerate the research, development, and deployment of digital technologies and digitalization within the energy sector by encouraging collaboration that brings together manufacturers, technology companies, and academic institutions.
- **Deliver:** Explore the viability of introducing national standards and best practices for the governance and adoption of emerging technologies into the supply chain and production processes of the energy and manufacturing sector.
- **Support:** Encourage public-private partnerships to foster collaborative R&D initiatives which increase commercialization through digitalization, including innovative applications such as digital twin simulations, predictive analytics, machine learning, and AI in manufacturing processes.

8.2.4 Transport and Logistics

The expansion of the transport and logistics sectors through improved digital optimizations has enormous potential to strengthen Qatar's position as a global hub for shipping, transportation, and logistical services. Increased and targeted digitalization will additionally have a positive effect across other sectors, as the importing and exporting of goods would see cost efficiency increases, ultimately bolstering the economic environment.

A future-focused strategy that uses digital solutions to proactively monitor the supply chain, advance economic diversification, attract international trade and investment, and

improve the movement of goods and people would reinforce Qatar's global competitiveness in sustainable and cost-effective logistics solutions.

8.2.4.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Increase digitalization of freight systems to develop a transport and logistics ecosystem which uses both established and emerging technologies to enable data-driven decision-making and operational efficiency.
- **Drive:** Encourage the creation of a digital monitoring platform using advanced analytics to track real-time logistics performance indicators, identify efficiency gaps, and proactively improve Qatar's global logistics ranking and resilience.
- **Support:** Promote the Qatari logistics sector as a globally competitive, digitally enabled intermodal freight network which fosters technical adoption and seamlessly integrates across land, sea, and air modes of transport to provide support in broader economic diversification and global trade competitiveness.

8.2.5 Tourism and Retail

Qatar's comprehensive plan to transform the nation into one of the world's leading tourism destinations could be furthered through the integration of globally competitive, technology-driven enhancements to better engage visitors in the Qatar experience. By leveraging emerging technologies such as AI-driven personalization, immersive AR/VR experiences, and advanced e-commerce platforms, the development of a digitally interconnected commercial ecosystem could attract a diverse global audience and stimulate investment.

In doing so, Qatar aims to create a future-ready tourism and retail landscape that enhances economic growth and delivers world-class digital experiences by embracing innovation.

8.2.5.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Promote a "digital-first" approach to tourism and retail services and consider incentives for digital experience and peer-to-peer platforms such as social commerce or accommodation sharing to diversify income sources, increase travel affordability, and strengthen local economic activity.
- **Support:** Foster public-private partnerships to facilitate collaboration between technology firms, travel operators, and retail stakeholders to empower the industry to develop diverse tourism experiences and product offerings which reinforce Qatar's position as a premier international destination.
- **Deliver:** Explore workforce development programs which ensure that skilled retail professionals capable of driving innovation are both trained and attracted to the tourism sector, to add valuable perspective to new product offerings.

8.2.6 Financial Services

To become a leading provider of financial services and international investment globally, Qatar must embrace and provide an environment conducive to technologically driven financial solutions. By strategically integrating established and emerging technologies such as AI, blockchain, and open banking, Qatar can expand financial accessibility and enhance operational efficiency within its financial sector. Commitment to the forefront of financial activities requires commitment to global best practices within a digitally dynamic and competitive system. Ultimately, this will attract international investments and reinforce the nation's financial position.

8.2.6.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Promote financial inclusion for broader access to cashless payment solutions and digital financial services to enable all citizens, residents and businesses to participate in the digital finance economy.
- **Deliver:** Enable the creation of decentralized financial services through the facilitation of emerging technology solutions such as blockchain, while adopting regulatory measures to maintain financial stability, transaction transparency, and security.

- **Support:** Encourage collaboration in R&D for the commercialization of advanced tech solutions in InsurTech, RegTech, and SupTech, supporting scalable, secure, and data-driven financial services that improve compliance, risk management, and operational resilience to ensure that Qatar acts as a hub globally for the integration of Em-tech solutions into the financial sector.

8.2.7 Infrastructure

The integration of digital technologies into urban infrastructure will enable Qatar to advance its economic diversification agenda while elevating quality of life through smart cities and smart living. By deploying AI, IoT, and advanced data analytics, Qatar can optimize resource efficiency in energy, mobility, and waste management, enhance urban planning and service delivery, and create citizen-centered, future-ready communities.

Building interconnected and resilient urban environments will not only support the needs of Qatar's rapidly expanding cities, but also attract international investment, accelerate innovation ecosystems, and position the nation as a global leader in sustainable city design and digitally enabled urban infrastructure.

8.2.7.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive**: Accelerate the deployment of IoT infrastructure to enhance smart city capabilities, integrating intelligent transport systems, energy management solutions, and data-driven urban planning tools to improve efficiency, sustainability, and quality of life to position Qatar's cities as leaders in urban capabilities.

- **Support:** Enable data-driven urban management through policies that facilitate the collection, processing, and utilization of real-time data, optimizing public services such as waste management, traffic flow, and emergency response systems.

- **Support:** Explore energy-efficient systems, including smart grids and technology-powered energy management, to facilitate renewable energy adoption, decentralized energy trading, and compliance with sustainability standards.

8.2.8 Education

Creating an advanced educational system that promotes creativity and innovation while meeting international standards can be bolstered and delivered via digitalization. Ensuring that upcoming generations have the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed at any stage in life can be fostered in tandem with labor market demands, recognition of digital pedagogy, enabled by an eco-system of innovative research.

8.2.8.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Explore the modernization of the education curriculum by integrating emerging technology, digital resources, and interactive methodologies to equip students with future-ready skills.
- **Deliver:** Strengthen and constantly evaluate the alignment between higher education provision and workforce skills demands and embed advanced research capabilities, innovation programs, and industry-relevant skills into learning pathways.
- **Support:** Expand lifelong learning opportunities and open educational resources by promoting flexible learning models and ensuring that teachers operate in an environment where upskilling programs, stakeholder collaborations, and continuous professional development are supported and cherished.

8.2.9 Food and Agriculture

The integration of advanced technology into agriculture and food production can greatly further Qatar’s goals to develop an agriculture sector that is effective, self-sustaining, and meets Qatar's ongoing food security needs. Through the support and use of emerging technology, Qatar will build a robust food ecosystem which balances economic growth with environmental conservation. This approach will proactively tackle over-dependence on imports, foster domestic innovation, and stimulate a competitive market which facilitates Qatar’s position as a regional pioneer in desert agricultural technology and investment.

8.2.9.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Support:** Proactively strengthen sustainability in agriculture, minimize environmental impact, and reduce food waste through the use of technology.
- **Drive:** Build on current initiatives in Qatar to drive investment and technological progress in horticultural techniques such as indoor vertical farming and support the broader primary economy.
- **Drive:** Foster partnerships between Ministerial Departments, State Owned Entities, and independent arms of Government to create investment opportunities in Agri-Tech and create a pro-agricultural business environment that is competitive and leading on the international stage.[16]

8.2.10 Healthcare

The adoption of emerging health-tech solutions will drive the development of a sophisticated healthcare ecosystem in Qatar, advancing personalized medicine, preventative care, and clinical excellence.

Advanced data analytics, cloud computing, and innovative digital service models, can aid in delivering the health outcomes that Qatar envisions, while lowering operational expenditures and increasing equitable access to high quality medical services. Ensuring interoperability of health data and secure exchange across providers will be key to delivering integrated, patient-centered care, while upskilling healthcare professionals in digital competencies will maximize the impact of these technologies. In doing so, Qatar will strengthen health system efficiency and resilience, while advancing excellence in service delivery and patient experience, and reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and innovation in healthcare.

8.2.10.1 Priority Policy Interventions:

- **Drive:** Promote inclusive digital health technologies that empower patients – such as AI-driven accessibility tools, adaptive hardware, and assistive software - to ensure healthcare services are accessible to all individuals, including those with

[16] Invest Qatar, "AGRITECH IN QATAR," Oct. 2024. Available: https://www.invest.qa/storage/6129/Agritech-in-Qatar.pdf

disabilities.

- **Support:** Advance the standardization and integration of electronic health records across all levels of care to ensure data quality, interoperability, and security, enabling system-level analytics, informed decision-making, and improved continuity of patient-centered care under a unified governance framework.
- **Drive:** Advance excellence in digital health research, innovation, and the adoption of emerging technologies – such as precision medicine and AI-driven healthcare solutions – while fostering international collaborations and investments in the health-tech ecosystem, thereby strengthening Qatar's regional and global positioning.

9. Roles and Responsibilities

The digital economy operates within a dynamic, complex, and interconnected environment, presenting unique challenges that cannot be addressed by any single entity in isolation. Effective delivery of Qatar's Digital Economy Policy thus requires a coordinated, whole-of-government and industry-wide approach, fostering collaboration across various sectors and governmental entities.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) will play a central coordinating role, ensuring alignment across ministries and harmonizing digital economy efforts. Given the cross-sectoral nature of digital transformation, collaboration among government ministries, regulators, state-owned enterprises, and industry stakeholders is critical.

Outlined below is a non-exhaustive stakeholder mapping diagram illustrating the roles and responsibilities of key partners in driving and supporting the digital economy policy priorities. Each identified stakeholder has a distinct and essential role, collectively contributing to the successful realization of the policy's objectives and Qatar's overall digital transformation ambitions.

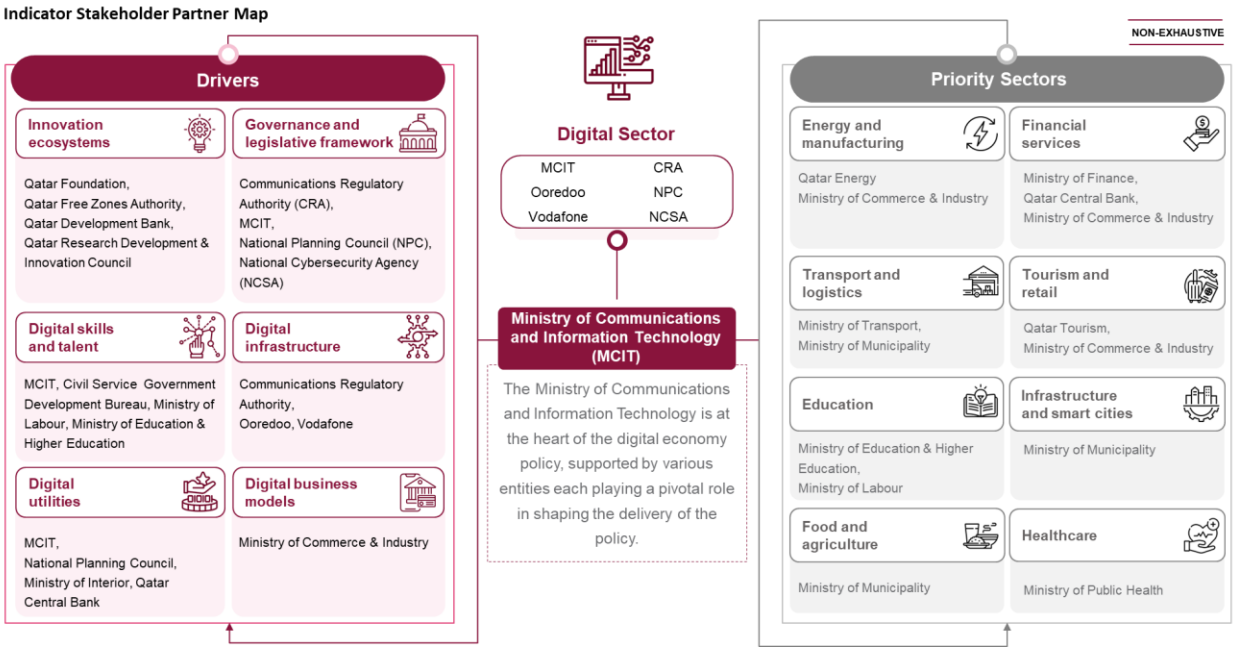

Figure 2, Indicative Stakeholder Partner Map

Collaboration and coordination among these entities are essential to ensure coherent digital policy development, efficient resource allocation, and aligned digital transformation strategies

across the Qatari government. Each stakeholder will play a specific role - whether delivering, driving, or supporting - in achieving the ambitions set out in the Policy.

9.1 **MCIT responsibilities include but are not limited to:**

9.1.1. Ensuring that the Digital Economy Policy (DEP) remains aligned with Qatar's national development agendas.

9.1.2. Amending and updating the DEP (as needed) to ensure its relevance and responsiveness to emerging needs and best practices, supported by proactive horizon scanning to anticipate change and pivot accordingly.

9.1.3. Establishing partnerships and facilitating regular engagement with stakeholders, including public and private sectors, academia, and research institutions, through events, workshops, and consultations.

9.1.4. Providing oversight to ensure that the Strategic Policy Objectives are met efficiently.

9.1.5. Orchestrating the implementation of the DEP, providing guidance and support to partners involved in the Policy's implementation.

9.1.6. Monitor and assessing the outcomes and impacts of DEP interventions on a regular basis.

9.1.7. Leverage existing support functions or explore the creation of a dedicated interministerial committee/function to ensure coordination, coherence and streamline decision-making processes.

9.1.8. Develop further policy instruments that support the digital economy ecosystem in alignment with responsible entities.

9.1.9. Develop and maintain a robust measurement framework to assess the size, composition, and growth of Qatar's digital economy, providing reliable data to guide evidence-based policymaking.

9.2 **Responsibilities of industry/private sector include but are not limited to:**

9.2.1. With the support of Government Agencies, to invest in research, development and innovation.

9.2.2. Leveraging public utilities and digital infrastructure, adopt and integrate emerging technologies into business practices / models.

9.2.3. Collaborate with government, academia, and research institutions on joint projects, pilots, and partnerships that accelerate sectoral digital transformation.

9.2.4. Adopt DEP-aligned practices, standards, and digital solutions that enhance competitiveness, customer experience, and operational efficiency.

9.2.5. Promote skills development, training, and knowledge-sharing to build a future-ready workforce and contribute to the wider talent ecosystem.

9.2.6. Champion responsible business conduct by upholding high standards of data protection, cybersecurity, and consumer trust in digital transactions.

9.3 **Responsibilities of Public Sector Entities include but are not limited to:**

9.3.1. Lead the implementation of DEP-related actions within the remit of the entity, ensuring alignment with national objectives and sectoral priorities.

9.3.2. Develop or revisit the necessary regulations, policies, and guidelines within the remit of the entity to enable the digital economy.

9.3.3. Integrate digital economy considerations into sectoral strategies, policies, and programs, embedding DEP objectives into their core planning and delivery.

9.3.4. Collaborate with MCIT, other public entities, and private-sector stakeholders to drive cross-sector initiatives, provide support, share insights, and avoid duplication of effort.

9.3.5. Facilitate access to data, expertise, and infrastructure that enables innovation, research, and the adoption of digital technologies in priority sectors.

9.3.6. Support capacity building and awareness efforts within their domain, equipping sectoral actors to implement and benefit from the DEP.

9.3.7. Monitor and report progress on DEP-related initiatives in their area of responsibility, contributing evidence and lessons learned to national-level measurement and evaluation.

9.4 **Responsibilities of research and academic institutes include but are not limited to:**

9.4.1. Support sectoral aspirations and industry needs through basic and applied research, ensuring outputs are translated into tangible societal and economic value.

9.4.2. Contribute expertise and knowledge to support the effective implementation of the DEP, including active participation in consultations and working groups established by MCIT for policy revision, updating, and oversight.

9.4.3. Implement DEP-related initiatives and interventions that fall within the remit of research and academic institutions.

9.4.4. Foster a culture of life-long learning for digital skills and innovation across all societal groups.

10. Glossary of Terms and Definitions

Term	Definition
Digital utility	Digital utilities are foundational digital platforms and services that provide essential capabilities across the economy, enabling widespread access, interoperability, and innovation. They include shared systems such as digital identity, e-payments, data platforms, cloud services and other common digital platforms that serve as the backbone of a thriving digital economy.
Digital economy	All economic activity reliant on, or significantly enhanced by the use of digital inputs, including digital technologies, digital infrastructure, digital services, and data; it refers to all producers and consumers, including government, that are utilizing these digital inputs in their economic activities
Digital literacy	The ability to access, manage, understand, integrate, communicate, evaluate and create information safely and appropriately through digital technologies for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. It includes competences that are variously referred to as computer literacy, ICT literacy, information literacy and media literacy.
Smart cities	Innovative cities that use ICTs and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operation and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental as well as cultural aspects.
FinTech	Short for "Financial Technology," FinTech refers to innovative technologies that enhance or automate financial services, including digital payments, online lending, robo-advisors, and blockchain-based solutions, among others.
Ecosystem	A dynamic network of interconnected stakeholders (e.g., government, private sector, academia, civil society) and infrastructure that work together to support innovation, development, and value creation within a specific domain or sector.
Government entities	Official public sector organizations at the national or sub-national level responsible for creating and implementing policies, delivering public services, and overseeing regulatory compliance.

Regulatory bodies	Specialized government or independent agencies tasked with setting, monitoring, and enforcing rules and standards to ensure safety, fairness, and accountability within specific sectors (e.g., finance, health, telecommunications).
High-yield/High-value	Refers to investments that generate significant economic, social, or strategic returns — such as increased productivity, innovation, job creation, or global competitiveness — contributing to national prosperity and long-term value.
Private Enterprises	Businesses that are privately owned and operated for profit, ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to large corporations, across various industries.
Research Institutions and Universities	Academic and research-driven organizations that generate knowledge, conduct studies, and support innovation through education, technology development, and public-private collaboration.
Investors and international stakeholders	Individuals or entities that contribute capital, expertise, or influence to projects, markets, or policy ecosystems across borders.
Individuals and Communities	Members of the public, including consumers, citizens, and civil society groups, who are both affected by and contribute to societal, economic, and technological developments.
Emerging Technologies	Innovative, rapidly developing technologies with the potential to significantly impact society and industries. Examples include artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning.
SupTech	Supervisory Technology refers to the use of digital tools and data analytics by financial regulators to enhance their supervisory and oversight capabilities in monitoring market activity and compliance.
InsurTech	A subset of FinTech, InsurTech involves the use of technology to disrupt and improve insurance services, from underwriting and claims processing to personalized policy offerings and digital customer engagement.
RegTech	Regulatory Technology refers to digital solutions designed to help businesses comply with regulatory requirements more efficiently, often through automation, real-time monitoring, and data-driven reporting.

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Document control

Version	Date	Amendments	Author
1.0.0	TBD	Release of Policy	MCIT

Prepared by
Digital Industry Policies Department
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
Version 1.0.0 2025

E-Mail: dipd@mcit.gov.qa
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