How Is Qatar Leveraging International Law to Develop Actionable Solutions for Language, Technology, and the Environment?

In a fast-changing world, research must address urgent global issues while considering local priorities. Dr. Darina Saliba's latest research focuses on cultural preservation, technological equity, and environmental sustainability through legal scholarship that links international frameworks to Middle Eastern policies.



Dr. Darina Saliba Abi Chedid

Assistant Professor of Public Law, College of Law - Qatar University

Preserving Linguistic Diversity: When International Rights Frameworks Fall Short

Language extinction is an urgent crisis, with a language disappearing every two weeks, taking cultural knowledge with it. UNESCO warns that approximately 3,000 languages may vanish soon, at a rate faster than species loss. International law mainly treats language as a communication tool rather than as cultural heritage, offering weak protection. The research, published in the International Journal of Cultural Property by Cambridge University Press (2025), titled "When Rights Are Not Enough: Bridging International Legal Frameworks and Endangered Language Preservation through Middle Eastern Policy Models," compares Qatar, Lebanon, and Morocco, revealing different strategies. Qatar's Law No. 7 of 2019 provides a robust legal framework, promoting Arabic while supporting diversity through international treaty commitments. This model helps threatened languages and offers a global blueprint.



Ensuring Gender Equity in Qatar's Digital Future

As Qatar advances toward National Vision 2030 goals of economic diversification and knowledge development, ensuring that technological progress benefits all citizens is crucial. The research, published in The Journal of Artificial Intelligence and Human Sciences (2025), titled "Artificial Intelligence and Gender Inequality: Mitigation Strategies and Governance Insights from Qatar," highlights artificial intelligence (AI)'s role in gender equality in Qatar. The study shows how AI can reinforce gender inequalities via hiring biases from historical data, gender stereotypes in education, and biased decision systems. It reviews four bias-reduction strategies: balancing training data, tuning for fairness, improving the representation of underrepresented genders in training datasets, and modeling hidden discrimination. Nonetheless, technical fixes must be paired with policies and regulations. The researcher proposes a national strategy aligned with Vision 2030 that adopts international best practices tailored to Qatar's context, including the establishment of standards, bias audits, policy development, and educational initiatives to promote gender-inclusive AI. This supports Qatar's Digital Technology priority and social goals of gender equality and inclusion.



Environmental Compliance in the Arab World: From Commitments to Action

Climate change and environmental degradation pose existential threats requiring coordinated global action. However, the gap between international environmental agreements and actual state compliance remains vast. The research, published in the Chinese Journal of Environmental Law by Brill (2025), titled "The Arab States' Green Path: Navigating Challenges and Compliance with International Environmental Agreements," examines how Arab states, including Qatar, navigate the complex landscape of international environmental law.

The study reviews the adherence of Arab countries to major international environmental agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol, as well as regional frameworks. It finds that, although these agreements have been ratified, their implementation is hindered by limited funding, competing priorities, capacity gaps, and coordination issues. Qatar serves as a key case study, balancing its hydrocarbon dependence with sustainable development through strategies such as renewable energy investments and economic diversification. Successful compliance relies on political will, finance, capacity building, monitoring, and civil society involvement. Policy suggestions include improving institutional coordination, data systems, green investments, public education, and regional cooperation. The research supports Qatar's Resource Sustainability goal by demonstrating how legal frameworks and international commitments can drive effective domestic climate policies when backed by resources, political will, and institutional capacity.



Collective Impact: Advancing Qatar's Research Priorities

These publications showcase Qatar University's dedication to tackling global challenges through rigorous, locally relevant research. They support key pillars: Society, protecting linguistic heritage and promoting gender equality to strengthen social cohesion; Digital Technology, creating fair AI systems to ensure equitable digital growth; and Resource Sustainability, ensuring compliance with international commitments and pursuing sustainable development.