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Accommodating Diversity

By Shamel Azmeh

The increasing digitization of the global economy is creating new digital products and services that are produced, distributed, and sold across borders. Technologies like cloud computing, digital intelligence, augmented reality systems, and “smart devices” are spawning new industries, and revolu-
tionizing old ones. But, these digital gains could bring important benefits, the speed of digitization has also created daunting governance challenges. The rapid landscape change requires cross-border rules – embedded in multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade and investment agreements – are being thrashed out. These new processes that digitization creates for national governments to intervene in the digital economy, China, for example, has estab-
lished a National Cyber Security Law, which includes measures to net filtering, data localization (requiring Internet firms to store data on domestic servers), and forced technology transfer to domestic firms. This has sparked concern among major digital firms such as Tencent and Baidu, though they have paid less attention to the international consequence of their policies. Countries have reacted to these policy challenges by varying digital policies as a way to catch up with advanced digital economies, like China and the US, while some countries have managed to take advantage of the current regulatory environment to advance their own digital capabilities, many developing countries risk being left behind. One factor is that the exclusiveness of existing global rules is be-
ing to shift. The Uruguay Round Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), for example, governs trade in services through different “modes of supply.” Many developing countries, particularly China, have taken advantage of this flexibility and “smart devices” are spawning new industries, and revolu-
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Widespread Violation of Women’s Rights

By Hujjat Zia

The fall of the Taliban regime, the rights of women changed into a fully-dressed condition in Af-
ghanistan. However, the world should be aware of the trend that appeared to shape up for playing their role in social, political and cultural arenas. Their active participation in the Constitutions of Afghanistan, like that of Kabul Loya Jirga (Grand National Assembly) and provincial and presidential elections, is undeniable. The Taliban administration upheld their rights through defining equal rights and freedom for man and women regardless of their gender, that this issue also triggered the criteria ofexterity for traditional and tribal fe-

The Taliban regime denied women’s rights and freedoms, claiming to protect Islamic values. This framework changed into a deep-seated mentality and cultural tradition, mainly in tribal and rural areas. Afghan ladies perceived their attitude towards women and doomed women inferior to men. They maintained a misogynistic view and treated women harshly. However, with the sudden political upheaval and women’s active part in social and political affairs, those who considers women species inferior were shocked. Indeed, modern states chal-
lenged their traditional mentalities. They had to either reconcile their traditional and political and social discourses or face their consequences. Afghanistan is one among the societies that are heterogeneous to a particu-
al extent. There are folks from totally different ethnic groups who have their own backgrounds and values and their own practices that have developed among them through their distinct history. However, people don’t seem to be able to do so in such a large amount of cases. They, in fact, become the victims of societal violence and brutality. They observe and perceive others in their own views and check out to weigh them as per their own values, that don’t offer impartial and just results. It is everyone’s obligation and personal responsibility depending on their own frame of reference that is certain to be biased as they do look after the objective truths.

In the Name of God, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind

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