

# Title: Open Source Software: A Tool for Achieving a Sustainable Future and Empowering All People

## Session Proposal:

**Abstract:** Open Source Software (OSS) has emerged as a powerful tool not only for innovation and collaboration but also for driving sustainable development and empowering individuals across the globe. This session aims to explore the role of OSS in achieving a sustainable future while promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities for all. We will discuss how OSS can contribute to addressing global challenges, fostering social and environmental impact, and empowering individuals to actively participate in shaping a sustainable digital world.

## Session Objectives:

1. Educate attendees about the significance of Open Source Software in achieving sustainability goals.
2. Highlight the impact of OSS in promoting inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunities in the digital realm.
3. Discuss the potential of OSS in addressing global challenges and driving positive social and environmental change.
4. Share real-world examples of OSS projects that contribute to sustainability and empower individuals.
5. Address the challenges and explore strategies to maximize the impact of OSS for a sustainable and inclusive future.

## Session Outline: I. Introduction (5 minutes)

- Welcome and introduction of the session's objectives.
- Brief explanation of Open Source Software and its relevance to sustainability and inclusivity.

## II. OSS and Sustainable Development (15 minutes)

- Discussing the intersection of OSS and sustainable development goals.
- Exploring how OSS can contribute to environmental, economic, and social sustainability.
- Presenting case studies of OSS projects that address sustainability challenges.

## III. Inclusivity and Equal Opportunities (20 minutes)

- Highlighting how OSS fosters inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunities.
- Discussing the impact of OSS in empowering individuals and communities.
- Sharing examples of initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion within open source communities.

## IV. OSS for Addressing Global Challenges (20 minutes)

- Examining how OSS can be leveraged to tackle global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and healthcare.

- Presenting real-world examples of OSS projects making a positive social and environmental impact.
- Discussing the potential of collaborative OSS solutions for achieving sustainability goals.

#### V. Benefits and Impact (15 minutes)

- Presenting the benefits of using OSS for sustainable development initiatives.
- Highlighting the role of OSS in driving innovation, cost-effectiveness, and scalability.
- Demonstrating how OSS empowers individuals and communities to actively participate in creating a sustainable future.

#### VI. Challenges and Solutions (20 minutes)

- Identifying the challenges in leveraging OSS for sustainability and inclusivity.
- Discussing strategies to overcome barriers, such as building partnerships, ensuring accessibility, and promoting knowledge-sharing.
- Encouraging dialogue and crowd-sourcing ideas for maximizing the impact of OSS in achieving sustainability.

#### VII. Q&A and Interactive Discussion (20 minutes)

- Engaging the audience in a Q&A session to address their queries and perspectives.
- Facilitating an interactive discussion to gather insights, experiences, and suggestions from attendees.

#### VIII. Conclusion and Call to Action (5 minutes)

- Summarizing the key takeaways from the session.
- Encouraging attendees to embrace OSS as a tool for sustainability and inclusivity.
- Providing resources and references for further exploration.

This session aims to inspire attendees to recognize the potential of Open Source Software as a catalyst for achieving a sustainable future and empowering individuals worldwide. By showcasing the benefits, sharing success stories, and discussing challenges and strategies, we aim to foster collaboration, encourage active participation, and contribute to building a sustainable and inclusive digital world for all.

Sources:

General information and suggest reliable sources where participants can find background materials, frameworks, policy documents, and recent supporting documentation related to Open Source Software (OSS) and its impact on sustainability and inclusivity:

1. The Open Source Initiative (OSI): The OSI website ([opensource.org](https://opensource.org)) offers a wealth of information about OSS, including the Open Source Definition, licenses, and resources related to open source software's benefits, principles, and community.
2. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The United Nations has developed 17 SDGs to address global challenges. Several of these goals intersect with

OSS and sustainability. You can explore the official UN website (un.org) for reports, policy documents, and case studies related to the SDGs and OSS.

3. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN): The SDSN is a global initiative launched by the United Nations to mobilize scientific and technical expertise for sustainable development. Their website (unsdsn.org) provides publications, research papers, and tools related to sustainable development that may include references to OSS.
4. Open Source for Good: This initiative by GitHub focuses on highlighting open source projects that address societal challenges and contribute to sustainable development. You can explore their website (github.com/github/open-source-for-good) for case studies, project examples, and documentation related to the intersection of OSS and social impact.
5. Academic Research Papers: Scholarly databases such as Google Scholar (scholar.google.com) or research platforms like IEEE Xplore (ieeexplore.ieee.org) and ACM Digital Library (dl.acm.org) can provide academic articles and research papers on topics related to OSS, sustainability, and inclusivity. For example: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351325374\\_Utilization\\_of\\_Open\\_Source\\_Software\\_in\\_Nigeria\\_Academic\\_Libraries\\_Matters\\_Arising](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351325374_Utilization_of_Open_Source_Software_in_Nigeria_Academic_Libraries_Matters_Arising)
6. EC sources: On October 21<sup>st</sup> 2022, the European Commission approved the new Open Source Software Strategy 2020-2023 of the Commission. This is an important step towards achieving the goals of the overarching [Digital Strategy of the Commission](#) and contributing to the Digital Europe programme. The internal strategy, under the theme ‘‘Think Open’’, sets out a vision for encouraging and leveraging the transformative, innovative and collaborative power of open source, its principles and development practices. It promotes the sharing and reuse of software solutions, knowledge and expertise, to deliver better European services that benefit society and lower costs to that society. The Commission commits to increasing its use of open source not only in practical areas such as IT, but also in areas where it can be strategic. EC OSPO: <https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/ec-ospo>
7. OSS in UK – Open UK report: <https://openuk.uk/stateofopen/>
8. OSS in Africa: <https://www.ictworks.org/africans-contribute-open-source-software/>