IGF 2024 Open Forums Submission Form

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<th>Proposer Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Name</td>
<td>Abdulaal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Given Name</td>
<td>Alaa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Digital Organization Cooperation (DCO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization's Website</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aabdulaal@dco.org">aabdulaal@dco.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name(s), Organizational Affiliation(s), Stakeholder and Regional Group of Co-organizer(s)</td>
<td>Alaa Abdulaal, Chief - Digital Economy Foresight (DEF), Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO); Dr. Syed Iftikhar H. Shah, Digital Research Director, DEF, DCO, DCO Member States, DCO Member States, DCO Observers (Private IT firms), ICT hardware Manufacturing Entities.</td>
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<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aabdulaal@dco.org">aabdulaal@dco.org</a></td>
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<th>Proposal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Towards a Greener Future with E-Waste Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme of your proposal</td>
<td>Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Room layout</td>
<td>Roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session Duration</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
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**Why is the session format (room layout and duration) best suited for your activity?**
The room layout should facilitate engagement and interaction, with chairs arranged in a roundtable-style setup facing the roundtable participants (panelists), allowing for easy eye contact and communication. A podium or table for roundtable participants can be positioned at a location that enhances visibility and focus. Duration-wise, the session should typically span 90 minutes, allowing ample time for roundtable participants (panelist) to delve into e-waste management related aspects while ensuring audience participation. The session could begin with brief introductions from panelists, followed by moderated discussion on e-waste management to promote sustainability. Towards the latter half, the floor can be opened for audience questions, fostering a direct exchange between attendees and panelists. A skilled moderator is crucial to maintain flow and ensure all voices are heard within the allotted time frame, creating an...
enriching and interactive experience for all involved.

| Description of the Session | The DCO advocates that tackling sustainability challenges, especially e-waste management issues, requires collaborative efforts across multiple stakeholders. Consequently, in partnership between DCO Ecosystem (Member States, Observers, and Partners), ICT hardware manufacturing firms, international organizations, and civil society, aimed at offering guidance for the setting up, execution, and enhancement of e-waste management at both national and international (cross-border) levels taking into consideration public private partnership.

This session purposes to discuss existing e-waste management programs, identifying successful strategies for e-waste value-chain, including e-waste collection, recycling, and responsible disposal, Discuss the key challenges stakeholders face when dealing with e-waste, and particularly cross-border e-waste flow, and Explore opportunities to standardize e-waste handling procedures across the industry, streamlining the process and encouraging innovation in recycling technologies. Present potential solutions and initial framework. |

| Relations to SDGs Goals | Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production  
Goal 13: Climate Action  
Goal 14: Life Below Water  
Goal 15: Life on Land  
Goal 17: Partnerships |

| Please describe how your proposal links with the SDG targets that you have just selected. | This proposed session is in direct alignment with the previously mentioned UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For instance:

- Assist nations in shaping or enhancing their National Digital Agendas to promote sustainable consumption practices and diminish the environmental footprint of ICT operations. |
- Responsible and sustainable practices for e-waste across the value chain to accelerate the progress to achieve relevant UN SDGs Goals.

- Disseminate essential insights and expertise to address e-waste related environmental concerns and promote the development of climate-resilient technologies within the ICT sector.

- Initiate transformative shifts within the ICT Hardware manufacturing industry by implementing a methodical sustainability agenda grounded in cutting-edge e-waste value-chain methodologies and custom-tailored innovations to suit each country's requirements.

### Speaker(s), and their affiliations

1. A representative from DCO
2. A representative from Ministry of Communications and Digitalization, Government of Ghana
3. An expert from Ministry of Sustainable development, Bahrain
4. An expert from DCO Observer (e.g., Deloitte, Nortal, IsDB, STC, etc)
5. Two experts from ICT Hardware Manufacturing firms

### Onsite Moderator (identify from the list of organizers)

DCO General Secretariat Expert

### Rapporteur (identify from the list of organizers)

DCO General Secretariat Expert

### Background information (in a separate PDF file)

The DCO General Secretariat is launching an E-waste Management program. This program comprises the development of an E-Waste Management Framework, including cross-border e-waste management aspects, and its validation across at least two DCO Member States. Therefore, we are offering a brief on this DCO E-waste Management Program:

Sustainability is concerned with protecting our planet, halting climate change, and social and economic development without endangering life on
the earth or leaving anyone behind. The circular economy shows a more sustainable production and consumption model, in which raw materials are retained longer in production cycles and can be utilized repeatedly to generate less waste. E-waste management is one of the prime aspects of the circular economy, referring to the collection, transportation, recycling, refurbishing, and disposal of electronic waste in an environmentally friendly manner.

The world is predicted to produce 75 million tons of E-waste by 2030, yet the affordability of ICT products and services remains a key Digital Economy challenge; more than 5 billion mobile phones were thrown away in 2022, yet 40% of the low-income population worldwide is not able to afford basic ICT products and services.

In the recent past, to manage the challenges of sustainability in the ICT Sector, the DCO General Secretariat has successfully completed a sustainability program with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by “Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST)” for the formulation of a Sustainability Toolkit for the ICT sector to be used in DCO Member States. The ICT Sustainability toolkit is a suite of practice-based frameworks, guidelines, approaches, standards, principles, and templates, that aim to support the DCO Member States in assessing, analyzing, and progressing on ICT sector sustainability towards a sustainable digital economy. The toolkit adopts the C.I.R.C.L.E.S framework, which comprises a Circular Economy pillar focused on improving e-waste management and promoting a circular economy for the ICT sector.

There are several global challenges typically faced in e-waste management, including but not limited to the lack of awareness of existing policies on e-waste, the lack of public sector enforcement on such policies, and informal e-waste management activities that lead to health hazards. In view of the forgoing, the DCO General Secretariat intends to launch a specific initiative on e-waste management
to mitigate the above-mentioned e-waste challenges, to address sustainability and digital inclusion challenges together, and promote a circular economy for the ICT sector.

**Program Description:** The EMP is an initiative that comprises the development of an E-Waste Management Framework, including cross-border e-waste management aspects, and its validation across at least two DCO Member States.

**Main Objective:** Create a framework for E-Waste Management, derived from the Circular Economy aspect of the ICT Sustainability Framework, aimed at offering guidance for the setting up, execution, and enhancement of e-waste management at both national and international levels taking into consideration public private partnership.

**The expected outcome of the program:**

- Validated and enacted framework across two DCO Member States with the cooperation of private sectors.

**Expected Benefits of the Program:**

*Sustainability through E-Waste Reduction:* The EMP could lead to more responsible and sustainable practices for e-waste across the value chain to accelerate the progress to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), including Climate Goals.

*Economic Value:* There is a potential raw material economic value that can be recovered from e-waste. USD 57 Billion is the potential value of analyzed raw materials in 2019 from total global e-waste. By improving e-waste collection and recycling
practices across DCO Member States, raw materials can become readily available to re-enter the manufacturing process.

**Digital Inclusion:** billion people worldwide live within the footprint of a network but are not accessing mobile internet services. This highlights that the key issues behind the digital divide are attributed to a “usage gap” because of lack of affordability, among other reasons. However, 5 billion smartphones were thrown away in 2022 only; if 1% of the smartphones thrown away in 2022 are recycled or refurbished, through the EMP, 50 million people (about twice the population of Texas) across DCO Member States that cannot afford a smartphone, will be able to do so. In this way, the subject initiative contributes to mitigate the digital inclusion challenge.

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<tr>
<th>Past IGF Participation</th>
<th>Yes, DCO participated in the past IGF</th>
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<td>Additional Aspects</td>
<td>This session has the potential to adopt a hybrid format, incorporating both online and offline elements, and will be structured to facilitate interactive engagement between domain experts and the community.</td>
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