



# DCO Path for Digital Resilience and Social Prosperity

## Final Declaration

### 4<sup>th</sup> DCO General Assembly

The Dead Sea, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

19 February 2025



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Since its establishment in 2020, the Digital Cooperation Organization (“DCO” or “the Organization”) has been standing as the only global intergovernmental organization dedicated to digital cooperation. Representing 16 nations, the Organization is steadfast in its mission to enable Digital Prosperity for All. Through unwavering collaboration with its Member States, Observers, and Partners, it has extended its transformative impact to over 800 million people, with a collective GDP exceeding 3.5 trillion USD.

On 19 February 2025, the DCO Council convened its 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly under the Presidency of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, uniting Ministers and Representatives of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Djibouti, the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of Ghana, the Hellenic Republic, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Sultanate of Oman, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the State of Qatar, the Republic of Rwanda, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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### **Preamble**

We, the Ministers and Representatives of Members States of the Digital Cooperation Organization, gathered in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the 4<sup>th</sup> DCO General Assembly on 19 February 2025, reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing global digital prosperity and bridging the digital divides through enhanced cooperation, innovation, and inclusive economic growth.

1. **We express our deep appreciation to the 2024 DCO Presidency, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**, and the host of the 4<sup>th</sup> DCO General Assembly. We warmly welcome the participation of Guest Countries, International Organizations, Observers and Partners. Their contributions are instrumental to our deliberations and joint actions towards our shared vision.
2. We affirm that the digital economy presents significant opportunities for sustainable economic growth, increased global inclusion, and enhanced connectivity. However, we must also acknowledge the significant associated risks including cybersecurity threats, misinformation, unethical use of AI, and widening digital divide. We need to address these challenges through the development of agile and adaptable governance frameworks that prioritize innovation while ensuring the security, trust, and ethical use of digital technologies.
3. We affirm that the DCO was founded to enact **multilateral digital cooperation**, where collective action becomes the cornerstone for addressing the complex challenges of the digital age. By working together, we can **foster knowledge-sharing, harmonize policies, accelerate digital transformation, and harness the potential of emerging technologies**. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to **unite our efforts to foster sustainable, inclusive economic development** while ensuring that the benefits of the digital economy are equitably shared among all nations.

4. **We recognize the DCO's growth trajectory, expanding from 5 to 16 Member States.** We welcome 12 new Observers for the year 2024, bringing the total to 44, representing the private sector, international organizations, academia, and civil society. This growth enables multi-sector and multi-stakeholder cooperation, uniting a diverse range of expertise and empowering us to tackle the multi-faceted challenges of the global digital economy.
5. **We recognize the role of the Observers Committee,** championed by the Sultanate of Oman, as a vital platform to drive our collective agenda aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the digital economy. We value fostering engagement between public and private sector stakeholders, which exemplifies the Organization's approach and commitment in creating the space for multistakeholder dialogue.
6. **We acknowledge that the DCO Strategic Roadmap 2030 has been a key driver of our progress, guiding the launch of impactful initiatives that leverage digital technology to foster sustainable development.** These initiatives have empowered communities and equipped individuals, particularly women and youth, with the necessary tools to succeed in the evolving digital economy.
7. We support the significant accomplishments of the Organization **in its role as a facilitator of cross-border collaboration, an advocate of digital entrepreneurship, and a bridge between developed and emerging digital economies.** This reflects our unity and perseverance in overcoming challenges and commitment to positioning the DCO as a force for good in the digital world.
8. **We celebrate, after two years of intense and collective efforts, the publication of the first edition of the Digital Economy Navigator (DEN), at the Summit of the Future. The results of this flagship initiative** will play a pivotal role in advancing the Organization's activities as it contributes to enabling both Member and Non-Member States, identifying challenges and opportunities and taking evidence-based decisions in terms of investment and prioritization.
9. **We also recognize the 2025 Digital Economy Trends Report as a key resource** offering actionable insights on transformative trends impacting industries, societies, and governance. We acknowledge that these insights can play a **critical role in the formulation of national initiatives for inclusive, sustainable, and human-centered digital transformation.**
10. **We welcome the launch of the DCO Policy Watch as a vital instrument to help countries to bridge the gap in digital policymaking by sharing best practices and addressing the complexities of a rapidly evolving digital landscape.** We acknowledge that global and regional updates on key areas such as Digital Public Infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, Data Protection, and the Future of Work provide policymakers and stakeholders with the necessary information to make informed decisions that foster effective and inclusive digital policies.
11. We reaffirm the commitment we made in the 3<sup>rd</sup> DCO General Assembly to work towards achieving the DCO Data Agenda which aims to establish a framework for secure and trusted cross-border data flow.

12. We recognize the significance of the Data Embassy Initiative, championed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, as a testament to our shared commitment to strengthening digital resilience and trust in the global data ecosystem. By enabling governments and businesses across member states to safeguard critical digital assets beyond national borders through internationally recognized data hosting frameworks, this initiative reinforces our collective efforts toward secure and sustainable digital transformation.
13. We acknowledge the significance of cross-border market expansion through digital government solutions, global cooperation, and knowledge-sharing among Member States. In this context, we welcome the progress of the DCO IMPACT Initiative, championed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has compiled 20+ digital government solutions from Member States. This initiative strengthens our collective efforts to leverage technology, and enhance capabilities, driving more agile, inclusive, and efficient digital public services.
14. We recognize the progress of the STRIDE Association, under the championship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, aiming to enable cross-border entrepreneurship, SMEs and startups through resources including 16 Start-Up Guides and the DCO Model Start-Up Benchmark Report which offer valuable insights for founders, investors, and ecosystem builders. We remain committed to the promotion of entrepreneurship as an essential element for fostering the development of a prosperous cross-border digital market.
15. We welcome the successful implementation of the WE-Elevate initiative, under the championship of the Republic of Rwanda, which has made substantial strides in several DCO Member States. These efforts have empowered more than 120 women entrepreneurs, fostering greater economic participation, and driving innovation. WE-Elevate is a crucial step toward more women participation to the global digital economy, and we are proud of its growing impact.
16. We recognize the advancements of the DCO DigiSkills Accelerator, which has launched targeted programs that equip individuals with critical competencies to thrive in the digital landscape. These programs are helping to bridge the digital divide and empower entrepreneurs and personnel across DCO Member States, contributing to a more equitable digital future.
17. We support the Organization's continued efforts to facilitate Digital Foreign Direct Investment (DFDI), under the championship of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The progress made in 2024 in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Rwanda will unleash new investment opportunities for private and public sectors and create access for DCO innovators and entrepreneurs to stimulate business environment in these markets.
18. We reaffirm our commitment to building an inclusive, human-centric, and sustainable digital economy. Our goal is to create a digital environment that is safe, secure, and accessible for all. And therefore, we acknowledge the General Secretariat's efforts in facilitating DCO roundtables with social media platforms enabling multi-stakeholder cooperation and knowledge sharing for the development of a framework to combat online misinformation.
19. We emphasized this commitment through the Joint Statement on Combating Misinformation issued on 15 December 2024 which serves as guiding principles for our collective approach towards a safer online environment through shared responsibility, multi-stakeholder collaboration, and the need to prioritize ethical standards when addressing misinformation.

20. The initiatives and achievements of 2024 have laid a solid foundation for DCO's continued growth and success. We are poised to build upon these accomplishments, striving towards even greater goals that ensure a digital future that is inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous for all.
21. We recognize that the digital landscape is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and it is essential that we continuously adapt our ambitions to stay ahead. With this in mind, we are committed to developing clear priorities and initiatives that will ensure the scaling of our flagship programs, while further enhancing the DCO's global presence and influence in the years to come.

### **DCO 4-Year Agenda: Charting the Path for Digital Resilience and Prosperity**

22. We reaffirm our goals and objectives outlined in the DCO Strategic Roadmap for 2030, which are fundamental to building a sustainable and inclusive digital future and fostering a human-centric digital economy.
23. We reaffirm our commitment to leverage DEN's capabilities to identify gaps, priorities, and disparities across Member States, which supported a data-driven approach for the construction of the 4-Year Agenda for Digital Resilience and Prosperity, and we acknowledge its potential to inform policymaking and national strategy development.
24. We declare our collective resolve to work towards enhancing economic resilience and unlocking social prosperity to achieve a digitally prosperous future for all through the principles of collaboration, innovation, and shared progress.
25. We endorse and uphold the DCO 4-Year Agenda for Digital Resilience and Prosperity (2025 – 2028) as a key action plan for strengthening digital economic resilience and fostering social prosperity through advancing digital maturity across Member States. This agenda provides clear direction for initiatives that drive transformative growth, ensuring we are prepared to succeed collectively through the power of multilateral actions in an increasingly interconnected, technology- driven world.
26. We assert our commitment to the promotion of Digital Corridors which will facilitate business expansion by harmonizing policies and regulations, enabling seamless resource and knowledge sharing, promoting cross-border digital trade, ensuring secure and reliable data exchange, and facilitating the mobility of skilled digital workers across the Member States.

## Fostering Multilateral Cooperation for Digital Governance

27. We commend the United Nations General Assembly for the adoption of the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC) as an annex to the Pact for the Future during the 79<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly and recognize its significance in shaping global digital governance. We emphasize the need for networked multilateralism in advancing an inclusive, open, sustainable, equitable, safe, and secure digital future for all.
28. We commit to continuing the engagements and contributions to the UN GDC which aligns with the DCO's mission to foster a more inclusive and sustainable digital economy for all. We will leverage the collective power of DCO to work closely with international organizations, regional bodies, and multistakeholder platforms to translate the principles of the UN GDC into actionable frameworks. We particularly emphasize the importance of multilateral cooperation and collective action in shaping an inclusive digital future.
29. We affirm our unwavering commitment to close the global digital divide, and we recognize the implication of the multilayered challenges that hinder digital inclusion. We acknowledge the transformative power of artificial intelligence, computing capabilities, gender and skills in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Establishing a Cross-border Digital Market

30. **We recognize the critical role of entrepreneurship and innovation in shaping resilient economies and fostering social inclusion.** We acknowledge that effective innovation ecosystems are vital for fostering environments where ideas can thrive and be transformed into commercially viable products contributing to economic growth and sustainability. We commit to following supportive frameworks that foster entrepreneurship-friendly environments, conducive to innovation and sustainable business growth.
31. **We endorse the DCO Entrepreneurship and Innovation Standard of Excellence and affirm our commitment to identifying policies and incentives that foster innovation and entrepreneurship** and commit to sharing best practices to achieve collective prosperity. We recognize the need to establish resilient, comprehensive, and forward-looking standards that incorporate global best practices while addressing national needs and priorities. This approach aims to cultivate thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems increasing competitiveness of Member States in an interconnected and interdependent market.
32. **We adopt the DCO Model Startup Act**, an initiative aimed at equipping SMEs and startups with critical digital competencies to compete effectively in cross-border markets. This model lays the foundation for formulating policies that enhance startup ecosystems in a tailored, multi-stakeholder approach designed to help Member States create supportive environments for startups by aligning the best global practices with national priorities.





### Developing a Data-driven Digital Economy

33. **We reaffirm our commitment to the DCO Data Agenda** whose aim is to harmonize data privacy regulations and establish clear, standardized contractual mechanisms.
34. **We adopt the DCO Data Privacy Principles as a shared basis for robust data privacy practices and a foundational step towards enabling trust-based data flows between DCO Member States.** These principles provide a common ground to harmonize data governance policies and ensure secure, transparent exchanges across borders.
35. **We endorse the DCO Interoperability Mechanism for Cross-Border Data Flows** as a key framework to facilitate trusted data exchanges between the DCO Member States.
36. **We endorse the DCO Model Contractual Clauses,** as instruments to be used within the DCO Interoperability Mechanism for trusted data exchanges between entities. By standardizing these clauses, we establish conditions for secure and free data flows, aligned with best practices in data governance to foster trust among businesses and consumers.

### Promoting a Responsible Digital Economy

37. We acknowledge that the rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has accelerated both opportunities and challenges, reshaping economies, and societies worldwide. We reaffirm the urgent need to enhance AI readiness and capacity across DCO Member States to fully harness its potential while mitigating the risks and aligning with national priorities and development needs.
38. **We adopt the DCO Principles for Ethical AI as a reference to guide comprehensive frameworks addressing ethical concerns across the AI lifecycle, ensuring that technology serves humanity without compromising fundamental rights.** The principles include Accountability, Transparency & Explainability, Fairness & Non-Discrimination, Privacy, Sustainability & Environmental Impact, Human-Centered Development & Social Benefit, and Human Autonomy and Oversight. **We also endorse the AI Ethics Evaluator** which will be instrumental for organizations to identify potential human rights impacts in their AI systems, align their practices with ethical standards, and receive practical and implementable recommendations.
39. **We endorse the AI Readiness Toolkit as a strategic resource for designing national AI roadmaps,** enabling seamless AI integration across public and private sectors. We are encouraged by the progress made by the pilot organized with the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Ghana, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. **and recognize that the AI Readiness Toolkit is a foundation for the formulation of AI policies, strategies, regulations, digital infrastructure, and the development of AI talent to support successful AI adoption.**
40. **We endorse the Framework for Strengthening National Agendas to Combat Online Misinformation** as a strategic and comprehensive approach with actionable guidelines to combat online misinformation and build a trustworthy, reliable information ecosystem.
41. **We endorse the establishment of a Ministerial Committee, chaired by the State of Kuwait,** which will oversee the implementation of the Framework for Strengthening National Agendas to Combat Online Misinformation and guide our efforts towards combatting online misinformation.

42. We adopt the DCO Intent on Safe Digital Space for Children as a standardized approach to ensure children's online safety. The Intent supports the implementation of child protection measures, aligns with international best practices, and encourages cohesive digital policy development across DCO membership and beyond.
43. We adopt the DCO Intent on Digital Intellectual Property (IP) Protection, reaffirming our commitment to strengthening the global digital economy by safeguarding creative works and encouraging innovation. By adopting this intent, we will ensure alignment with international best practices and promote coherent digital policy development across all Member States.
44. We endorse the E-Waste Management Framework and commit to collaborating with the General Secretariat in advancing environmental sustainability, safeguarding public health, and promoting digital inclusion through the responsible management of e-waste at both national and cross-border levels.

### Governance and Future Directions

45. We recognize the General Secretariat for its continued support and efforts, and we look forward to the resolute advancements in achieving our shared objectives.
46. We acknowledge the significant progress made in strengthening the Organization's governance, equipping the DCO for the next phase of its development.
47. We welcome the decision to broaden membership of the DCO by establishing the Associate Membership mechanism which will foster inclusive participation and deepen our engagements with Non-Member States strengthening our collective efforts to achieve social prosperity and grow the Digital Economy. This status will enable a diverse range of countries to contribute to the global efforts to drive progress in the digital economy.
48. We extend our congratulations to the State of Kuwait for assuming the Presidency of the DCO Council for the year 2025.
49. We are pleased to confirm the endorsement of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as the Presidency of the DCO Council for the year 2026.
50. We extend our appreciation to the Members of the 2024 DCO Executive Committee for their relentless work and contributions to direct the Organization's work and strategic priorities.
51. We announce the composition of the 2025 Executive Committee, which will be chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and will include the following Member States: the Republic of Cyprus, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
52. We announce that the next General Assembly of the Digital Cooperation Organization will take place in February 2026 in the State of Kuwait, when we will discuss the progress of the Organization and assess the impact of our joint initiatives in line with the 4-Year Agenda for Digital Resilience and Social Prosperity.