

Digital Space Accelerators (DSA)

Digital Space Accelerators – Description

The Digital Space Accelerator (DSA) is an innovative cooperation mechanism that DCO Secretariat created to bring together Thought Leaders, Subject Matter Experts, and Decision Makers from diverse sectors, including governments, the private sector, international organizations, academia, and civil society. The primary aim of DSA is to foster a multi-stakeholder collaboration to design and propose actionable solutions that address the key barriers to a thriving, sustainable, and inclusive digital economy.

The DCO is opening application for experts to apply and join the DSA working groups of two topics focused within the DSA:

1. Cultural Values and Misinformation

▪ Overview:

This DSA aims to co-create a framework on culture values to illustrate the truth and empower societies to make informed decisions and encourage individuals and organizations to participate and build a more respectful, authentic, and socially responsible online community. Additionally, offer foundational work (set of requirements) to build a technology centered tool for the same. The work within this DSA includes:

- quantitative (e.g., surveys) and qualitative research approaches to determine a set of cultural value attributes that need to be considered under an online misinformation mitigation framework.
- It also includes developing a comprehensive framework centered on cultural values to combat misinformation, as well as culturally adapted content verification guidelines for misinformation handling in social media and digital platforms.
- developing a Product Requirements Document (PROD), comprising functional and non-functional requirements and high-level architecture for the technology-centered tool to combat distorted online content.

▪ Applicants profile and expertise:

Applicants with the following, but not limited to these profiles would be most suitable to be a part of this working group:

- **Human behavioral scientists and experts:** with experience in data analysis, statistics, and conducting user studies in human behavior aspects, such as social and cultural influences, contextual effects, and habits.
- **Online misinformation, medial literacy, and social platforms experts:** with experience in fact-checking practices and the development of tools and techniques that can be used to identify and combat misinformation.

▪ Expected Engagement

- Participate virtually in DSA global and regional roundtables.
- Attend all DSA monthly progress and updates meetings.
- Participate in the review and validation of the required DSA outcomes and develop artifacts.
- Provide insights and expertise on the relevant DSA topic.

2. Building Ethical AI

▪ Overview:

The latest developments in Artificial Intelligence have rapidly accelerated both the opportunities and potential risks that come with new emerging technologies. While these advancements improve the digital economy by exposing new areas for market penetration, they also introduce human rights concerns, including, but not limited to, the exacerbation of biases, widening of digital divide, surveillance capabilities, and potential for cyberattacks.

To this end, in line with its goal to “foster an inclusive, human-centric, and sustainable digital economy” set in DCO’s 2030 Strategic Roadmap, and its commitment to use AI for the good of humanity aligning with the DCO’s ‘Riyadh AI Call to Action’ the DCO aims to develop a policy governance tool that will support Member States and beyond to embed ethics and address human rights risks within the broader AI governance spectrum. The work within this DSA includes:

- Baseline assessment, including a comprehensive analysis of global AI best practices and ethical build considerations, and a comparative contrast research of DCO Member States AI governance landscape.
- Development of a risk prioritization matrix to map severity of identified risks, likelihood of their occurrence, and potential impact on human rights.
- Responsible AI policy tool using a human rights-based approach which will include key considerations and recommendations that DCO Member States need to take in order to build AI responsibly and ethically.
- Possible impactful and actionable multilateral initiatives/ programs, utilizing the foundational elements identified in the policy framework/tool, aimed at addressing specific risks or gaps identified in the baseline assessment.

▪ Applicants profile and expertise:

Applicants with the following, but not limited to these profiles would be most suitable to be a part of this working group:

- **AI Ethics and Human Rights Expert:** Someone with a background in human rights, philosophy, ethics, or law specializing in AI ethics, responsible AI, and ethical decision-making algorithms.
- **Tech Industry Representative:** Representative(s) from a leading AI company or technology firm who can provide insights into industry practices, challenges, and innovations in AI governance.

- **Government Policy Maker:** Policymaker(s) or regulator(s) with experience in technology policy, data privacy, and AI regulation, ideally from a national or international government agency.
 - **Academic Researcher:** AI researcher(s) or academic(s) specializing in AI governance, fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI systems.
 - **Civil Society Advocate:** Representative(s) from a non-governmental organization (NGO) or civil society group focused on digital rights, privacy, and ethical AI, bringing a perspective from the public interest sector.
 - **Legal Expert:** Legal expert(s) specializing in AI law, intellectual property rights, liability issues, and legal frameworks for AI governance.
 - **Data Scientist:** Data scientist(s) or data ethics specialist(s) who can provide insights into the ethical use of data in AI systems, data privacy, and data bias mitigation techniques.
 - **International Organization Representative:** Representative(s) from international organizations focused on AI governance, digital ethics, or technology policy, providing a global perspective and best practices.
- **Expected Engagement**
- Participate in DSA global and regional roundtables.
 - Attend DSA monthly progress and updates meetings.
 - Participate in the review and validation of the required DSA outcomes and developed artefacts.
 - Provide insights and expertise on the relevant DSA topic.

Selection Process

The selection process plays a critical role in identifying and engaging participants who will not only benefit from the program but also contribute positively to its goals and future outcomes. DCO aims to create a cohesive and supportive community among DSA participants. By selecting experts who demonstrate a commitment to the program's mission and outcomes, and who are well-suited to the requirements of each DSA. The selection process includes:

- **Application Submission:** Applicants submit their applications through the DCO website. This involve filling out an online form, submitting a resume/CV, and possibly answering specific questions related to the program.
(Registration Link)
- **Application Screening:** Once applications are received, they will be screened by the DCO experts to ensure the applicants meet the basic eligibility criteria for the program. This includes factors such as relevant experiences and qualifications.
- **Review Process:** Applications that pass the initial screening will be reviewed in more detail by the DSA expert from DCO. The review process involves assessing

each applicant's qualifications, experience, achievements, and alignment with DSA requirements.

- **Interviews:** Interview the selected applicants to assess applicants' interpersonal skills, communication abilities, and fit for the specific DSA.
- **Final Selection:** Based on the outcomes of the application review, and interviews, the DCO makes final decisions on which applicants will be offered a spot in the DSA working group.
- **Notification:** All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application, whether they have been selected for the program or not. Those who are selected will receive information on next steps.

Program Benefits

Experts chosen to join the DSA working group will access the following benefits:

- **Networking Opportunities:** Experts will get the chance to collaborate and network with other experts from the DCO, DCO member states and observers from diverse backgrounds, regions, and sectors. This opportunity allows the members to be part of an international platform for knowledge exchange, skill development, and professional growth through interactions with peers from governments and private sector.
- **Recognition and Visibility:** DSA will provide recognition to experts within the working group by featuring them in the DSA annual report, acknowledging their contributions in DSA publications, granting access to selected DCO diplomatic events, and facilitating connections with industry leaders and the broader DCO ecosystem.
- **DSA Certificate:** All participating experts will be awarded a certificate of program completion, signed by the Secretary General of the DCO, acknowledging and endorsing their contributions to fostering a robust digital economy.

Program Timeline

1. Timeline

- The Digital Space Accelerator (DSA) timeline starts from June 2024 to February 2025
- The Application will be closed on 11 of July 2024.