

## Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2), 4 - 6 November 2025, Doha, Qatar

### Solutions Session Title: “Data-driven strategies to address the gaps in Social Development and accelerate an inclusive Digital Economy”

#### Concept Note

---

##### Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), together with the Kingdom of Belgium (Belgian Development Cooperation/Enabel), the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development) in the context of the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) – to provide an overview of the session co-hosted to address the gaps and recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Program of Action, its implementation and to give momentum towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

This session will focus on how cooperation to develop a more inclusive digital economy crosscuts the key themes of the WSSD2, showcasing the power of digital transformation as an enabler for success. It will leverage new data and research in the Digital Economy Navigator (DEN) 2025 means in practice for countries, businesses, people and for global multilateral collaboration.

##### A. Context

---

**Countries all over the World are recognizing that digital cooperation is no longer a nice-to-have but a necessity for governments to harness the potential of the digital economy while ensuring addressing the risks of fragmentation caused by the lack of inclusivity, sustainability and resilience.** By adopting the Global Digital Compact (UN GDC), the UN General Assembly (UNGA) recognized the importance of ensuring that digital cooperation remains “agile and adaptable to the rapidly changing digital landscape”. Considering the ambition of the UN GDC, and especially the Objective 2 of the Compact to expand inclusion in and benefit from the digital economy for all, additional efforts to foster digital cooperation are required in order to:

- Increase focus on digital economy as a specific enabler for development and prosperity,
- Reduce fragmentation and silos across the different aspects of the digital economy, and
- Create new cooperation mechanisms to leverage South-South, Triangular, Multistakeholder and Multi-sectoral opportunities.

**The WSSD2 in Doha, Qatar presents a pivotal moment to showcase a strong evidence base on the digital economy and spark meaningful conversation on addressing related development gaps.** It aligns with the Summit’s objective to renew global commitments towards inclusive, people-centered development. The Summit’s focus on social cohesion, resilience and just transition aligns with and offers an ideal platform to engage key stakeholders and discuss the DEN both as a practical enabler for digital economy development and prosperity, centered on advancing digital opportunity and shared prosperity for all. This research recognizes the needs of the disadvantaged cohorts and regions, and the importance of innovative financing models, such as public-private-partnerships,



for realization of SDGs and their targets, and for an effective implementation of the “Compromiso de Sevilla”.

**The Digital Economy Navigator (DEN) is a comprehensive evidence-based global assessment tool, enabling each country to understand its level of digital economy maturity, find opportunities for growth, and help inform policy and other responses to make the most of these opportunities. It empowers policymakers and partners with actionable insights to bridge digital divides, foster inclusive growth, and ensure that digitalization remains anchored in social equity and sustainable progress. The DEN 2025 is planned to cover 80 countries, representing 94% of global GDP and 85% of the global population. The report explores key issues such as sustainability, social inclusion, gender equality, the impact of emerging technologies such as AI, and cross-border cooperation in areas such as digital trade – and what they mean in practice for governments, business, people and multilateral institutions. For example, addressing the digital gender divide is crucial for countries so they can leverage the potential of their entire populations and make the most of the opportunities offered by the digital economy. The report is underpinned by 145 data indicators from global sources and a survey covering more than 41,000 respondents in total across the 80 countries.**

**The research demonstrates how the global digital economy is evolving, where things are improving and where additional efforts are needed.** It identifies practical country-level digital economy development opportunities for engagement and partnerships. Importantly, it includes a **Global Call to Action** for addressing global and country-level digital economy data and evidence gaps and other digital economy challenges – in partnership with stakeholders.

## B. Event Concept

**The high-level side event will be co-hosted by the DCO, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Federal Republic of Nigeria – to discuss how data and a robust evidence base can help shape a more inclusive digital economy that in turn drives social development. This event will:**

- provide an opportunity for ministers, deputy ministers, CEOs and senior representatives from the UN and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to deliberate on shared priorities for inclusive digital economy development.
- offer a timely platform to discuss the strategic role of data and digital intelligence in shaping the future of the digital economy.
- provide WSSD2 attendees with an exclusive first look at the DEN 2025.