



Second World Summit for Social Development
Data-driven strategies to address the gaps in Social Development and accelerate an inclusive Digital Economy

5 November 2025; 10-11.15am; Hall 7, Room 8

Organized by: Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), the Kingdom of Belgium (Belgian Development Cooperation / Enabel), the Kingdom of Morocco, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Ministry of Women Affairs & Social Development)

Background on the event

This session focused on how the development of an inclusive digital economy crosscuts with the key themes of the WSSD2, showcasing the power of digital transformation as an enabler for social prosperity. The session also leveraged new data and research from the DCO Digital Economy Navigator (DEN) 2025 publication, to show what data- and evidence-based solutions can foster digital multilateral collaboration.

- 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 inform policy, capacity-building, and investment strategies – to facilitate sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth of the digital economy.

Key Issues discussed

The event discussed how data can help shape a more inclusive digital economy that, in turn, drives social development. It offered a timely platform to discuss the strategic role of data and economic analysis in shaping the future of the digital economy. It also provided attendees with an exclusive first look at the DEN 2025 publication and dataset.

A. Keynotes:

- H.E. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary-General of the DCO, outlined the vision for a future where every nation can participate meaningfully in the digital economy. H.E. AlYahya highlighted that DEN 2025 is a reminder that collective progress depends on decisive action and on the need to work together across borders, sectors, and communities to shape an inclusive and sustainable digital future where every nation can participate and prosper.
- H.E. Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), outlined the importance of digital cooperation for the global economy and regional development prosperity. This includes governments adopting forward-looking policies, businesses investing with purpose and responsibility, and societies embracing innovation as a force for inclusion.
- H.E. Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim, Honorable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria, outlined the social, gender equality and other national priorities for Nigeria, and how the DEN assessment

can help advance these issues. H.E. Ibrahim underscored that global action to address the digital gender divide is crucial for countries, so they can leverage the potential of their entire populations.

- H.E. Ambassador Tareq Mohammad Al-Bannai, PR of the State of Kuwait to the UN in New York, outlined how the DEN can help advance the broader UN development agenda and the Global Digital Compact – including its Objective to “Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all”.
- Ms. Alaa Abdulaal, Chief of Digital Economy Intelligence, DCO, introduced the DEN and highlighted the major advancements from the first 2024 DEN, noting that the DEN 2025 findings show digitalization is creating opportunities for growth across all income levels. Ms. Abdulaal emphasized that as the digital economy continues to evolve rapidly, so must the tools used to measure and understand its impacts – in a way that can guide policymakers, businesses, and international organizations.

B. Moderated Panel

- Hassan Nasser, Special Envoy Multilateral Affairs DCO, introduced and facilitated the Panel discussion on how to move from data to a more inclusive digital economy. Panel members were Géraldine Ladrière, Special Advisor of Enabel, Belgium, Dr. Issa Faye -Director-General for Global Practices and Partnerships Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), H.E. Amb. Philip Thigo, Special Envoy on Technology, The Republic of Kenya, and Ms. Ingrid McDonald, UN Resident Coordinator in Albania. They discussed:
 - Practical ways countries and partners can translate the commitments of the Doha Declaration into concrete actions leveraging digital cooperation.
 - How to facilitate the real-world impact of data and technology to drive inclusive digital economic growth; and
 - Potential partnership opportunities to achieve this, and how the DEN can contribute to these efforts.

Key recommendations for action

The event discussion underscored how the digital economy is rapidly evolving and highlighted where additional global cooperation efforts are needed. The key recommendations from the session included:

- Helping deliver the [commitments for the Doha Solutions Platform for Social Development](#), including concrete actions to achieve social development for all, in particular to the benefit of developing countries.
- Underscoring the importance of strategic alignment and high-level dialogue on the shared challenges and opportunities of the digital economy across countries, to advance inclusive digital economy development. This includes the importance of multilateral, multistakeholder cooperation, such as South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Encouraging policymakers, the private sector, international organizations, and the global research community to collaborate and utilize the DEN as a resource for evidence-based decision-making and collaboration. By sharing data, building digital skills, and strengthening trust in online systems, countries can ensure the benefits of digital transformation are broadly shared.
- Underscoring the importance of delivering on the [Global Call to Action](#) in the DEN 2025 for addressing global and country-level digital economy data and evidence gaps and other digital economy challenges, in partnership with stakeholders.