Kuwait Declaration

Responsible AI for Global Digital Prosperity

5th DCO General Assembly

Kuwait City, The State of Kuwait 5 February 2026

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Preamble

1. **We, the Ministers and Representatives of the Member States[1] of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), gathered in the State of Kuwait on 4 and 5 February 2026 for the 5ᵗʰ DCO General Assembly**, adopt the *Kuwait Declaration: Responsible AI for Global Digital Prosperity to* reaffirm our shared vision to advance global digital prosperity, strengthen trust and resilience in the digital economy, and ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

2. **We express our deep appreciation to the State of Kuwait, serving as the 2025 DCO Council Presidency, for graciously hosting the 5ᵗʰ DCO General Assembly.** We warmly welcome the participation of Observers, Partners, and guest countries[2], as well as the broader international community convened for this General Assembly and the 2ⁿᵈ International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF).

3. **We convey appreciation to the 62 Observers representing the private sector, international organizations, academia, and civil society**. Their expertise is key in translating innovation into inclusion, and investment into impact, reinforcing our shared conviction that digital prosperity requires multilateral, multi-stakeholder, and multi-sectoral cooperation to succeed.

4. **We recognize that the accelerating development of AI is transforming economies and societies at unprecedented speed and scale.** AI holds immense potential to enhance productivity, competitiveness, and public service delivery. Yet, if misused or unevenly adopted, AI could contribute to wider digital and socio-economic divides, raise concerns related to bias and discrimination, present challenges for privacy and security.

5. **We affirm that AI can be a transformational enabler of prosperity only when it is developed and deployed in ways that are:**

   (a) Inclusive, delivering tangible value to women, youth, and MSMEs;
   (b) Equitable, grounded in ethical governance, policy leadership, and cross border alignment;
   (c) Scalable, catalyzing trade, entrepreneurship and skilling, building on resilient digital infrastructure.

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[1] People's Republic of Bangladesh, Kingdom of Bahrain, Republic of Cyprus, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of The Gambia, Republic of Ghana, Hellenic Republic (Greece), Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Kingdom of Morocco, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sultanate of Oman, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Republic of Rwanda, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[2] Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Cambodia, People's Republic of China, Republic of El Salvador, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Lebanon, United Mexican States, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, State of Palestine, Republic of Peru, Republic of Poland, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Zambia.

6. **In front of this urgency, we reaffirm the mission of the Digital Cooperation Organization to enable** *Digital Prosperity for All through digital cooperation.* DCO provides a unique and timely platform for aligning policy, catalyzing partnerships, and delivering evidence-based and impact-oriented solutions for inclusive digital prosperity.

7. **We further reaffirm that the DCO 4-Year Agenda (2025–2028), endorsed at the 4ᵗʰ General Assembly, remains our shared compass for collective action,** and we recognize the concrete progress achieved since the 4ᵗʰ General Assembly, which has strengthened our capacity to deliver on shared priorities.

8. **To translate this progress into lasting impact, we will concentrate our joint efforts** on accelerating delivery, scaling adoption, and demonstrating measurable outcomes that advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable AI development. And we note with appreciation the initiative that the Kingdom of Bahrain wishes to explore with the DCO leveraging international collaboration for AI global prosperity through meaningful international collaboration that can then be shared with other member states.

9. **In this journey, we recognize that partnerships across the entire digital ecosystem are essential to driving innovation, investment, and trust.** Therefore, we will continue mobilizing joint action to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and advance safe, inclusive, and trusted digital cooperation.

2026 Objectives

10. **We welcome with appreciation the second edition of the Digital Economy Navigator (DEN) as the DCO solution to assess the maturity of digital economies across the four pillars of the 4-Year Agenda.** We commend its expanded coverage and depth, which enable more targeted, data-driven policy and investment decisions for digital and AI-related priorities.

11. **We support the planned development of DEN in 2026 towards a comprehensive economic intelligence platform** which will help governments prioritize reforms, sequence investments, coordinate cross-border initiatives, and anchor delivery of DCO flagship programs, including through the development of the DCO Digital Economy Calculator.

Digital enablers: Trusted foundations for opportunities in the AI era

12. **We reaffirm our collective effort on the Digital Enablers pillar** to establish unified policy frameworks, accelerate policy harmonization, and enhance resilience through resource sharing.

13. **We welcome the coordinated tools and approaches developed as part of the Online Content Integrity Initiative to strengthen integrity measures.** We welcome the launch of the DCO Campaign for Combating Online Misinformation, and we commend the pledges made by the following countries to support this campaign: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Ghana, and Kenya

14. **We commend the progress made by the Ministerial Committee on Online Misinformation,** chaired by the State of Kuwait, and composed of the Republic of Ghana, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We encourage continued multi-stakeholder collaboration with platforms, media, civil society, and academia to reduce online misinformation and increase digital content integrity.

15. **We welcome the progress made in the Data Embassy Initiative, championed by the Kingdom of Bahrain.** This initiative enables trusted cross-border hosting arrangements that preserve data sovereignty while enabling secure access, strengthening national security, business continuity, and digital resilience. The Kingdom of Bahrain indicated the willingness to conclude letter of intent in order to move towards the operationalization with aim of implementing the initiative with all DCO Members States.

16. **We welcome progress on the DCO Model Startup Act (MSA)** as a structured policy blueprint and encourage Member States to pursue progressive implementation pathways that accelerate regulatory convergence and reduce friction for entrepreneurship. We welcome the efforts of the Secretariat to socialize the MSA, notably through the delivery of twenty-three virtual national advocacy workshops within Member States.

17. **We welcome progress on the DCO IMPACT Platform, championed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,** as a practical channel to scale proven digital government solutions across Member States. We commend the efforts undertaken to connect deployable solutions with national needs, in particular the cooperation between Djibouti, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia and future cooperation with Kingdom of Bahrain.

Digital Corridors: Interoperability and trusted data mobility for AI-enabled growth

18. **We reaffirm the need for the Digital Corridors pillar** to promote cross-border digital trade, secure data exchange, and cultivate a skilled, mobile digital workforce.

19. **We approve the Model Digital Economy Agreement (MDEA) and its Commentary as the official DCO Model Agreement and reference guide for international digital trade cooperation.** We hence invite Member States to utilize the MDEA as a reference framework when negotiating bilateral or plurilateral digital economy agreements with partners of interest, adapting its provisions to their specific national contexts to accelerate trusted and secure digital trade. We note estimates that greater alignment could unlock approximately USD 2.1 billion in additional annual intra-DCO digital trade by 2028.

20. **We welcome the adoption of key instruments supporting trusted cross-border data flows,** including the DCO Model Contractual Clauses (MCCs), the DCO Data Classification Guidance, and the Country Accreditation Participation Checklist. We reaffirm that trusted cross-border data flows—grounded in privacy, security, and accountability—are essential to innovation, digital trade, and AI-enabled public and private services.

Digital Business and Innovation: Scaling AI-ready enterprise growth

21. **We reaffirm the need for the Digital Business & Innovation pillar** to foster an innovation-driven ecosystem, accelerate the growth of digital enterprises, and empower entrepreneurs.

22. **We welcome the significant progress achieved by the DCO STRIDE Association in 2025, under the championship of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,** including the operationalization of InvestConnect and deal facilitation, through which participating startups from DCO Member States raised over USD 21 million in capital. We further welcome the engagement of more than 500 startups and the mobilization of ecosystem partners to expand access to capital, markets, and mentorship across the DCO membership.

23. **We endorse the DCO DFDI Conceptual and Implementation Framework** as the common delivery model to expand the reach of the DCO DFDI initiative in 2026, beyond Pakistan, Oman, Rwanda, and Cyprus. We further endorse the DFDI Forum as an official DCO convening platform to support digital investment engagement and partnership mobilization in Member States. We commend the championship of Pakistan and the successful organization of the first DFDI Forum in Islamabad, which demonstrated the DFDI model's effectiveness in connecting investment opportunities with capital partners.

24. **We endorse the DCO Ethical AI Guidebook for Policymakers** as a practical, action-oriented resource to translate the DCO Principles for Ethical AI into national policy, legislation, and strategy. We welcome the deployment of the AI Ethical Evaluator.

25. **We further welcome the operational deployment of the AI-REAL Web Portal** in eight Member States as part of the AI-REAL Toolkit, and we encourage all remaining Member States to utilize this tool to advance their AI readiness.

26. **We welcome the substantial progress achieved under the WE-Elevate Initiative in 2025,** including its scale-up from a single-country pilot to multi-country delivery across the Republic of Rwanda, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of The Gambia. We commend the efforts of all partners for training over 5,000 W-MSMEs, and onboarding over 1,000 enterprises onto e-commerce platforms. We recall estimates indicating that up to USD 3.4 billion could be unlocked in GDP across DCO Member States.

Digital society: Skills, safety, and sustainability at the heart of digital prosperity

27. **We reaffirm the importance of the Digital Society** pillar to ensure equitable digital access, foster inclusivity, and mitigate environmental impact through innovative solutions.

28. **We approve the next phase of implementation of the Skills Universe Initiative for 2026.** We invite Member States to participate actively in this initiative to expand digital skills, build capacity, and align the talent supply to the cross-border labor market demand.

29. **Beyond skills, we recognize that safety and wellbeing are essential conditions for participation and trust in the digital society.** Hence, we reaffirm our commitment to protect children and youth online and to promote responsible digital citizenship.

30. **We reaffirm that electronic waste is among the fastest-growing waste streams globally, and that persistent gaps in policy, infrastructure, and enforcement undermine safe collection, recycling, and responsible trade.** Under the E-Waste Management Framework approved at the 4th General Assembly, we commend the progress of the Republic of Ghana and the Sultanate of Oman toward a bilateral agreement on e-waste trade and recycling.

Global Outreach: Multilateralism for a fragmented digital world

31. **We note the outcome of the High-level Dialogue on Digital Cooperation convened during the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly.** On this occasion, the DCO Member States issued a Joint Statement, to call for urgent cooperation, ensuring that digital becomes a driver of resilience, prosperity, and peace.

32. **We also welcome the expansion of the United Nations Group of Friends for Digital Cooperation,** co-chaired by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We reaffirm our commitment to deepen South-South and triangular cooperation, and to strengthen partnerships across the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations.

33. **In this perspective, we acknowledge the presence, for this 5th General Assembly, of the principals of the following organizations:**

    a) Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
    b) Asian Cooperation Dialogue
    c) Gulf Cooperation Council
    d) International Chamber of Commerce
    e) SAMENA Council

    As well as the delegates of the following entities: AFC, AWLN, ERIA, EU, ICANN, ICRC, IFC, IOM, IsDB, ITU, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNESCO, UNRC, WEF, WBG, WTO.

Forward directions towards digital prosperity

34. **We extend our warm congratulations to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for assuming the Presidency** of the DCO Council for 2026. We are pleased to announce that the next General Assembly of the Digital Cooperation Organization will take place in Q1 2027 in Pakistan, where we will review progress in implementing the DCO 4-Year Agenda.

35. **In addition, we are pleased to confirm the endorsement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Presidency of the DCO Council for 2027**, in accordance with DCO's rotational presidency.

36. **We are pleased to announce the composition of the 2026 Executive Committee,** chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the following Member States: the State of Djibouti, the Republic of Ghana, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Rwanda. **We extend our appreciation to the Members of the 2025 DCO Executive Committee** for their dedication and contributions in guiding the Organization's work, priorities, and governance.

37. **We recognize the General Secretariat for its continued support and efforts in advancing the implementation of the decisions and initiatives** endorsed by this General Assembly, and we look forward to continued progress in achieving our shared objectives. We congratulate H.E. Deemah AlYahya for her reappointment as Secretary-General for the period 2026-2029.

38. **We resolve to make 2026 a year of consolidation and acceleration,** where responsible AI leadership is matched by trusted data foundations, where cross-border corridors reduce friction for businesses, and where skills and sustainability keep people and the planet at the center of progress.

39. **We invite other governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and international organizations to join us.** Together, we will build practical solutions to turn cooperation into capacity, and capacity into prosperity for all in the age of AI.