

## **Summit of the Future**

### **UN Headquarter, General Assembly Hall**

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Speech of the Digital Cooperation Organization

By H.E. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary-General

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to begin by extending my gratitude to the UN Secretary-General, H.E. Antonio Guterres, and all the co-facilitators for their tireless work in bringing us to this pivotal moment. It is a privilege to address this assembly following the historic adoption of the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact. Today, the need for a global framework that promotes responsible, inclusive, and sustainable digital governance has never been more urgent.

The GDC lays out an ambitious roadmap for an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for all. It is a bold vision, but the real challenge is translating these goals, principles, objectives, and commitments into action, especially as we strive to achieve the SDGs.

The digital divide is multi-faceted, within it exists the AI divide, the computing divide, the gender digital divide and the skills divide. The AI and computing divide represents a significant barrier, as some nations advance rapidly in AI innovation and deployment, while others struggle to keep pace. At the same time, the gender digital divide continues to limit women's access to technology and opportunities, and the skills divide leaves many without the digital competencies essential for success in a fast-evolving economy. If we do not address these interconnected challenges, we risk leaving entire communities behind.

Today, I stand before you representing the Digital Cooperation Organization. Founded in 2020, the DCO is dedicated to accelerating the inclusive and sustainable growth of the digital economy. We represent 16 member states across Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, encompassing over 800 million people—about 10% of the global population—with 75% of them under the age of 30. We are committed to building a prosperous digital future for all our member states, empowering them to transition from consumers of the digital sphere to producers and innovators. As a connector, facilitator, and advisor, we ensure that everyone can participate and is equipped with the necessary tools to succeed in this new digital age.

It is here, at the Summit of the Future, that the DCO proudly launched the Digital Economy Navigator, an innovative tool that provides detailed insights on digital economy performance across 50 countries. This initiative is just one of the many ways we are turning the principles of the Global Digital Compact into action.

But while DEN is a vital resource, it is only the beginning. In the spirit of networked multilateralism, we must foster collective efforts to the GDC's ambitious goals, objectives, and commitments. I call upon every country, organization, and individual to join forces in this critical endeavor.

Let us seize this moment to create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive in the digital age. The time to act is now—let us transform our shared vision into reality! Your engagement and collaboration are not just encouraged; they are essential to creating lasting impact for generations to come. Together, we can build a digital ecosystem that is inclusive, sustainable, and a true force for good in the world!

Thank you.