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IDCF 2026 Impact Report

Inclusive Prosperity in the Age of AI

4–5 February 2026 • Kuwait City, State of Kuwait
Held on the sidelines of the DCO 5th General Assembly

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SUMMARY:

The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) successfully concluded the 2nd edition of the International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF) on the sidelines of its 5th General Assembly (GA) in February 2026, a pivotal event that brought together Member States, partners, policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and international stakeholders to advance inclusive prosperity in the age of AI.

The 2nd IDCF demonstrated strong reach and impact, convening 480+ attendees from 31 countries, including 10 ministers, 124 government representatives, and 85 leading international speakers across 23 dynamic sessions.

The Forum served as a platform for high-level dialogue and practical cooperation on the future of the digital economy, covering key topics such as AI governance, digital trade, responsible technology, digital infrastructure, skills, inclusion, cross-border cooperation, and global digital prosperity.

Media and digital engagement were significant, with 35+ international media representatives, more than 4,045 media coverage pieces, 39 million total reach, 84.9 million impressions, and 36.4 million total engagement, reflecting the growing visibility of IDCF as DCO's flagship multi-stakeholder platform.

The DCO is grateful to ZainTECH, BSF, and Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise for their support as IDCF 2026 partners and sponsors. Their contribution enriched the Forum experience, strengthened the content, and helped foster a strong spirit of innovation, collaboration, and shared commitment to advancing the global digital economy.

By supporting this important event, IDCF partners and sponsors demonstrated their commitment to advancing inclusive digital transformation, responsible innovation, and sustainable digital prosperity for all.

- **Event:**

The 2nd International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF) was held on the sidelines of the Digital Cooperation Organization's (DCO) 5th General Assembly (GA).

- **Date:**

4 & 5 February 2026

- **Venue:**

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, Kuwait City, State of Kuwait

The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) is the world's first standalone international organization focused on accelerating inclusive and sustainable digital economy growth. Uniting 16 Member States, DCO advances digital prosperity through policy alignment, innovation, responsible technology adoption, and cross-border cooperation. As the global voice for emerging digital economies, the DCO champions:

- 1 **Prosperity** AI-driven growth, digital trade, entrepreneurship, and investment.
- 2 **Resilience** Trust, infrastructure, responsible technology, and digital governance.
- 3 **Cooperation** Multilateral frameworks, cross-border alignment, and shared digital prosperity.

International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF) 2026 is DCO's flagship global gathering of:

- 1 **Ministers & Policymakers** DCO Council members, ICT ministers, regulators, and government leaders.
- 2 **Industry Leaders & Experts** C-suite leaders across technology, finance, infrastructure, AI, and digital economy sectors.
- 3 **Startups, Investors & Innovators** Showcasing AI, digital trade, fintech, skills, and inclusive innovation.

Held alongside the 5th DCO General Assembly, IDCF 2026 focused on:

- 1 Showcasing innovations, partnerships, and practical success stories that advance inclusive prosperity in the age of AI.
- 2 Facilitating structured policy dialogue and cross-sector engagement between governments, industry, academia, civil society, and international organizations.
- 3 Driving momentum for responsible AI, digital trade, trusted technology, infrastructure, skills, inclusion, and entrepreneurship.
- 4 Offering a global stage for startups, investors, youth leaders, development partners, and DCO programmes to connect and scale impact.

Our Global Impact So Far

470+

Attendees

31

countries

40+

Leading
speakers

124

Government
Representatives

28

startup

Partners & Sponsors – IDCF 2026

We are proud to honor the visionary partners who stood with us for the inaugural edition of IDCF, helping transform it into a remarkable success.

zainTECH

Strategic Partner

 **BSF**

Track Sponsor

Alcatel • Lucent
Enterprise 

Session Sponsor

84+

Leading
Speakers

34+

International
Media

84.9M

Impressions

4K+

Media
coverage

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Turning digital cooperation into inclusive prosperity



Convening power

More than 480 attendees from 31 countries joined a high-level forum that connected governments, industry, academia, civil society and media.

Policy to practice

The two-day programme focused on moving from AI principles and policy ambition to practical initiatives that support inclusive digital transformation.



Global amplification

The Forum generated strong international visibility, with 4,045 pieces of media coverage and 84.9M total impressions across channels.

Ecosystem value

Nearly half of formal sessions featured contributions from DCO Partners and Observers, strengthening the Forum as a multi-stakeholder platform.

Six pillars for inclusive prosperity

Digital Prosperity & Inclusive Growth

Digital trade, investment readiness, entrepreneurship and scalable innovation.

Trust, Safety & Responsible Technology

Ethical AI, online integrity, digital trust and responsible innovation.

Infrastructure for a Borderless Future

Connectivity, interoperability, cross-border infrastructure and semiconductor ecosystems.

Skills, Jobs & Human Capital

Workforce transition, foundational digital skills and future-ready talent.

Inclusive Access & Digital Equity

Women and youth participation, affordable access and digital inclusion.

Global Tech Governance & Cooperation

Digital sovereignty, cross-border data collaboration and technology diplomacy.

21 formal sessions, one shared digital future

17

Panels and fireside chats

3

Masterclasses

2

Roundtables

1

Training session

Stock Market Impact: \$130 billion was lost in the U.S. Stock Market following a single fake tweet about an attack on the U.S. government, showing how misinformation can have massive real-world financial consequences.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, misinformation led to the death of thousands (falsely linked to the virus), and ingesting household cleaning products, severely harming health workers, severely



For more information,

Startups, showcases and practical technology

Position IDCF as a platform where policy conversations meet applied innovation.

28

Startups

10

Startup countries
represented

Experiential Zone

Interactive technology experiences allowed delegates and ministerial visitors to explore AI and data tools, secure cloud capabilities and emerging digital solutions.



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A global conversation beyond the Forum

Position IDCF as a platform where policy conversations meet applied innovation.



4,045

Media coverage pieces

700+

Organic stories and interviews

304

Social media posts

851

Social mentions

39M

Total reach

84.9M

Total impressions



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Partnerships powering impact

Strategic Partner

- ZainTECH

Track Sponsor

- Banque Saudi Fransi (BSF)

Session Sponsor

- Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise
- 500 Global
- Badea
- Horizon Group
- Nelc
- PWC



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Nearly half of the formal sessions featured contributions from DCO Partners and Observers, underlining the value of cross-sector collaboration in shaping practical digital solutions.

Startups, showcases and practical technology

Position IDCF as a platform where policy conversations meet applied innovation.

Day 1 SESSIONS/PANELS:

IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

1) Multilateral Cooperation: Connect Ambition To Action

Welcoming

Keynote (video)

Moderator

Panel Speakers



Hassan Nasser,
SEMA DCO



Rebeca Grynspan,
Secretary-General
of the United
Nations
Conference on
Trade and
Development
(UNCTAD)



Ms. Pamela Mar,
Managing
Director, Digital
Standards
Initiative,
International
Chamber of
Commerce



Ms. Patricia
Ajamian Safi,
Head of
Multilateral
Partnerships,
UNESCO



H.E Nasser Al-
Mutairi,
Secretary
General , Asian
Cooperation
Dialogue (ACD)
Kuwait



Ms. Emma Morley
Resident
Representative in
Kuwait,
UNDP



Mr. Alex Wong
Senior Advisor to
the Secretary-
General,
ITU



IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

2) Towards Coalition: The Financing Imperative for Global Digital Inclusion Co-led by BADEA

Moderator	Keynote Speaker	Panel Speakers		
 Ms. Vanessa Ghanem Arab Affairs Editor, The National	 H.E. Mr. Abdullah AlMusaibeeh, President, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)	 Mr. Fawaz, Bilbeisi Regional Manager for Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria International Finance Corporation (IFC)	 Mr. Idrissa Dia Director Economic & Social Infrastructure, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)	 Mr. Begna Gebreyes, Director and Head, Heavy Industries, Telecoms & Technology, Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)



IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

3) Shaping the Digital Economy Future: Insights and Action Pathways from the DCO DEN 2025 and DET 2026 - Co-lead by Horizon Group

Moderator

Panel Speakers



Ms. Alina Timofeeva
Board Member
The Chartered
Institute for IT



Ms. Stela Mocan,
Digital
Government
Practice Manager
World Bank
Group's Digital
Vice Presidency



Mr. Piotr Kobielski,
Deputy Director,
International
Cooperation
Department, Ministry
of Digital Affairs
MODA, Polan
Poland



Dr. Margareta
Drzeniek Managing
Partner and Chief
Executive Officer CEO
Horizon Group



Mr. Bocar Alpha Ba
CEO of SAMENA
Telecommunications
Council
UAE



H.E. Yerzhan
Yelekeyev
Kazakhstan
Ambassador to
Kuwait



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IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

4) Operationalizing Responsible & Trustworthy AI: Moving Beyond Ethics Manifestos to Functional Compliance and Risk Management Powered by ZainTECH

Position IDCF as a platform where policy conversations meet applied innovation.

Moderator



Shafik Khashouf,
Chief Technology &
Delivery Officer,
ZainTECH

Panel Speakers



Mr. Alex Kronic, Senior
Advisor to the
Chairman, **Commercial
Bank of Kuwait**



Dr. Mariam Nouh,
Vice President
Economies of the
Future, **King Abdulaziz
City for Science and
Technology (KACST)**



Mr. Fadi Elkomati,
Middle East
Technology Media
and Telecom Leader,
PwC



IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

5) Fueling Growth: AI, Investment Flows, and the Future of Inclusive Digital Prosperity

Moderator



Richie Santosdiaz
Economic
Development
Advisor
Fintech Times

Panel Speakers



Mr. Federico Menna
CEO
28DIGITAL
Europe



Ms. Anna Ekeledo
Executive Director
AfriLabs
Africa



Mr. Jascha Stein
Executive Chair of
People Centered
Internet and CEO
of OmniBot.ai
USA



IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

6) Women in the Digital Economy (WDE): The Key For Peace And Resilience Co-led by

Moderator

Keynote Speaker

Panel Speakers



Hassan Nasser,
SEMA **DCO**



Dr. Amal El Fallah
Seghrouchni
Minister Delegate to
the Head of
Government Digital
Transition and
Administrative
Reform, **Kingdom of
Morocco**



Dr. Giulia Ajmone
Marsan Strategy and
Partnership Director
ERIA's



Karma Ekmekji -
CEO and
Founder of
Diplowomen



Nafisa Bello Issa
Special Adviser Digital
Cooperation and
Multilateral Affairs
Federal Minister of
Communication,
Innovation and Digital
Economy **Nigeria**



Sandrine El
Khodry Executive
Vice President
(EVP) of Global
Sales &
Marketing at
**Alcatel-Lucent
Enterprise (ALE)**



IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

7) Digital Banking and Fintech as Enablers of an Inclusive Digital Economy

Moderator



Mr. Samuel Ubido,
Chairman,
Techinnovate Group

Panel Speakers



Mr. Abdullah Al-Tuwaijri,
Chief Executive Officer,
Boubyan Bank



Mr. Adeeb Ahamed,
Founder and Managing Partner,
LuLu Financial Holdings



Mrs. Mireille Korab Abi Nasr, CCO
Communications and PR,
Investment and Capital Bank



Mr. Abdullah Alwabel, Vice
President – Digital and
Innovation, BSF



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IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

7) Semiconductor as Strategic Infrastructure: A Multilateral Path to Digital Resilience

Moderator



Mr. Kyriacos Nicolaou
Business Journalist
Cyprus Mail

Panel Speakers



Dr. Naveed Sherwani
CEONational Semiconductor Hub
KSA



H.E. Dr. Ali Al Shidhani,
Undersecretary for
Communications and
Information Technology
Ministry of Transport,
Communications and
Information Technology
(MTCIT)
Oman



Mr. Ayman Sejiny
Fund General Partner
Saudi Fabless
Semiconductor Fund
KSA



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IDCF SESSIONS/PANELS:

8) Skills Ecosystem for the Future: Strategic Partnerships for Digital Skills and a Global Talent Economy co led by nelc

Moderator



Sheila Birgen
Innovation Driven
Markets Director
DCO

Panel Speakers



Dr. Hajar Binasfour ,
Deputy Director General
for Empowerment at
National e-Learning Center
- NeLC
KSA



Mr. David Lazaro
Director Of Edraak
at The Queen Rania
Foundation
Jordan



Nawal H. Bou-Risli,
Group Chief Purpose
& Human Resources
Officer, Zain
Kuwait



H.E. Lamin Jabbi
Minister for Comm
unications and
Digital Economy
The Gambia



Day 1 SIDE EVENT Room

SIDE EVENT:

1) Global Digital Cooperation Exchange: Accelerating Cross-Border Digital Partnerships

Welcoming remarks



Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui
Director General
Digital Cooperation
Organization (DCO)

Keynote Speech



H.E. Dr. Ali bin Amer AlShidhani
Chair of the DCO Observers
Committee Undersecretary for
Communications & IT MTCIT Oman



SIDE EVENT:

2) ZainTECH Masterclass: Applied Data & AI: From Insight to Responsible Execution

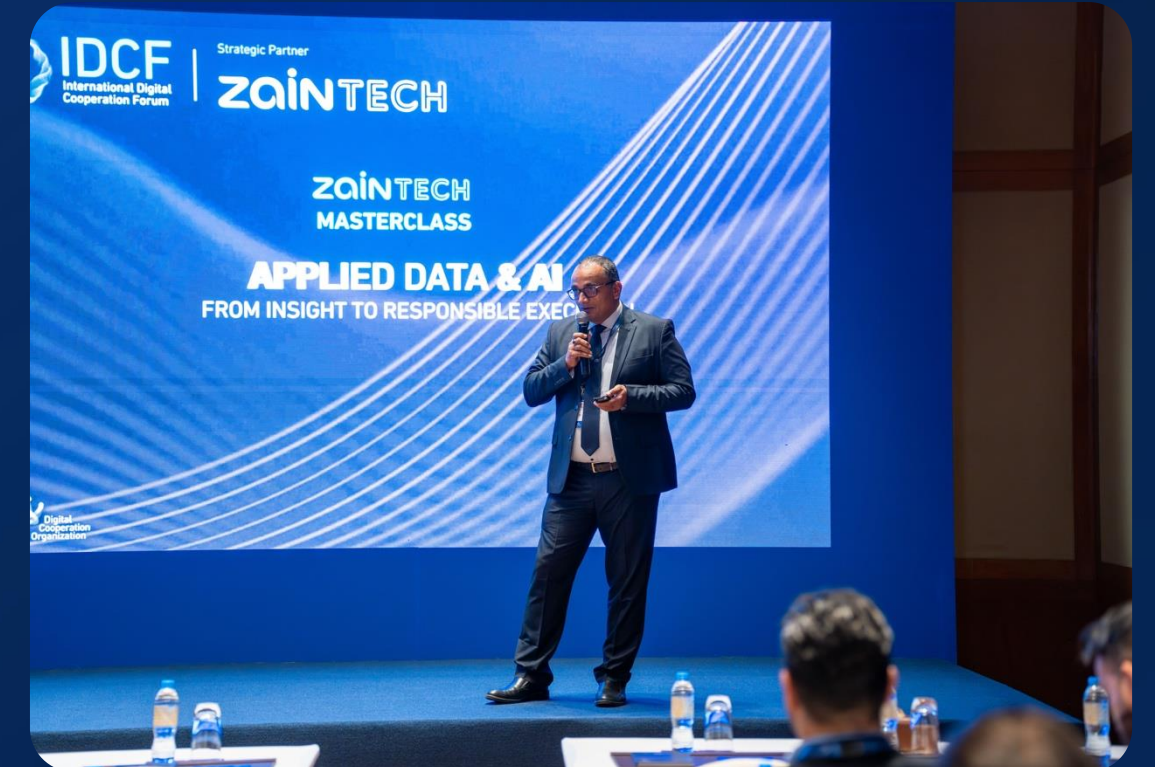
Panel Speakers



Dr Dwijendranath Dwivedi, VP
- BFSI, ZainTECH, Faye Murray,
Field CDO - EMEA, Dataiku



Faye Murray, Field CDO -
EMEA, Dataiku



SIDE EVENT:

3) Scale to Exits: Fundraising, Growth, and Pathways to Liquidity for Startups

Keynote Opening Remarks



Sheila Birgen
Innovation Driven
Markets Director
DCO

Fireside chat Speaker1



Chukwuma Jason
Njoku CEO
Umuaka
Holdings

Fireside chat Speaker2



Farid Arab
Founder & CEO,
Founder Family
(Impact
Investor), Global



SIDE EVENT:

4) Bridging Borders with Data: DCO Interoperability Mechanism & Data Classification

Main session Speaker

Keynote Speech



Ahmad Bhinder
DCO



Mr. Medhi Paryavi, Chairman
and CEO International Data
Center Authority (IDCA)



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SIDE EVENT:

From Vision to Value: Executing National Digital & AI Agendas for Inclusive Prosperity by PWC

Speakers



Blanca Fernandez
Partner, TMT, PwC
Middle East



Fadi Komati
Head of TMT and
SpaceTech Leader,
PwC Middle East.



Ms. Emma Morley
Resident
Representative in
Kuwait,
UNDP



Mr. Nayef Alawadhi
Chairman of the Board
of Directors of the
Kuwait Information
Technology Society
CITRA



SIDE EVENT:

7) From AI Ambition to National Capability: Building Compute, Capital, & Cooperation for Economic Transformation by 500 Global

Speakers



Courtney Powell, COO & Managing Partner, 500 Global



Kate Kallot, Founder & CEO, Amini; TIME100 Most Influential in AI



Alex Wong, Senior Advisor, Strategic Engagement and Initiatives, Office of the Secretary-General, ITU



Day 2 SESSIONS/PANELS:

SESSIONS/PANELS

AI Safety and Systemic Risk: Shared Approaches for Inclusive Prosperity

Moderator



Ahmad Bhinder
Digital Policy &
Intelligence Director
Digital Economy
Intelligence
DCO

Panel Speakers



H.E. Dr. Abdel Razzaq
Natsheh
Minister of
Telecommunications
and Digital Economy
of the State of
Palestine,



Dr. Amal El Fallah
Seghrouchni
Minister Delegate to
the Head of
Government in charge
of Digital Transition
and Administrative
Reform, Kingdom of
Morocco



H.E. Mr. Kamal
Shehade, Minister
of State for
Technology and
Artificial
Intelligence in the
Republic of
Lebanon



Hon. William Kabogo
Gitau, Minister of ICT
and Digital Economy
Kenya



H.E. Mr. Vandeth Chea
Minister of Post and
Telecommunications
(MPTC)
Cambodia



SESSIONS/PANELS

11) Accelerating Inclusive Digital Trade: The Role of Digital Economy Agreements

Moderator



Ms. Pamela Mar,
Managing Director,
Digital Standards
Initiative,
International
Chamber of
Commerce,
Singapore

Panel Speakers



Ms. Sichen Fan, Senior
Expert, Global
Development and
Cooperation,
China Academy of
Information
Communication
Technology,
China



Mr. John Denton AO,
Secretary General,
International Chamber
of Commerce,
France



H.E Dr. Sam
Sethserey,
Director General of
ICT, Ministry of Post
and
Telecommunication
s, Cambodia



Ms. Emmanuelle Ganne,
Chief of Digital Trade and
Frontier Technologies,
World Trade Organization,
Switzerland



Mr. Rabi El Amine,
Chairman,
Lebanese
Executives Council,
Lebanon



SESSIONS/PANELS

12) Empowering Nations with AI: Insights from the AI-REAL Toolkit powered by alcatel

Moderator

Panel Speakers



MEI CHEL TAN
Managing Partner
500 Global



Mr. Bocar Alpha Ba
CEO of SAMENA
Telecommunications
Council
UAE



Bader A. ALAbdullah, Director
Head of Quality Assurance,
Communication and
Information Technology
Regulatory Authority CITRA
Kuwait



SESSIONS/PANELS

13) Women Shaping the Future of Technology by

Opening Remarks

Moderator

Panel Speakers



Dr Muna Morad,
CEO of OnAir



Ms. Alina Timofeeva
Board Member
The Chartered
Institute for IT



Dr. Hajar El Haddaoui
Director General
Digital Cooperation
Organization (DCO)



Prof. Dina Ahmed Orabi,
Professor at Media Production
– Galala University



Sandrine El Khodry
Executive Vice
President (EVP) of
Global Sales &
Marketing at Alcatel-
Lucent Enterprise (ALE)



Day 2 SIDE EVENT Room

SIDE EVENT:

SIDE EVENT: Masterclass on Ethical AI: Governance, Risk,
and Responsible Innovation

Main session Speaker

Co-Presenter



Ahmad Bhinder
DCO



Prof. Demetrius A. Floudas
Cambridge University



SIDE EVENT:

Online Content Integrity Master Class: Resilient Societies in the Age of Misinformation

Main session Speaker



Dr. Syed Ifikhar Shah,
Technical Publications
Director
DCO

Keynote Speakers



**Dr Dwijendranath
Dwivedi, VP - BFSI,**
ZainTECH, Faye
Murray, Field CDO -
EMEA, Dataiku



Mr. Mubarak Alrajhi,
Expert, Specialist,
Digital Transformation
Sector, CAIT,
Kuwait



Mr. Chege Ngugi,
Africa Regional
Director,
ChildFund
International
Kenya



SIDE EVENT:

10) IMPACT: Catalyzing Collaboration for a Thriving Cross-Border Digital Market

Potential Moderator

Panel Speakers



Ms. Alina Timofeeva
Board Member
The Chartered
Institute for IT



CV Madhukar
CEO at **Co-Develop**



H.E. SEREYVATH
CHEA Secretary-
General of The
Digital
Government
Committee Digital
Government
Committee
Cambodia



Jana Krimpe,
Founder &
CEO of Best
Solutions Rep
of **Estonia ICT**



H.E. Lamin Jabbi
Minister for Comm
unications and
Digital Economy
The Gambia





Thank You

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