



Press Release

The Republic of Ghana joins the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)

- *The Republic of Ghana becomes a Member State of the DCO to share knowledge and cooperate on fostering thriving digital economies for prosperity and growth*

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | 5th February 2023 – The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) has welcomed the Republic of Ghana as the newest Member State to join its international mission to realize digital prosperity for all. The Republic of Ghana becomes the twelfth nation to ascend to the DCO, an international organization that was founded to support countries to build their digital economies as an essential driver of sustainable growth and development.

The Republic of Ghana is well-established as a leader in utilizing the power of communications and digital technologies to support economic growth. Ghana was the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to launch a cellular mobile network in 1992, and one of the first countries in Africa to be connected to the internet and to introduce ADSL broadband services. Ghana is also a leader in digital payments and mobile money, with the second-highest data penetration rate and fastest-growing mobile money market in sub-Saharan Africa which has greatly enhanced financial inclusion. As the newest member of the DCO, Ghana will now bring that experience and expertise to share with the other Member States.

H.E. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, Minister of Communications and Digitalization commented on the announcement: "Ghana shares the DCO's vision of using technology to create opportunities for economic diversity and growth, and to empower our people, especially the youth, through digital and financial inclusion. We look forward to working with our fellow DCO Member States and DCO Observers to share our experience and collaborate in the fields of e-government, infrastructure, and entrepreneurship, and to foster investment in Ghana with member states."

H.E. Deemah AlYahya, Secretary-General of the DCO said: "I am very pleased to welcome the Republic of Ghana to the DCO. Ghana is one of the leaders among African nations in adopting new technology and in the wise use of policies, such as its Digital Finance Policy, that support new areas of development and bring positive benefits to the community. The DCO was created to encourage knowledge sharing and exchange for the good of all nations, and I believe that Ghana has many lessons to share with the DCO and our ecosystem of nations."

The DCO, which focuses on digital economy initiatives supporting youth, startup entrepreneurs, and women, now has 13 member states with a combined GDP of over USD 2 trillion and a population of nearly 600 million. With 70 percent of future economic growth set to be digital, DCO member states provide a valuable market opportunity to investors and entrepreneurs alike.

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Notes to editors:

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About DCO

The DCO is a global multilateral organization founded in November 2020 that aims to enable digital prosperity for all by accelerating the inclusive growth of the digital economy. The DCO brings together the Ministries of Communications and IT of 12 nations – Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ghana, Jordan, Kuwait, Pakistan, Oman, Nigeria, Rwanda, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. – that collectively represent nearly \$2 trillion in GDP and a market of nearly 600 million people, more than 70% of whom are under the age of 35.

The DCO is focused on empowering youth, women, and entrepreneurs, leveraging the accelerative power of the digital economy and leapfrogging with innovation to drive economic growth and increase social prosperity. Through cooperation, dialogue, and the creation of mutually advantageous cross-border legislation, we seek to establish within our member nations the optimal infrastructure and policies for the rapid creation of inclusive and equitable digital economies within which all people, businesses, and societies can innovate and thrive.

In pursuit of our members' common interests - for example, in the areas of digital skills training, data protection, intellectual copyright, regulation, taxation, and entrepreneurship - DCO works collaboratively with governments, the private sector, international organizations, NGOs and civil society to enable more inclusive digital transformation and the growth of digital industries.

The DCO's key initiatives include programs to enhance cross-border data flows, promote market expansion for SMEs, empower digital entrepreneurs and advance digital inclusion among women and youth, and other underrepresented populations.

More information about DCO can be found at www.dco.org, <https://twitter.com/dcorg>, and <https://www.linkedin.com/company/dcorg/>

About [Ghana]

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