

## **Statement by DCO SG, HE Ms Deemah AlYahya at the Presidential Palace**

Your Excellencies, esteemed guests, and members of the press,

It is a distinct honor to be here today at the Presidential Palace, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to H.E President Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Dr Constantinos Kombos, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Dr. Nicodemos Damianou, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, and the Government of Cyprus for their gracious hospitality. It is always a pleasure to visit this beautiful island, renowned for its rich history and vibrant culture. The warmth and welcome we receive each time we visit this remarkable place is truly unparalleled.

Situated at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, Cyprus stands as a strategic gateway for startups and technology-driven enterprises. This unique positioning has enabled this country to evolve into a thriving hub for innovation, where cutting-edge technologies and entrepreneurial ventures flourish. The progress we see here is a shining example of how collaborations between governments, the private sector, and innovators can drive sustainable development and economic prosperity.

As we gather here at the beautiful Presidential Palace, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the impact of Cyprus' leadership within the Digital Cooperation Organization. The success of the DCO is deeply rooted in the aspiration and directives set forth by its member states, with Cyprus playing a pivotal role in shaping our collective vision for a digitally inclusive and innovative future.

At the DCO, we are privileged to facilitate the visions of our member states. Our role as a catalyst is to bridge digital divides and create inclusive opportunities, ensuring technology serves as a driver for positive change, sustainable development, and economic prosperity.

The DCO's mandate extends beyond economic collaboration; it embodies a shared commitment to empowering communities and enhancing lives through digital means. We, alongside our

member states, are united in our efforts to ensure that digital opportunities are accessible to everyone, regardless of geography or background. This alignment of vision and values strengthens our bond and fuels our collective ambition to create a digitally inclusive world.

The importance of international cooperation and cross-border collaboration cannot be overstated. By fostering an environment of mutual support and collective action, especially among our member states, the DCO drives meaningful progress and creates lasting impact.

Today, I am filled with optimism. Together, guided by the directives of Cyprus and our other member states, we are building a foundation for a future where technology serves as a force for good, empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to thrive and I look forward to exploring new avenues for growth and innovation.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Your Excellencies and the Government of Cyprus for your warm welcome and unwavering support. It is through the leadership and vision of our member states that we can truly transform our world and unlock the full potential of the digital revolution.