Digital Cooperation Organization

ITUWebinars

Digital Transformation webinar series
Episode 25: STI Forum Side Event

LEVERAGING THE METAVERSE IN CITIES TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

Co-organized by

STI FORUM
Science, Technology & Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

ITU

Session Speaker

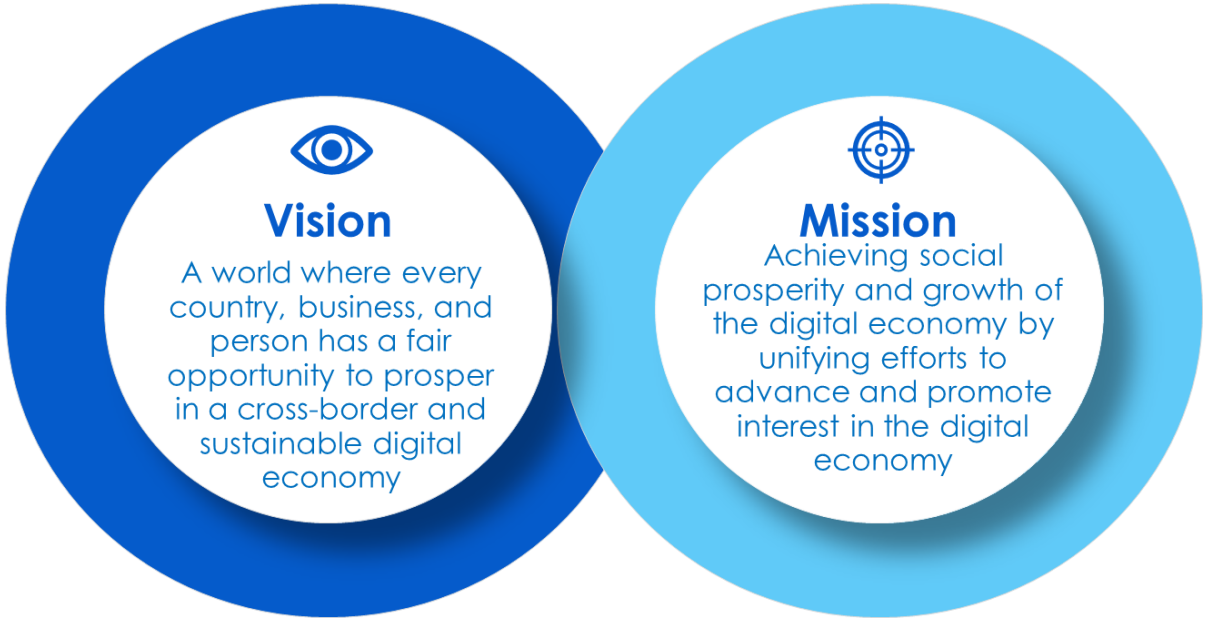
Ahmad Bhinder

Director of Policy Innovation
Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO)

4 May 2023
13:15-14:45 EST (19:15-20:45 CEST)

About DCO

The DCO is a global Intergovernmental Organization founded in November 2020 that aims to enable digital prosperity for all by accelerating the inclusive and sustainable growth of the digital economy.



Strategic Goals

- **Accelerate** the growth of the digital economy collectively across all DCO Members States
- Advance DCO members' **digital transformation**
- Promote **social prosperity and inclusion** across the DCO digital ecosystem
- Strengthen the **collective efforts** of DCO Members in the global digital economy

Information Provider | **Advocator** | **Advisor** | **Facilitator**

Cooperation

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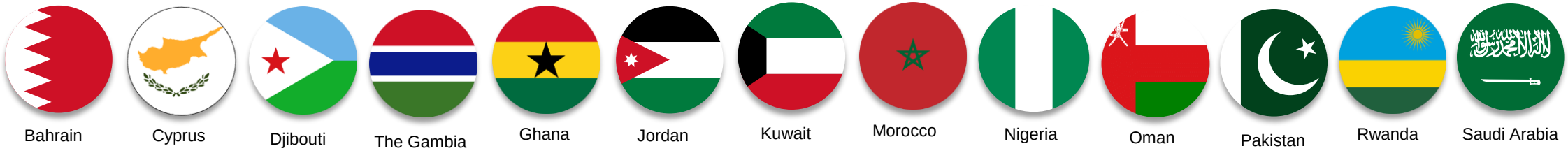
DCO Membership

DCO currently has 13 member states and a network of 22 observers

600+ million people | **USD 2+ trillion GDP** | **70% of young people**



Member States

DCO Observers

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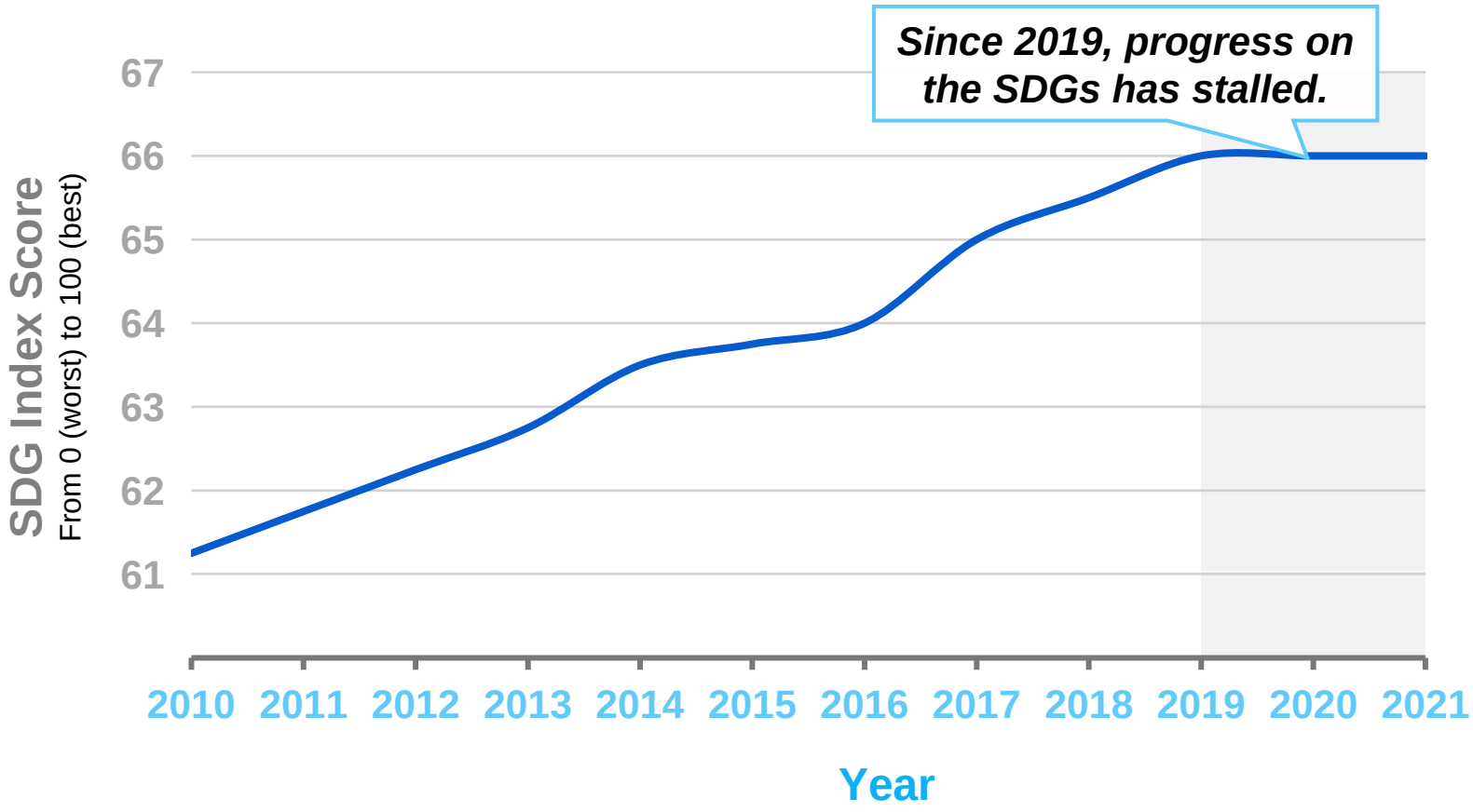
With the urgent global challenges that we are facing, progress on sustainable development must accelerate

SDG Index Score Over Time, World Average[1]



The **SDG Index Score** represents **performance against the SDG targets** based on an estimate of the current percentage of full achievement. The score aggregates country performance to provide **an indicator of global progress**.

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1. Sustainable Development Report 2. 0 denotes the worst possible performance and 100 describes optimum performance (achievement of the SDG target)

Given the accelerating growth of the digital economy, it is critical that we ensure its sustainability…

Growing Significance of the Digital Economy

2025

24.3%

of the global GDP[1]

Today

>15.5%

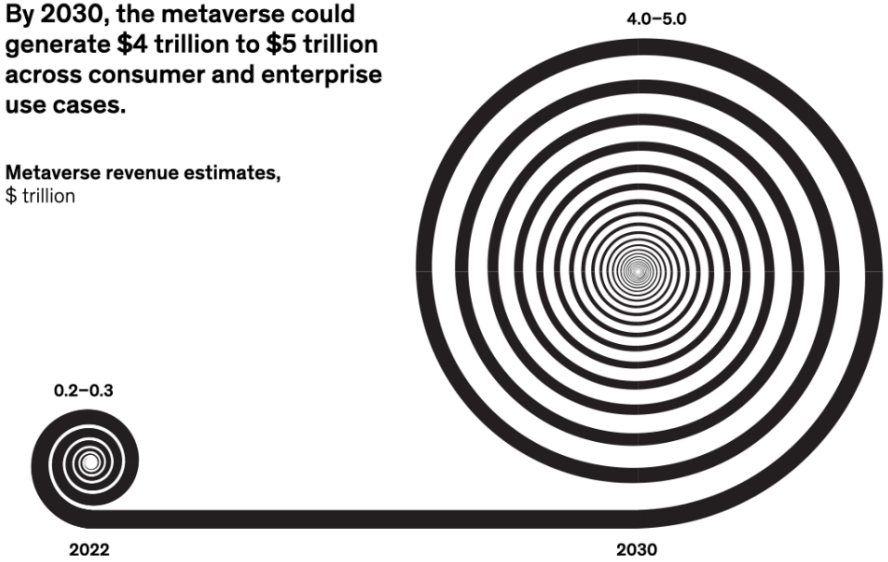
of the global GDP[1]

Growing at **2x the speed** of the traditional economy[1]

Growth Potential of the metaverse

By 2030, the metaverse could generate $4 trillion to $5 trillion across consumer and enterprise use cases.

Metaverse revenue estimates,
$ trillion



McKinsey & Company

… and that we harness the power of digital technologies including the metaverse to accelerate progress on sustainable development

1. World Bank

A preliminary framework for sustainable digital economy

… and the relevance of metaverse

	Planet	Society	Business
Ensuring the growth of the digital economy remains sustainable	Growth with **minimal ecological footprint** (e.g., renewables-powered cloud computing)	Growth that is **inclusive, responsible and benefits all** (e.g., development of the human-centered Metaverse)	Growth of a **fair, competitive market** (e.g., fair chance for all to innovate and participate in the Metaverse)
Harnessing digital technologies to accelerate sustainable development across all sectors	Innovations to **fuel green transformations** beyond the digital economy (e.g., energy efficiency from reduced commuting enabled by virtualization)	Innovations to **empower people and society** (e.g., improved healthcare, education powered by Metaverse)	Innovations to fuel **productivity growths** in non-digital industries (e.g., efficiencies from the Industrial Metaverse powered by Digital Twins)

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Sustainable Cities and Communities

UN Environment Programme’s vision of sustainable cities and communities

Source: UN Environment Programme

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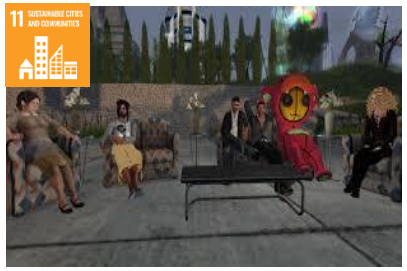
Cities can leverage metaverse progress SDGs

Indicative Use Cases

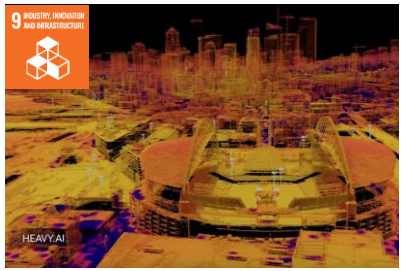
Healthcare Services and Innovation

Experiential Education

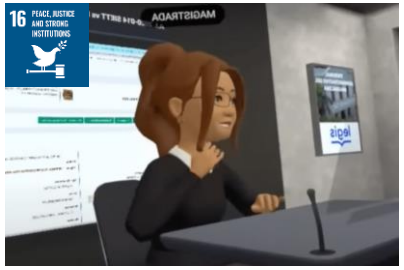
Community Engagement



Smart City Planning

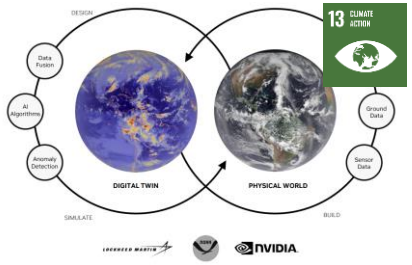


Government Services



Financial Inclusion

Climate Action



Tourism and Culture

Industrial Metaverse

Efficient and Improved Workplace

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Challenges and key policy implications of the metaverse

… and how to overcome them

- Privacy
- Safety, Cybersecurity, and Wellbeing
- Sustainability
- Openness, Inclusivity, and Accessibility
- Interoperability
- Level Playing Field
- Identity
- Governance

… and more

Multilateral and multistakeholder collaboration, human centric development of the metaverse and inclusive policymaking are key to tackling these challenges.

Thank you

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