

Capacity Building Workshop on Digital Data Governance

Draft Concept Note and Programme

12-13 June 2025, (UTC +7)
UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand – In Person

Background:

The rapid adoption of digital technologies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the socio-economic fabric of the Asia-Pacific region. One of the most profound changes has been the accelerated shift toward a digital society, marked by increased online work, education, and socializing. This systemic change has underscored the crucial importance of digital connectivity and transformation while exposing and intensifying long-standing inequalities.

To address these changing environments and new demands, in May 2023 ESCAP members and associate members adopted the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Action Plan 2022-2026 through ESCAP resolution 79/10.¹ The APIS Action Plan comprises 25 actions, grouped under three key pillars: digital connectivity, digital technologies and applications, and digital data.

Under a similar initiative, UN DESA conceived the project entitled “Developing institutional capacities for digital data management and cooperation to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals”, supported by the UN Peace and Development Fund. Utilizing the research framework established by UN DESA, this project seeks to address existing challenges and gaps in digital data management and cooperation, focusing on enhancing the institutional capacities of countries to utilize, manage and govern data in a comprehensive, objective and evidence-based manner, through regional and global cooperation.

In this context, UN ESCAP and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) and its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), are organizing a Capacity-Building Workshop on Digital Data Governance, which follows a series of regional workshops organised by UN DESA under its Data Governance project umbrella. This workshop will provide a valuable opportunity for

¹ ESCAP Resolution 79/10: “Promoting digital cooperation and inclusion through the Action Plan for Implementing the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative, 2022–2026.” Available at: [ESCAP_RES_79_10_E](#)

Asia-Pacific senior government officials to learn from experts, exchange best practices with other countries across the region and beyond through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and strengthen their understanding of digital government and data governance to ensure better policy making at the national level.

The workshop also responds to the need for capacity building on digital transformation, including digital data in this new AI age, emphasised in the Outcome Report² adopted by the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (APIS) Steering Committee at its Eighth Session (APIS SC-8) in September 2024.

Moreover, the event will offer APIS Bureau Members an opportunity to informally review progress on implementing the APIS Action Plan 2022–2026, discuss APIS Working Group activities for 2025, and initiate discussions on drafting the next APIS Action Plan for 2027–2030.

Spotlight: UN DESA's Data Governance Project

According to the UN DESA data governance framework, data governance is supported by the three principles of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (accountability, effectiveness, and inclusiveness) and examined through the lens of the four pillars (policy, institutions, people, and process) and six elements (see Figure 1). This allows for a comprehensive and holistic examination of the various procedural components that, together enable effective, accountable, and inclusive data governance.

UN DESA's National Data Governance Framework

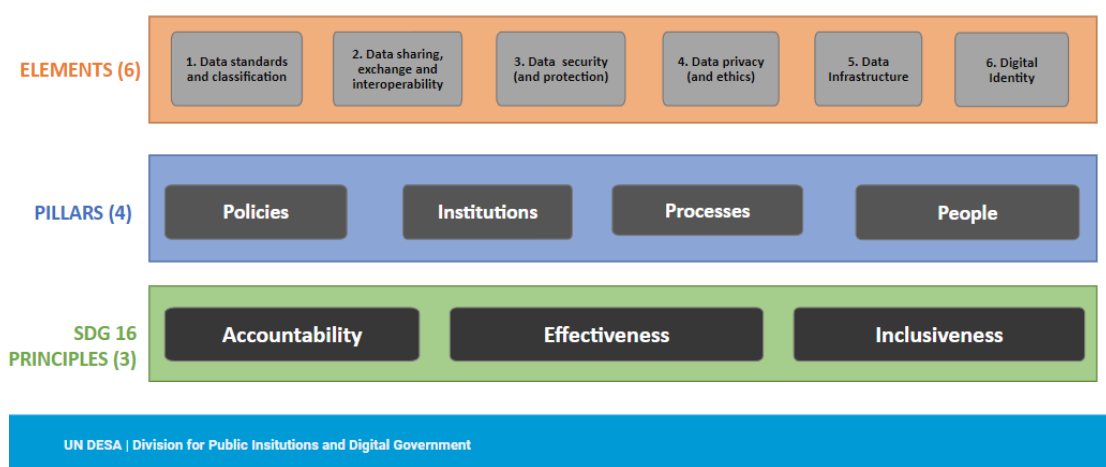


Figure 1: UN DESA's National Data Governance Framework

² [Outcome Report APIS SC-8_Final.pdf](#)

Under the “Developing institutional capacities for digital data management and cooperation to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals” project, the UN DESA team implemented national data governance workshops in 11 countries (Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Lao PDR, Bhutan, Vanuatu, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Mongolia, Gambia) to build capacities in understanding and implementing UN DESA’s e-government development framework, guided by the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI), and explore the existing opportunity and gap assessments for proposed focus areas, emerging from dialogue and interaction among workshop participants, including the proposed UN DESA data governance framework of 4 pillars and 6 elements. As a next step, and part of the project, UN DESA implemented regional workshops (South Africa) and global conferences (Addis ababa, Macau, Shanghai, Deqing) to:

- Support regional and international initiatives in fostering an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment for digital data cooperation through mutual benefit, win-win outcomes and common development.
- Build a shared understanding of issues of digital data governance in the public sector.
- Facilitate and support twinning arrangements between project countries and other developing countries that have put in place institutional and regulatory frameworks for sound and secure digital data management, data governance, and data cooperation – for peer learning and mutual exchange of experience and expertise.
- Identify the next course of action and potential interventions with a proposed timeline.

Draft Programme

(Day 1), Thursday	
	ESCAP - UN DESA Capacity Building Workshop on Data Governance in support of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway
09.30-09.55	Session 1: Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Thailand Minister of Digital Economy and Society (TBC) • Welcoming remarks and overview of achievement and plan of the APIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT & Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP • Welcoming remarks and overview of DESA data governance

	<p>✓ Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief of Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN DESA</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p>
09.55-10.00	Photo session
10.00-10.15	<p>Session 2: Data governance project: Key finding and the way forward in Asia Pacific countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of DESA's Data Governance project ✓ Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA
10.15-10.35	Coffee Break
10.35-12.00	<p>Session 2: Data governance project: Key finding and the way forward in Asia Pacific countries (Contd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key finding, challenges, and way forward found through the Baseline study in Asia Pacific project countries. Panel Style (prepare 2-3 questions, let the countries select which question they want to address, present 2 min, and open floor to the audience) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bangladesh, TBD, (5 min) ✓ Lao PDR, TBD, (5 min) ✓ Bhutan, TBD, (5 min) ✓ Vanuatu, TBD, (5 min) ✓ Samoa, TBD, (5 min) ✓ Mongolia TBD, (5 min)
12.00-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.00	<p>Session 3: Digital Inclusion and Transformation of APIS (ESCAP leading)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achievements and plan of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway Initiative and Action Plan 2022-2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section, IDD, ESCAP • APIS Expert and Country Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Thailand TBC (15 min) ✓ Kyrgyzstan (Expert) TBC (15 Min) ✓ APIS Bureau Member Country (15 min) ✓ APIS Bureau Member Country (15 min) • UN partner(s) presentation(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr. Prabhin Maharjan, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA - PPT: “Equipping Public Officials and Institutions for Effective Digital Inclusion Policy and Programme Development” (7 min) <p>Moderator: ESCAP</p>
15.00–15.20	Coffee Break
15.20-15.50	<p>Session 4: Successful Cases of Regional and Intra-National Data Governance and Cooperation Initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study of regional cooperation from European/Asian countries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resource person TBD • Case study of intra-national cooperation from Korea. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Resource person TBD <p>Moderator: UN DESA</p>
15.50-16.00	<p>Session 6: Wrap up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA ✓ Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of ICT and Development Section, IDD, ESCAP
18.30-20.30	<p>Welcome Dinner (TBC)</p>

(Day 2), Friday

	UN DESA Capacity Building on Digital Governance		Informal Bureau Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway on the APIS Action Plan 2022-206
09.00-09.40	<p>E-government survey toolkit workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the E-government survey and key findings.<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief of Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN DESA• Introduction to the E-government survey toolkit <p>Moderator: Prabin Maharjan, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG, UN DESA</p> <p>Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA</p>	09.00-10.30	<p>Session 1: Key Agendas for Discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing on resolutions on MC and DSC• Report for monitoring of APIS Action Plan 2022-2026• Draft APIS action plan 2027-2030 including AI• Plan for APIS SC-9• Plan for the composition of new bureau members• Others <p>Moderator: ESCAP</p>
09.40-10.00	Coffee break	10.30 - 10.40	Coffee break
10.00-12.00	<p>Group Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self analysis of each country's EGD score using E-government survey toolkit.• Reporting back and presentation on the finding of the Group exercise. <p>Moderator:</p>	10.40-11.20	<p>Session 2: APIS WGs Meeting (parallel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Briefing/Guidance (5 min) <p><u>APIS WG1 meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on activities for 2025 <p>Moderator: APIS WG1 Secretary, ESCAP</p> <p><u>APIS WG2 meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on activities for 2025

	Prabin Maharjan, Programme Management Expert, UNPOG, UN DESA Junho Lee, Associate Expert, DPIDG, UN DESA		Moderator: APIS WG2 secretary, ESCAP <u>APIS WG3 meeting</u> • Discussion on activities for 2025 Moderator: APIS WG3 secretary, ESCAP
		11.20-12.00	Session 3: Summary of APIS WGs Meetings • WGs reporting on 2025 plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr. Davit ter-Khachatryan and Mr. Nathan Doyel, Co-Chairs of Working Group 1 ✓ Mr. Semral Aliyev and Mr. Bramhanand Jha, Co-Chairs of Working Group 2 ✓ Mr. Sang-yirl Nam and Mr. Dmitry Mun, Co-Chair of Working Group 3 Moderator: APIS Secretary
12.00-12.30	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Vincenzo Aquaro, Chief of Branch, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN DESA ✓ Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT & Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), ESCAP 		
12.30-	Lunch and End of Event		

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