

# **Building on Bangkok: A Follow-up Discussion on the LOSI Capacity Building Workshop Outcomes**

## **Opening Statement**

**Monday, March 4th, 2024: 08:00 - 09:30 EST, Zoom Webinar**

Zoom Registration link: <https://bit.ly/LOSIOutcomes>

Distinguished colleagues and participants,

Welcome to our follow-up discussion on the outcomes of the LOSI Capacity Building Workshop in Bangkok, held last November. It's wonderful to reconnect with familiar faces and extend a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time, all sharing a common interest in advancing local e-government globally.

As we navigate through a challenging liquidity crisis at the UN, technology emerges as a critical enabler, allowing us to convene online and continue our vital work for local e-government development.

Last November, the Capacity Building Workshop, organized by UN DESA in collaboration with UN ESCAP and UNU-EGOV in Bangkok, aimed to strengthen national capacities for spreading digitization at the local level, in alignment with SDG 11.

During the workshop, insightful discussions were held, the Local E-Government Toolkit was launched, participants shared their experiences from their LOSI Pilots worldwide and best practices for local e-government were shared. The resulting workshop report, based on your valuable feedback, outlined key areas for follow-up, emphasizing the need to update and enhance the LOSI instrument, expand the LOSI network, and explore synergies between national and local e-government strategies.

I am also delighted to share that LOSI is now an official part of our Division's Programme performance indicators. The LOSI-based indicators, including the number of countries and municipalities applying the methodology, continue to progress annually, contributing to positive outcomes through targeted resource mobilization.

Building on these successes, LOSI's reach is expanding as more countries embrace its methodology. Recently, UN DESA partnered with Uzbekistan for a webinar showcasing their successful LOSI application. India's LOSI report is also out, marking the completion of their first round. Both India and Brazil are leading the way with their second rounds of LOSI implementation. Additionally, Greece,

Mozambique, North Macedonia, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea are actively preparing or finalizing their applications.

Exciting advancements await local e-government in 2024 with the anticipation of LOSI webinars, a national-level e-government toolkit, and the launch of the UN E-Government Survey.

Today's meeting provides us with an opportunity to build on previous discussions, address remaining gaps, and strengthen the LOSI network to foster new synergies among local governments. Together, we can drive positive change and advancements in digital governance.

Thank you for your kind attention. I leave you with these guiding questions to shape our discussions, fostering continued progress from last year's meeting.

1. As we enter 2024 with promising initiatives like increasing LOSI applications, the LOSI network, and national/local e-government toolkits, how can we optimize their synergy to ensure a unified, impactful, and collaborative approach to the advancement of local e-government?
2. With the rising uptake of LOSI, what are the biggest challenges currently impeding its broader implementation, both globally and within specific regions?
3. What success stories and evidence can we share to demonstrate the value of LOSI for government officials and other stakeholders?
4. What do we envision for the future of LOSI in the next 5-10 years, considering evolving needs and technological advancements?

Wishing you all a productive session.

Thank you,