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Second Phase Workshop on National Data Governance Project - Ethiopia

Summary Report

11 – 12 January, 2024

This Workshop's Objective

UN DESA and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) of the Government of Ethiopia convened the second National Workshop on data governance with the aim of fulfilling three objectives.

The first objective was to engage key higher officials and technical experts to increase their awareness on the proposed National Data Governance Leadership Committees and draft data sharing directive.

The second objective was collecting their feedback to refine the proposed draft documents: A comprehensive Terms of Reference (TOR) for establishing a national data governance committee responsible for advising and supporting data governance at the national level, A well-crafted national data sharing directive, intended for consideration by the Ethiopia Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT).

The third objective was to identify the next course of action for implementing the proposed governance leadership and the draft directive discussed.

The expected outcome of the workshop was enhancing awareness of the participants, higher officials and technical experts, on the proposed national data governance leadership committees, Steering and Technical Committees, and on the draft national data sharing directive. Additionally, identifying the next course of actions and outlining the implementation approach for the establishment of the national committees and endorsement of the draft directive presented in the workshop.

Acknowledgements

The workshop was jointly organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT), the Government of Ethiopia.

The workshop report was drafted by Ato Abere Shiferaw and Dr. Mesfin Kifle, as guided by Wai Min Kwok.

Special thanks are extended to the following for their unreserved support in realizing the workshop: Ato Seyoum Mengesha, Dr. Abyot Bayou, Dr. Ing. Abiot Sinamo and Ato Behabesha and his team from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) of Ethiopia; Dr. Mesfin Kifle and Ato Abere Shiferaw.

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Introduction

The utilization of digital data and its relevance in the public sector have become increasingly vital for enhancing government services' effectiveness and efficiency. Data has evolved into a fundamental component of every government sector and function, comparable in importance to physical assets and human resources. Governments now heavily rely on data-driven operational activities, making it challenging, if not impossible, to function efficiently without data.

Governments, being among the largest producers and consumers of data, play a crucial role in regulating data supply and demand. While the proliferation of digital technology and data has positively impacted our interconnected world, it has also brought forth a host of risks and challenges concerning data governance. Security, privacy, and ethical concerns are major issues, and digital and data literacy, along with institutional capacities, remain insufficient, particularly in developing countries like Ethiopia.

In light of this, in recent years, the Ethiopian government has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to advancing its e-government capabilities, recognizing the transformative potential of digitization in public services. A series of substantial investments and initiatives have been undertaken addressing key aspects such as infrastructure, application development, mobile government, standards, ICT human capacity development, facilities, policies, and forums. At the forefront of Ethiopia's digital transformation is the first ever digital strategy, namely Digital Ethiopia 2025, launched in 2018 with the ambitious goal of achieving inclusive prosperity through the strategic use of digital technologies. A crucial component of this strategy involves the cultivation and widespread adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks pertaining to digital technologies. Substantial progress has already been witnessed, with notable achievements in developing necessary legal and institutional frameworks, exemplified by the successful implementation of the digital ID project.

In parallel, recent trends underscore a growing governmental emphasis on harnessing the power of data for developmental purposes. The Ministry's proactive stance is evident in initiatives such as the open data initiative, national data set design, national open data policy, e-government interoperability framework, and the personal data protection proclamation. These initiatives collectively aim to unlock the inherent value of data, promoting accessibility and sharing.

To this end Ethiopia has now part of the Project “Developing institutional capacities for digital data management and cooperation to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals” has been

conceived by UN DESA, in supporting developing countries to assess key data management and governance challenges and strengthen government officials' and stakeholders' knowledge of sound and secure data management. The project aims to support countries in developing institutional capacities for developing national digital data policies and strategies for ensuring data quality, access, usage, security, and privacy, making available relevant legislative information and toolkits for advancing digital data cooperation agreements through case studies.

Phase I of the project involved conducting a comprehensive baseline study on national data governance in Ethiopia, which occurred from August to October 2022. The study focused on understanding the current data management landscape and identifying key challenges.

Based on the findings and recommendations of Phase I, Phase II commenced in April 2023 and spanned over five months, with the objective of supporting the Government of Ethiopia in developing a National Data Governance Framework. As commissioned by UNDESA, various deliverables have been produced and delivered. Two of the them are (1) Terms of Reference (TOR) for establishing a national data governance committee responsible for advising and supporting data governance at the national level, and (2) a well-crafted national data sharing directive.

In addition to these efforts, the project seeks to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of government officials and stakeholders on these two deliverables. This second national workshop was organized for this purpose, and the participants actively engaged in the discussion during the workshop. As a result, findings of the workshop are expected to be used on refining the two draft documents.

Therefore, this report summarizes the issues, decisions, and directions discussed during the two-day workshops with senior leaders and technical heads and experts.

Part I: High-Level Workshop

January 11, 2024

The workshop is structured into four sections: the opening ceremony, the presentation session, the question, answer, and discussion session, and finally the conclusion.

Section One - Opening

Message from H.E Dr. Belete Molla

As stated on the national digital transformation strategy (Digital Ethiopia 2025), said HE the Minister, the foundational cross sector initiatives can produce immense data and their operation is also dependent on raw and processed data. This gives a clear picture on how data can play a crucial role for the realization of the targets stated on the strategy.

The Minister underscored that the government, as significant producers and consumers of data, wield a pivotal role in regulating the supply and demand of data. Despite the positive impact of digital technology and data in our interconnected world, it has also presented various risks and challenges in terms of data governance. The Minister further noted that with the exponential growth of government data and the growing awareness of its potential and associated challenges, there is an increased urgency to establish effective data governance and institutions.

The Minister emphasized that over recent years, the Ethiopian government has displayed a resolute commitment to enhancing its e-government capabilities, acknowledging the transformative impact of digitization on public services. A series of substantial investments and initiatives has been initiated, focusing on infrastructure, application development, mobile government, standards, ICT human capacity development, facilities, policies, and forums. Highlighting the pivotal role played by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT), he noted the introduction of comprehensive strategies and implementation plans to propel the nation towards a digitally inclusive future.

The minister highlighted that to spearhead national data governance, specific government institutions have been entrusted with pivotal responsibilities in managing various aspects of data governance. Notably, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology has taken a prominent role, demonstrated by the establishment of a dedicated data governance desk under the Electronic Government Development section. While commendable progress has been made, there exists an urgent need to strengthen data

governance efforts, particularly in the realm of national-level data sharing. Enhancing these practices will be instrumental in cultivating the growth of a resilient digital economy in Ethiopia, affirmed the Minister.

His Excellency underscore with the objective of supporting the Government of Ethiopia in developing a National Data Governance System, mainly towards establishing the national data governance leadership body, which demands a cross-sectoral cooperation, the study produces a directive to facilitate the stated responsibilities of data development and governance.

The Minister stated that the workshop has been organized to involve selected high-level officials, ICT leaders and professionals from both government and non-government organizations in discussions about the essentiality and diverse facets of Ethiopia's national data governance leadership scheme. His Excellency, the Minister, concluded by expressing gratitude for the technical support provided by UNDESA in bringing this project to fruition.

Message from UNDESA

On behalf of Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN DESA, Mr. Wai Min Kwok made an opening remark. On this remark Mr. Wai Min said over a year ago, in October 2022, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA, jointly together with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, convened the first national workshop on implementing a national data governance framework. A baseline study of national data governance in Ethiopia was presented and it was very well received by senior officials and technical experts across ministries and agencies, as well as among non-government experts.

Mr. Wai Min Highlighted data and digitalization are important engines of growth and providers of essential services. An integrated approach to national data governance is more critical than ever. It is in this context, said Mr. Wai Min, that UN DESA developed a national data governance model framework, underpinned by three important principles of accountability, effectiveness and inclusiveness.

In line with this model framework, UN DESA has collaboratively worked with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology for the past eighteen months, employing a comprehensive whole-of-government approach. This collaboration focuses on the implementation of a capacity development project titled "Developing institutional capacities for digital data management and cooperation to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals," as stated by Mr. Wai Min

Mr. Wai Min highlighted that guided by its first ever digital strategy – Digital Ethiopia 2025, launch in 2018, Ethiopia has showcased notable accomplishments. These include advancements in the UN E-Government Survey, encompassing improvements in the E-Government Development Index and E-Participation Index. Additionally, Ethiopia has undertaken various initiatives such as the Digital Identity Initiative, the Open Data Initiative, the E-Government Interoperability Framework, and the Personal Data Protection Proclamation.

Mr. Wai Min stated the significant hosting of the 17th United Nations Internet Governance Forum in November 2022 by the Government of Ethiopia. As an important outcome of the IGF, a set of IGF Messages on various digital policy issues, including data governance, was also agreed and disseminated among UN Member States and IGF stakeholders globally.

In his remark Mr. Wai Min conveyed his optimism about the progress of national data governance, highlighting that the forthcoming milestones include the establishment of a national data governance committee and the implementation of a national data sharing directive. He concluded by expressing his belief that the success stories, lessons learned, and achievements in Ethiopia will serve as examples for other countries and stakeholders.

Section Two - Presentations

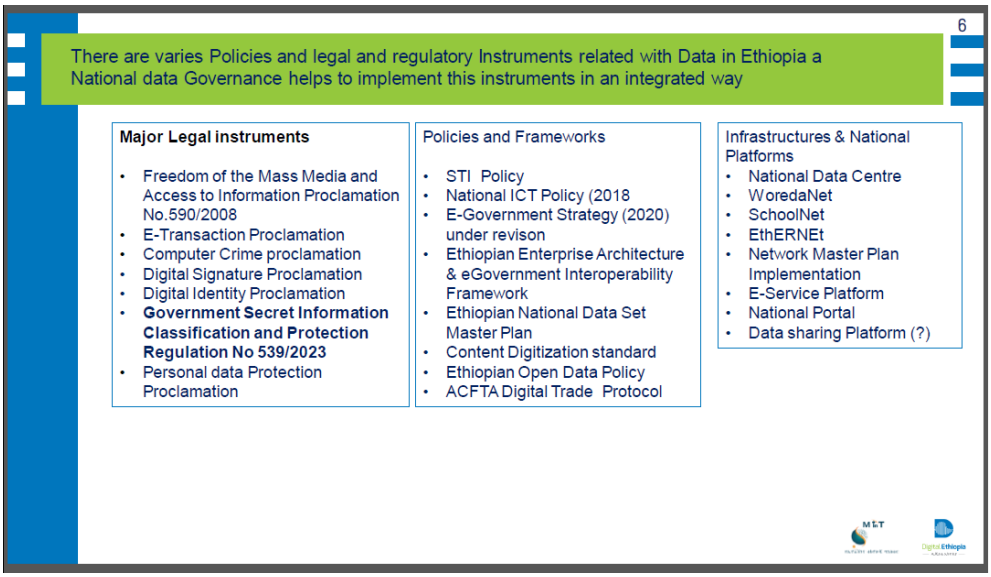
In this section the following discussion points are presented:

"The role of data governance in transforming e-government" By: Dr. Abiyot Bayou, Advisor to the Minister

Increased digitization, the proliferation of online services, and the use of new technologies have dramatically increased the volume of data in circulation in Ethiopia. However, without an appropriate system of governance, the benefits that are being derived from data might not be enjoyed by all Ethiopian citizens. In doing so, the country should develop frameworks for both data protection and data sharing, measures that aim to further both government and private-sector use of data for socioeconomic benefits.

There are various Policies and legal and regulatory Instruments related with Data in Ethiopia, a National data Governance helps to implement these instruments in an integrated way. In practice in the past, despite the successes achieved, there are challenges like public data in Ethiopia are mostly not digitized, the data are not standardized, not interoperable, and not readily accessible to users (Administrators, Service providers, researchers, or policymakers). These indicates that Ethiopia needs to bridge the

regulatory gap between avoiding digital data creation challenges and the need to regulate and leverage available data.

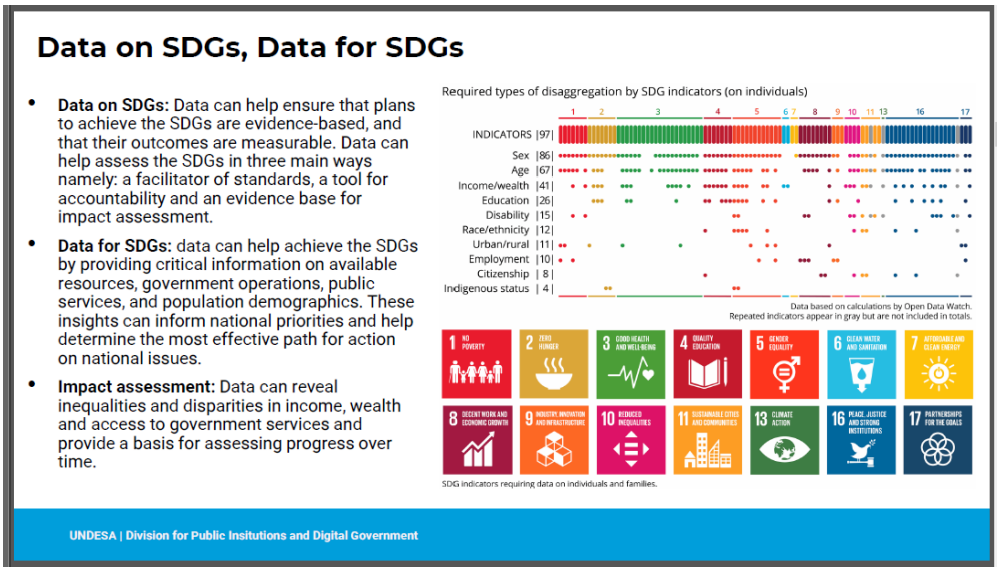


"E-government initiatives and a way forward." By: Dr. Eng. Abiyot Sinamo, CEO, Electronic Government Development

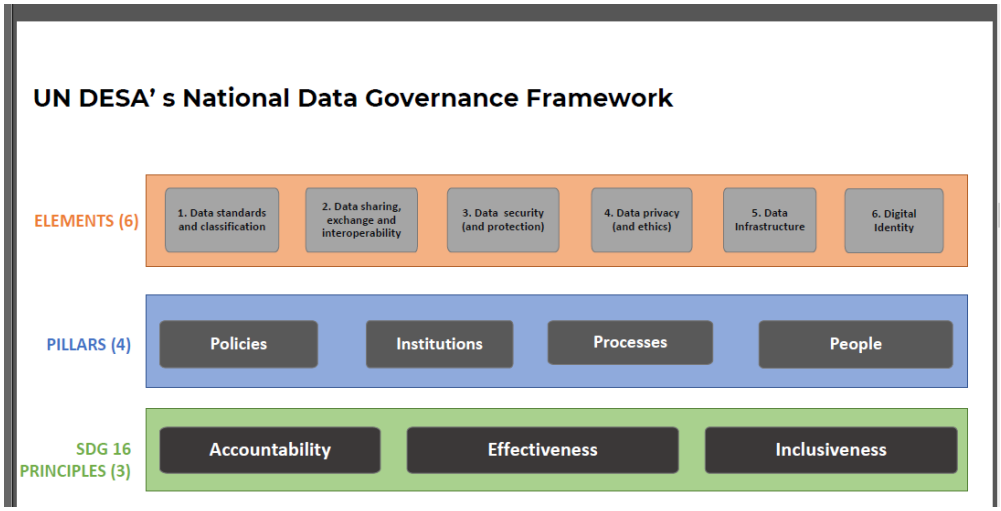
A number of electronic government initiatives have been underway by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, which includes government cloud, expanding online services, ICT infrastructure development, digital development, data governance, capacity building and legal and regulatory aspects. Currently, several projects are underway which includes the project that is reviewing the existing draft Enterprise Architecture and the Digital Government Strategy.

“Moving Towards a Coordinated and Structured National Digital Data Governance” By: Wai Min Kwok, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA and Dr. Mesfin Kifle Local Consultant to UNDESA

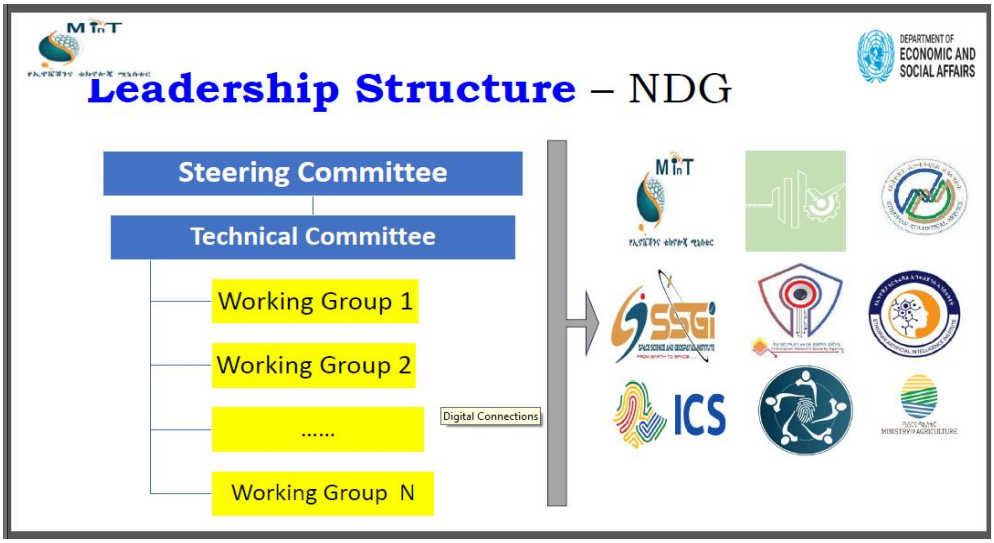
Date grows rapidly. Value creation from data helps to ensure plans to achieve the SDGs are evidence-based. Data can facilitate government operations and provide insight in identifying national priorities and help to determine the most effective path for action on national issues. Therefore, the subject of data governance is stressed to effectively utilize the benefits out of data at national level.



The UN DESA framework for data governance provides a useful and standardised means of assessing the existing data governance within a country. The four pillars of data governance are policies, institutions, people, and processes. Policy, which regards existing policies and regulations surrounding data, provides a means of legitimizing data governance. Institutions regards the existing institutional framework with which data is managed and used and provides a means of institutionalizing data governance. People, meaning the existing data ecosystem and mapping of stakeholders, provides a means of capacitating data governance. And processes provide a means of operationalizing data governance. All national data governance frameworks should be centered around three main principles: accountability, effectiveness, and inclusiveness.

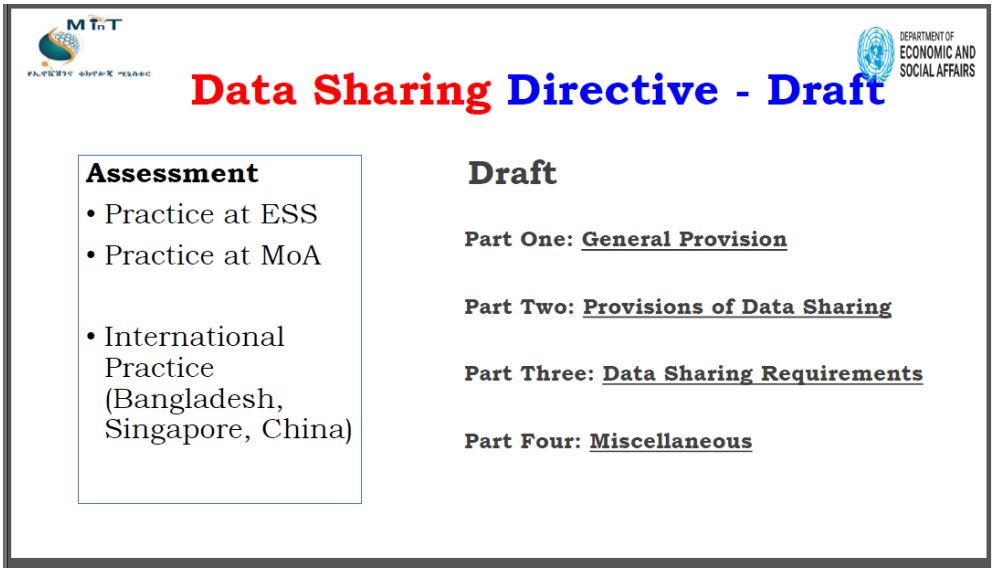


In moving forward and implementing the data governance framework in Ethiopia, Terms of reference is presented in establishing a National Data Governance Leadership Steering Committee where Ministers/State Ministers from relevant government institutions will partake and lead, with the Ministry of Innovation Technology (MInT) assuming the coordinating role in the committee. Moreover, a Technical Committee shall be established, which is accountable to the Steering Committee. Additionally, the establishment of supplementary working groups may be considered as needed. Regarding to the leadership approach, it is strongly recommended to pursue the whole-of-government and multi-stakeholders approach complemented by silos. The importance of think big, start small, scaling fast, and act now are highlighted with a special emphasis in making governance results to happen quickly.



Based on the local and international experiences and mandates of the Ministry of Innovation and

Technology, a draft Data sharing Directive is presented in expediting the Digital Ethiopia, digital government and digital economy agendas of the nation. The directive has four parts: General Provision, Provisions of Data Sharing, Data Sharing Requirements and Miscellaneous. Each part defines statements to be respected and acted in realizing data sharing at national level.



Section Three - Questions, Comments and Responses

This features a question and comment section with discussions, and responses from the presenters, which are outlined in full below.

Questions and Comments

Artificial Intelligence Institute

The representative from the Institute stated, the Issues presented on the workshop are fundamental for data governance. However, because data is a resource, it should be capitalized to its greatest potential, and every institution should be made aware of the value of data work, with transferring this assignment to each institution. In this context, the representative highlighted the following key questions.

- What is the role of the private sector?
- What measures are being taken to establish a governing framework for data management?
- What criteria were used to choose countries for experience?
- What is the best technique to assess data quality while creating a data warehouse?

In addition, the following comments were made

- Initially designating the Ministry of Innovation and Technology as the owner of this initiative based on its mandate is suggested, with ownership transitioning to the Prime Minister's office if concerns arise regarding the designated mandate.
- All phases of implementation, including the baseline study, should be clearly defined, and this workshop should be integrated into the implementation phase.
- Propose starting the implementation strategically with a sandbox approach rather than a full-scale launch. Begin by collaborating with institutions with mature data systems and gradually expand the implementation to other institutions.

Information Network Security Administration (INSA)

INSA supports the Ministry's initiative in data governance, underscoring the significance of a system where each institution contributes based on its mandate. The representatives from INSA then presented the following comments and questions

Comments

- In Section Seven of the data sharing guidelines, it is suggested that, instead of providing detailed information on data security, the directive should make reference to INSA's strategies and guidelines relevant to the directive.
- The private sector should be included in the scope
- The National Data Governance Committee should be led by the office of the Prime Minister
- Data Governance Authority should be established in the process

Questions

- Apart from platform development, what have been planned regarding infrastructure?
- What is the proposed technology for data exchange?

Ethiopian Statistic Service

The forwarded main feedback by the Service was regarding data standardization, which is especially relevant when dealing with multi-source inputs. To avoid potential issues, it's recommended to clarify the directive by incorporating relevant standardization guidelines.

Responses

In response to comments and questions raised by workshop participants, the Ministry's leadership, consultants, and presenters provide the following responses, as detailed below.

On the Mandate

The response suggested that the optimal approach for proceeding to the next phase should be considered. It was emphasized that the committee overseeing data governance should be led by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, as it does not interfere with the functions and responsibilities of other institutions. Article 29 of Proclamation No. 1263/2021, which defines the powers and duties of the executive organs of the federal government, was presented as confirmation for this stance.

It was also pointed out that the implementation of the Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy is led by Ministry and should be taken as a reference and taken into consideration. Apart from this,

- Duplication of effort: The Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy implementation already sits with the Ministry, which should be fully utilized.
- Shifting responsibility: Bypassing the Ministry, an executive body, and burdening the Prime Minister's office was deemed inappropriate.
- Resource concerns: Establishing a new office was viewed as costly and time-consuming.

The responses highlighted that laws should be the initial consideration for data governance concerning data management. Specifically, it was emphasized that electronic government development is inseparable from data, with data playing a pivotal role in its advancement. Regarding coordination responsibilities, the document should clearly designate the ministry for this role, as indicated.

When we are discussing mandate, it assumes institution that store and manage data. However, there is a need to get the data stored in one place. A national standard is needed for this. It was pointed out that one of the tasks and responsibilities given to the Ministry of Innovation and Technology is setting information standards, and this is main reason the Ministry assumes the coordination role when it comes to data governance.

The Role of the Private Sector

The responses emphasized that the point raised about the critical role of the private sector is crucial, highlighting that any initiative without the involvement of the private sector is incomplete.

Data Management and Security

The responses acknowledge the importance of shared responsibility for data management, but emphasize the need for a designated custodian to facilitate organized and coordinated data utilization for service delivery. The documents presented during the session offer solutions to the question of "how" to implement this effectively.

Data security concerns can be addressed through existing and future guidelines, as per participant feedback.

Achieving interoperability between institutional systems is essential, and further consideration of the proposed data standard is warranted.

Project Implementation

The discussion primarily focused on the initial suggestion of adopting a proactive approach to data management and data sharing. Recognizing the substantial role played by the government in this domain and the inherent complexities of leveraging data for economic benefit, as evidenced by international examples. Responses also emphasized the need for:

- Forming a dedicated entity: To manage data standardization, classification, and infrastructure.
- Creating implementation plans: Applicable at institutional, sectorial, and national levels.

A Way Forward

PMO

Recognizing the delays, the Prime Minister's Office representative urged prompt implementation of the data sharing directive. He highlighted an ongoing project under the PMO coordination to integrate government systems, further emphasizing the urgency of the directive.

His Excellency the Minister

The Minister highlighted Ethiopia's lag in developing a digital economy, emphasizing the urgent need to address the discussed key pillars. He acknowledged the time taken for foundational issues but expects accelerated progress. Recognizing the Ministry of Innovation and Technology's responsibility in coordinating the country's digital economy, he emphasized aligning data governance with the strategy and the Ministry's mandate. This underscores the Ministry's role in coordinating data governance. The Minister anticipates emerging options, emphasizing equal participation and cooperation among the

ministry and other institutions for a robust data governance system. He emphasized the need for an implementation framework for the data governance system.

Part II: ICT Leaders and Experts Workshop

January 12, 2024

Similar to day one, the second day workshop is structured into four sections: the opening ceremony, the presentations session, the question, answer, and discussion session, and finally the conclusion.

Section One - Opening

Message from the State Minister HE Dr. Yishirun Alemayehu

As senior officials, the State Minister highlighted, we share a profound understanding of data's immense value and the imperative to manage it effectively. In this digital age, robust data governance frameworks are vital for ensuring security, integrity, and accessibility – the pillars of trust and progress, added the State Minister.

Dr. Yisherun said the purpose of the workshop is threefold: the first is to spark dialogue and awareness through active engagement and knowledge exchange, and we aim to cultivate a shared understanding of the national data governance leadership scheme and its potential to empower Ethiopia's digital economy.

The State Minister highlighted the second aim of the workshop, which involves delving deeper into and refining key themes such as the importance of effective data governance. This includes a detailed examination of the draft Terms of Reference for the national data governance leadership and the data sharing directive. Additionally, the third purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity for collective collaboration in charting the path forward. This involves identifying strategic actions and implementation plans to propel Ethiopia's national data governance leadership and framework to new heights.

From this workshop, Dr. Yisherun stated that three key outcomes are anticipated, primarily

- Increased Awareness and Understanding of Ethiopia's data governance leadership through active engagement and dialogue,
- Better Decision-Making, by evaluating the importance of data governance, that aims to empower informed decision-making and accelerate progress in Ethiopia's digital landscape.
- Action-oriented Documents and Roadmap: Collaborative efforts will refine key documents and outline actionable steps, propelling Ethiopia's national data governance leadership and framework forward.

The State Minister concluded his remarks by expressing sincere gratitude to UN DESA for its invaluable support. He conveyed confidence that the discussions would pave the way for enhanced collaboration, innovation, and the establishment of a trusted data governance ecosystem across all institutions.

Message from UNDESA

On behalf of Mr. Vincenzo AQUARO, Chief of Digital Government Branch, Director of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Wai Min Kwok made an opening remark.

On this remark Mr. Wai Min said over a year ago, in October 2022, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA, jointly together with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, convened the first national workshop on implementing a national data governance framework. A baseline study of national data governance in Ethiopia was presented and it was very well received by senior officials and technical experts across ministries and agencies, as well as among non-government experts.

Mr. Wai Min Highlighted data and digitalization are important engines of growth and providers of essential services. An integrated approach to national data governance is more critical than ever. It is in this context, said Mr. Wai Min, that UN DESA developed a national data governance model framework, underpinned by three important principles of accountability, effectiveness and inclusiveness and accountability.

Guided by this model framework, over the past year and a half, UN DESA is working closely with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology through a whole-of-government integrated approach, in implementing a capacity development project on “Developing institutional capacities for digital data management and cooperation to advance progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Mr. Wai Min stated that guided by its first ever digital strategy – Digital Ethiopia 2025, launch in 2018, Ethiopia has demonstrated remarkable achievements, such as its improvements in the UN E-Government Survey, including the E-Government Development Index and E-Participation Index, as well as various initiatives such as the Digital Identity Initiative, the Open Data Initiative, the E-Government Interoperability Framework and the Open Data Protection Proclamation.

Mr. Wai Min noted that, based on the UN E-Government Survey 2022, Ethiopia was ranked 179th out of 193 countries in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) and 163rd in the UN E-Participation Index. He expressed hope that, with the digital leadership of MInT and enhanced digital cooperation

among ministries and agencies, Ethiopia will demonstrate significant improvements in its global e-government assessments

In his remark Mr. Wai Min express his hope that in advancing national data governance, and the next milestones will be the implementation of a national data governance committee and national data sharing strategy. He finally said the success stories in Ethiopia, as well as the lessons learned and achievements will be exemplary to other countries and stakeholders.

Section Two - Presentations

In this section the following discussion points are presented:

"The role of data governance in transforming e-government." By: Dr. Abiyot Bayou, Advisor to the Minister

- The same as presented in Part I Section Two

"E-government initiatives and a way forward." By: Dr. Eng. Abiyot Sinamo, CEO, Electronic Government Development

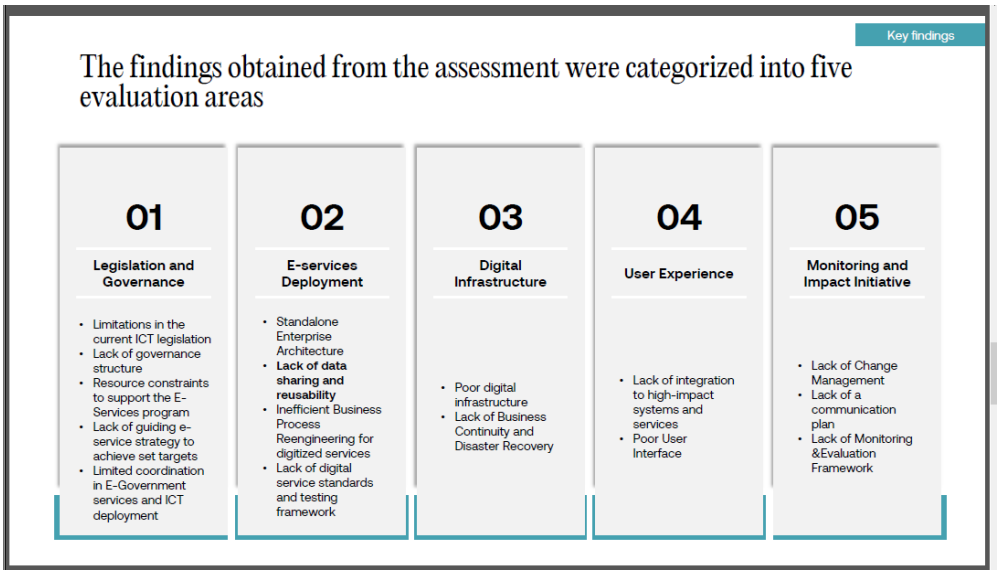
- The same as presented in Part I Section Two

"Moving Towards a Coordinated and Structured National Digital Data Governance." By: Wai Min Kwok, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA and Dr. Mesfin Kifle Local Consultant to UNDESA

- The same as presented in Part I Section Two

"Recommendations in Improving Data Governance in e-Government Services." By: Meshingo Jack, Digital and Tech Transformation Advisor

An evaluation of the provision of e-services was conducted to support MInT in delivering seamless and equitable e-gov services. The assessment was focused on five specific areas to identify critical gaps and challenges. The findings obtained from the assessment were categorized into five evaluation areas. The findings shows that Ethiopia's e-government performance remains low compared to regional leaders and has been declining in recent years. In improving the current practice and increase the digital government benefits, key recommendations are provided in six areas: Digital Government Legislative and Coordination framework, E-services Modernization, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Experience, Digital Culture and Monitoring and Impact



Section Three - Questions, Comments and Responses

This section features a question and comment section with discussions, and responses from the presenters, which are outlined in full below.

Questions and Comments

Space Science and Geospatial Institute

Collaborative data efforts across multiple sectors face a significant hurdle in data security. To address this challenge, proposing a data classification model is recommended. This should include identify and represent entities responsible for maintaining, transmitting, and storing data. Additionally, considering the high-level responsibilities of National Council/Committee members, including Ministers and State Ministers, their heavy workload may pose an obstacle to active participation in the implementation process.

Ministry of Planning and Development

Collaborative efforts are essential for this task. The Ministry serves as a key data generator for the macro economy, and it is willing to cooperate, being the second-largest data generator after the Ethiopian Statistical Service. However, success requires not only data production but also active data utilization.

Various activities, including awareness campaigns on demand, need to be undertaken for effective data utilization.

Artificial Intelligence Institute

The emergence of this opportunity is commendable. Data constitutes a myriad of components including product. The challenges associated with data, as outlined in the presented documents and discussion points, underscore the need for collaborative efforts to overcome these obstacles. Beyond the issue of weak data sharing, certain institutions possess data; however, challenges related to data warehousing, storage, and classification necessitate collaborative institutional solutions. For instance, various institutions, including the Ministry of Health, collect sector-specific data. Simultaneously, entities like the Institute of Artificial Intelligence gather data from institutions such as the Ministry of Health. Consequently, there is a crucial need to clearly define how data collected in this manner is shared.

Agricultural Transformation Agency

The ongoing discussion and presented documents address timely concerns. Drawing from our institute's experience, it is recommended, based on the raised issues, to establish a Data Partnership prior to the nationwide establishment of data governance. Notably, the success of a data-sharing agreement involving six institutions, including Ministry of Agriculture, highlighted various benefits, with enhanced metadata preparation being one of them. During this process, the inclusion of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology as a consultant through the establishment of an implementation group and a technical committee was acknowledged. However, the absence of data sharing guidelines and standards emerged as a significant challenge. In conclusion, it is emphasized that the development of a national data policy requires collaborative efforts.

Ministry of Agriculture

The challenge we encounter regarding agricultural data sharing is the absence of a clear policy and strategy. A question has been posed: Shouldn't a policy precede the current data sharing directive?

National Bank of Ethiopia

Given the National Bank's management of extensive financial data, there is a suggestion for its inclusion in the National and Technical Committee. Moreover, while stressing the importance of a national data governance system, the representatives of the institution emphasize that the data-sharing system must establish trust between the producer and the consumer. Suggestions include the need for swiftly

implementable measures related to project management, clear articulation of issues concerning data retention and disposal, and the establishment of a performance monitoring and measurement system. The question of data ownership, particularly in cases where a bank possesses transactional data, has also been raised.

Ethiopian Statistical Service

Conduct awareness activities for employees in each institution regarding data, capacity building for human resources, including ethical considerations, should be undertaken. Implement system development to support the data governance system. National Data Security Classification, in addition to data classification, should consider the rights of users.

Ethiopian Agricultural Research

Data governance is an extensive task requiring a responsible structure in every institution. In some instances, a responsible structure is lacking. What is the intended course of action?

Responses

In response to comments and questions raised by workshop participants, the Ministry's leadership, consultants, and presenters provide the following responses, as detailed below.

Regarding the absence of data policy

The Ministry of Agriculture's experience is commendable. While having a policy as the foundation would be beneficial, even in its absence, the e-transaction proclamation empowers the Ministry of Innovation and Technology to issue guidelines for electronic government implementation. The proclamation outlining the powers and duties of executive organs assigns the responsibility of setting information standards to the Ministry. The significance of the directive is unquestionable, emphasizing its role as a potential framework to assist the national committee in its tasks, including data classification and standards

Data Security

Anticipating the Personal Data Protection Act to address security concerns, halting efforts while raising data security issues could be straightforward yet disruptive. Furthermore, responses expressed concerns that such actions might impede the entire national process.

Concerning National Committee Members

In relation to the national committee, it is pertinent to note that the performance may not meet expectations if members are overly occupied, hindering progress. Hence, it is recommended that the national committee assess the situation and may consider option in establishing additional committees.

Concerning Infrastructure

In terms of infrastructure, the recommendation is for the government to centralize its management. Issues related to data storage, warehouses, government cloud services, and high-capacity data centers within government institutions necessitate coordinated efforts to explore collaborative usage. However, it is emphasized that the expectation of indefinite data preservation is unfounded.

Regarding the inclusion of institutions, all relevant entities related to data will be incorporated. While specific sectors are prioritized in alignment with the digital strategy, the response underscores the importance of gradually including all relevant institutions

Data Trust, Culture and Maturity

Undoubtedly, these issues are crucial for establishing a sustainable data governance framework. Conversely, it is recommended that the management formulates a strategy and program for the gradual implementation of these crucial matters, recognizing them as a progressive outcome. Establishing an accountability system is deemed significant, making it imperative for all these issues to be part of the governance leadership's agenda, each with its own dedicated strategy.

Regarding the National Bank

Considering the extensive data management responsibilities of the National Bank, the notion of its inclusion in the data governance structure proved correct based on the responses and has been endorsed.

In terms of personal data ownership, the draft Personal Data Protection proclamation explicitly designates the individual as the owner of the data, with the collector and processor referred to as the controller and processor, respectively.

Concerning Data Ownership

It has been observed that each institution perceives data ownership individually, with specific examples such as health data belonging to the Ministry of Health and agricultural data belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, emphasizing the importance of building data capacity within each institution. In

alignment with the Personal Data Protection proclamation, it is mandated that every institution appoint a data protection officer, with the proclamation clearly outlining their profession and work experience. The PDP also prohibits the use of collected data for purposes other than the intended one and restricts requests for unrelated data.

Concerning the Private Sector

There is a recognition that the role of the private sector should be thoroughly examined, and its inclusion is already considered in the national data governance leadership body, on the other hand, about the private sector data, it will be considered within the document's scope in the future.

On Data Standardization and Classification

Responses have emphasized the need for dedicated efforts in addressing data standardization and classification issues. In Conclusion, while the approval of the directive follows its own process, the government's strong commitment to its implementation has been acknowledged. Nevertheless, it is highlighted that numerous tasks requiring collective participation lie ahead. Specifically, attention should be given to matters related to data standards and classification. In this regard, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology commits to sustaining activities through effective coordination and ownership.

Conclusion

In summary, the valuable inputs from participants are acknowledged and will be utilized in crafting the guidelines and data governance structure. The true impact will be realized when these guidelines and the data governance structure are implemented. Moving forward, collaboration with the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs will persist, with emphasis placed on fostering cooperation, coordination, improving institutional relations, and enhancing capacity in the realm of data. The overarching theme of the summary underscores the importance of think big, start small, scaling fast, and act now.

Summary Conclusion and a Way Forward

Following the two-day workshop involving high-level officials and technical leaders, consensus was reached on the critical importance of the data governance structure and data sharing guidelines in advancing electronic government and fostering the digital economy. The primary emphasis of the discussions centered on expediting the implementation process. Notably, ongoing government initiatives,

particularly the coordinated project under the Prime Minister's Office to integrate government systems, underscored the imperative nature of the directive.

As per the outcomes of the two-day workshop, the ideas, discussions, and directions have been bifurcated into two pathways. The first involves revising and enhancing the two documents, as explicitly outlined in this document. The second entails translating the initiated efforts into operation and implementation. In light of this, the document has been enriched with comments, establishing the following key issues as the starting point and the subsequent direction to actualize the documents into implementation.

- Acknowledging evolving options, the implementation of data governance should be carried out within a structure led by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, encompassing institutions identified in the study. The ministry's coordination role is grounded in its mandate, closely linked to the building of the digital economy and the advancement of electronic government management.
- Given that the data sharing directive serves as a cornerstone for various national initiatives, the ministry should promptly initiate efforts that facilitate its issuance as a national directive.
- The implementation framework for data governance will be developed in collaboration with the institutions identified in the study.
- Standardizing and classifying data are crucial for implementing the directive, recognized as a quick-win for expediting the work and incorporating it into the implementation framework plan.

These points are highlighted as key concluding remarks in this document.

ANNEXES

Workshop Resources Link

For more information and access to all documentation, please refer to the event website:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JhS5Ms72kKAnLW13xA1eJOhyA5WjvU77

Agenda of the Workshop

Day 1 - Senior Officials January 11, 2024 Time: GMT + 3 MInT Conference Hall, 6th Floor	
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	**Opening Session** *Speakers:* ***Mr. Juwang Zhu**, Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)* ***Dr. Ramiz Alakbaro,** UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa (tbc)* ***Dr. Belete Molla,** Minster, Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT)* ***Session Lead: Dr. Yeshurun Alemayehu**, State Minister, ICT and Digital Transformation Sector*
10.15 AM – 11.00 AM	**Session: Setting the Scene & Previous achievements** Explain the agenda, define the workshop thematic areas and expected outcomes ***1) "the role of data governance in transforming e-government "*** *By: **Dr. Abiyot Bayou,** Advisor to the Minister (15 Minutes)* ***2) "E-government initiatives and a way forward"*** *By: **Dr. Eng. Abiot Sinamo,** CEO, Electronic Government Development (15 Minutes)* ***3) Moving Towards a Coordinated and Structured National Digital Data Governance***

	By: Wai Min Kwok, *Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA and* ***Dr. Mesfin Kifle*** *(15 minutes)* *Moderator:* ***Dr. Eng. Abiyot Sinamo,*** *CEO, Electronic Government Development*
11:00 AM – 11:45AM	**Session: Discussion** Initiate open discourse *Facilitator:* ***Dr. Yeshurun Alemayehu****, State Minister ICT and Digital Transformation Sector*
11:45 AM – 12:00PM	**Closing and Next Steps** Closing Remark by ***Dr. Belete Molla,*** *Minster, Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT)* *Moderators:* ***Dr. Abyot Bayou,*** *Advisor to the Minister*
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	***Lunch***

Day 2 - Technical Experts January 12, 2024 Time: GMT + 3 Venue - Inter-Luxury Hotel	
09:00 AM - 09:30 AM	**Registration, Morning tea and networking**
09:30 AM - 10:00 AM	**Session 1: Opening Session** *Speakers:* ***Mr. Juwang Zhu****, Director, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)* ***Dr. Mactar Seck****, UNECA, Innovation and Technology Section Head, Addis Ababa* ***Dr. Yeshurun Alemayehu****, ICT and Digital Transformation Sector, State Minister* ***Session Lead: Dr. Eng. Abyot Sinamo,*** *CEO, Electronic Government Development*

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	**<u>Session 2: Setting the Scene & Past Results</u>** Explain the agenda, define the workshop thematic areas and expected outcomes ***1) "the role of data governance in transforming e-government "*** *By:* ***Dr. Abiyot Bayou,*** *Advisor to the Minister (25 Minutes)* ***2) "E-government initiatives and a way forward."*** *By:* ***Dr. Eng. Abiyot Sinamo,*** *CEO, Electronic Government Development (30 Minutes)* ***3) Moving Towards a Coordinated and Structured National Digital Data Governance*** ***By: Wai Min Kwok,*** *Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA and* ***Dr. Mesfin Kifle*** *(40 minutes)* *4)* ***Recommendations in Improving Data Governance in e-Government Services*** *(20 minutes)* By: ***Meshingo Jack****, Digital and Tech Transformation Advisor* *Moderator:* ***Dr. Eng. Abiyot Sinamo,*** *CEO, Electronic Government Development*
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	**Lunch**
1:30 PM - 3:15 PM	**<u>Session 3: Discussion</u>** ***Moderator: Dr. Mesfin Kifle***
3.15 PM - 3:45	***Afternoon tea***
3:45 PM - 4.30 PM	**<u>Closing session (the way forward)</u>** ***Closing Speech*** - ***Dr. Eng. Abyot Sinamo,*** *CEO, Electronic Government Development* - ***Wai Min Kwok,*** *Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA* Moderator: ***Dr. Mesfin Kifle***

List of Participants

Day 1:

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2	Mesfin Kifle	AAU/United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
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9	Ayinalem Semaa	Information Network Security Agency (INSA)
10	Eyob Alemu	National ID Program (NIDP)
11	Ashenafi Bekedle	Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
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22	Fakade Getahun	Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MINT)
23	Babesha Kenaw	Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MINT)
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30	Ayalew Tilahun	Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MINT)
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32	Admaswork Mamo	Ministry of Innovation and Tecnnology (MINT)

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7	Danait Girma	Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI)
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11	Ambachew abak	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)
12	Sabite Tofiu	Ministry of Planning and Development - Ethiopia (MOPD)
13	Getahun Zeberga	Ministry of Planning and Development (MOPD)
14	Eyob Alemu	National ID Program (NIDP)
15	Fetene Muluken	Ethiopian Metrology Institute (EMI)
16	Debela Negari	Ethiopian Metrology Institute (EMI)
17	Mesfin Kifle	AAU/United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs(UNDESA)
18	Abere Shiferaw	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs(UNDESA)
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22	Ashenafi Bekele	Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
23	Tesfaye Adisu	Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
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