United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Capacity Development Project

UN DESA National Data Governance Framework

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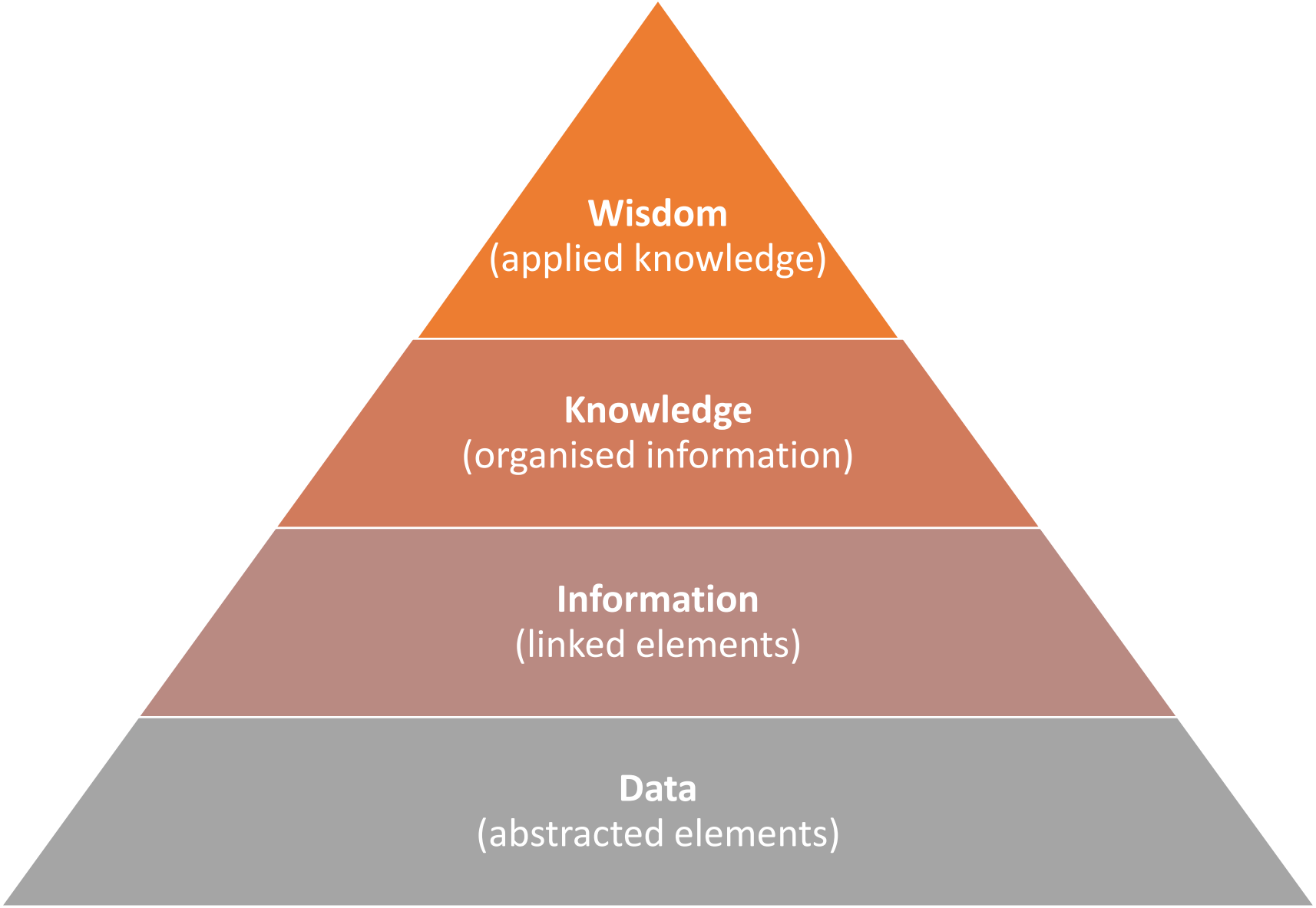
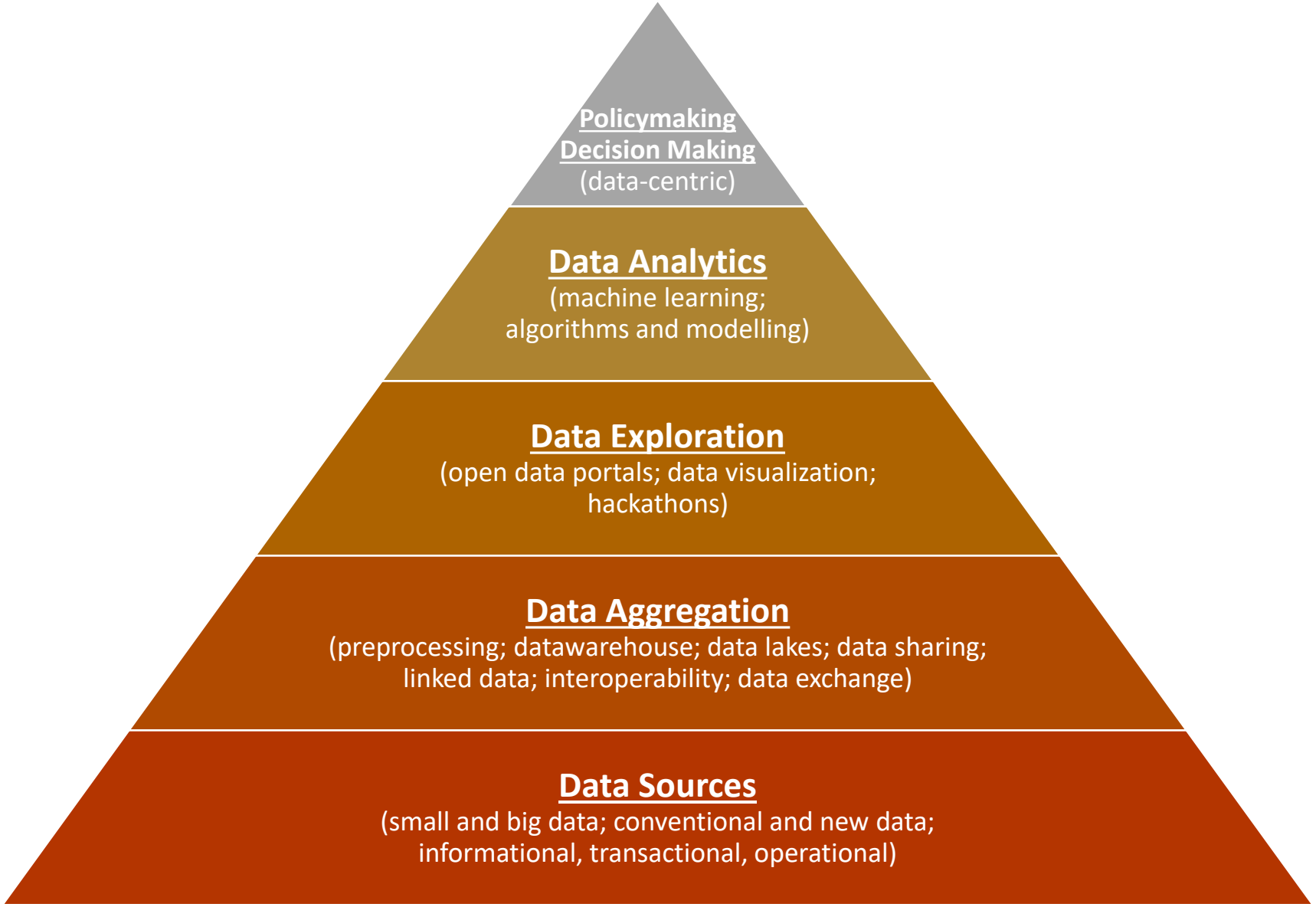
DIKW Pyramid

Data → Information → Knowledge → Wisdom



Data in Digital Government

Sources → Aggregation → Exploration → Analytics → Policymaking



(Source: 2020 UN E-Government Survey; chapter 6)

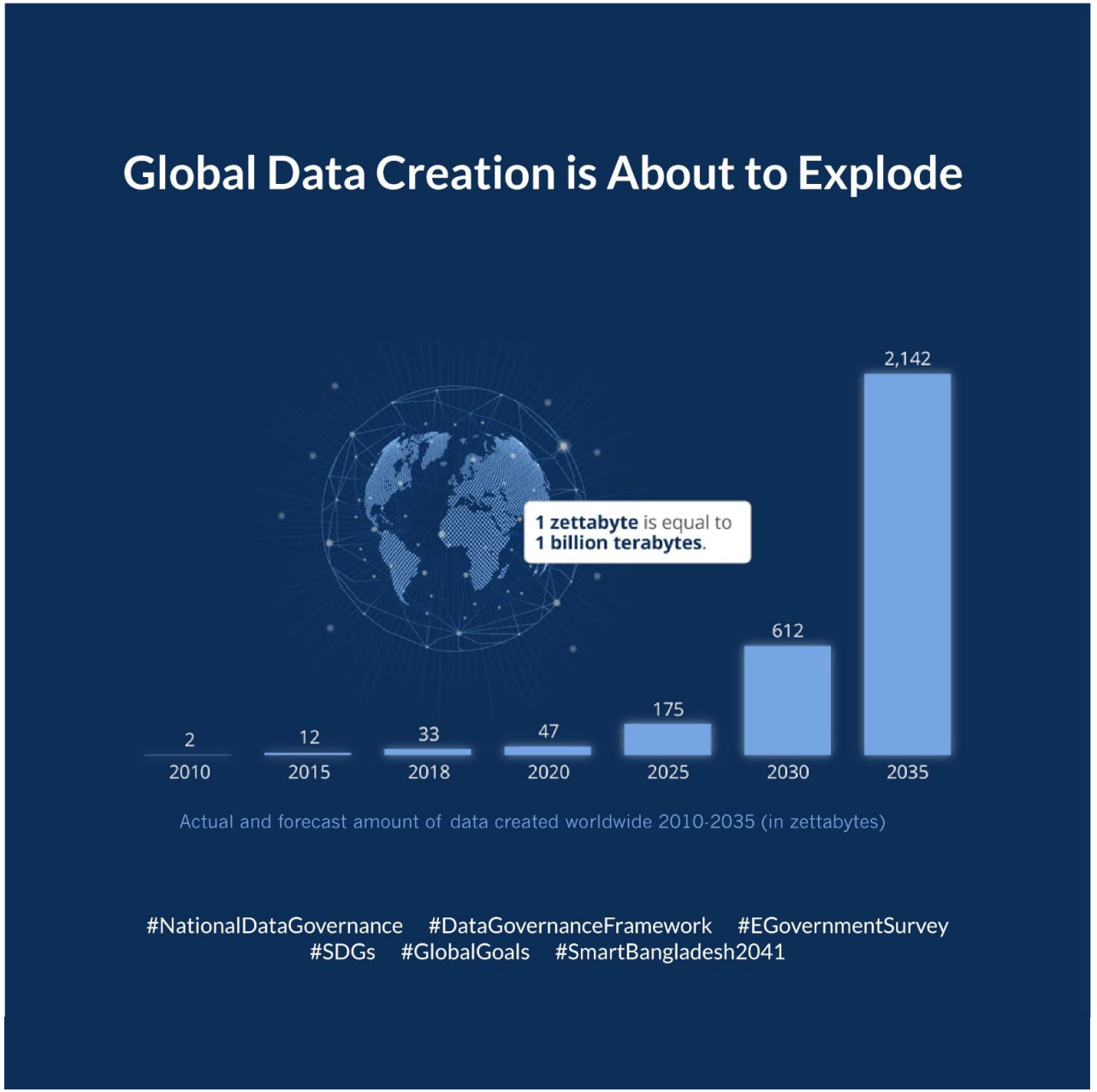
Data Trends

Digital data is "a reinterpretable representation of information in a formalized manner, suitable for communication, interpretation or processing", which is authored/generated by people or machines/sensors, or as a by-product.

Data grows rapidly, and will increase more than tenfold **from 175 zettabytes in 2025 to 2,142 zettabytes in 2035** (Note: One zetta is a "1" followed by 21 zeroes)

Close to 50 per cent will be stored in the public cloud

(Source: 2020 UN E-Government Survey; chapter 6)

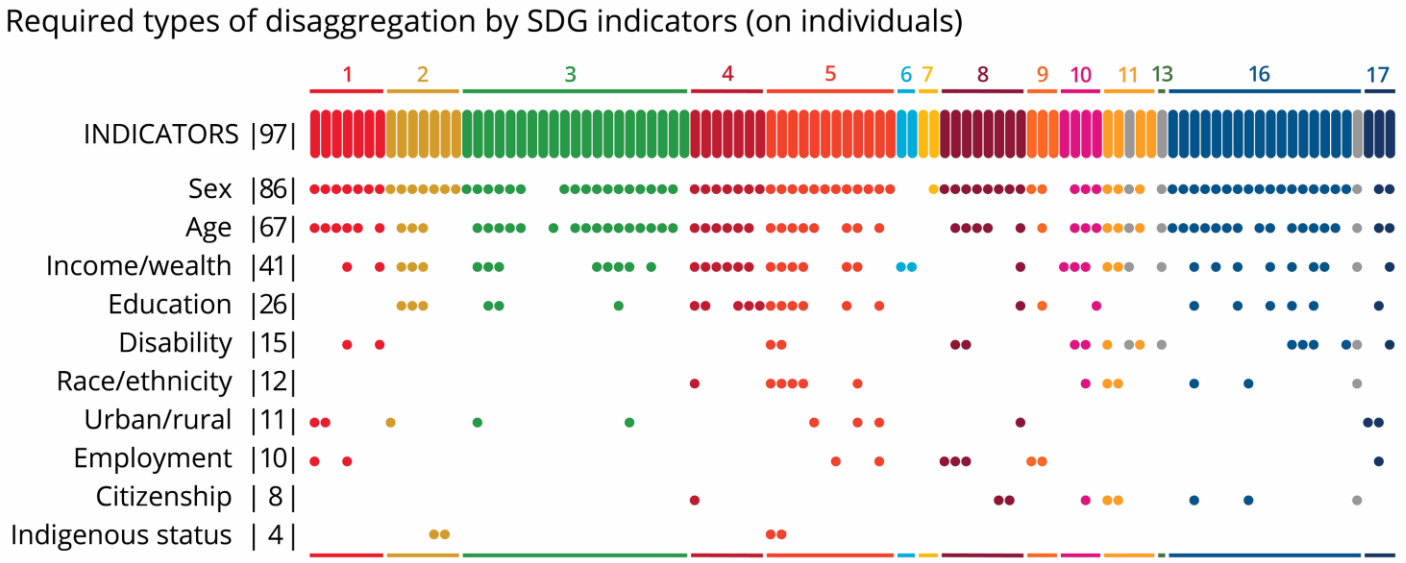


Global Data Trends

- Optimizing the use of data will **increase the productivity, accountability and inclusivity of public institutions**, in line with the principles embodied in Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda.
- A data-centric government will also help **build trustworthiness and public trust.**
- **Many benefits around government data have yet to be realized,** especially in developing countries. The greatest obstacles to progress include a general lack of understanding of data and data science, low political priority and the absence of data leadership, resource constraints, and concerns about data quality, security and privacy.
- **Harvesting public value from data requires a long-term vision and approach** that involves mastering the economics and politics of data governance and management and effectively navigating the evolving data security and privacy landscape. As data governance encompasses much more than technical functions, Governments must employ **a holistic, whole-of-government/society approach in developing an integrated data governance framework supported by policies, institutions, people and processes.**

Data on SDGs, Data for SDGs

- **Data on SDGs:** Data can help ensure that plans to achieve the SDGs are evidence-based, and that their outcomes are measurable. Data can help assess the SDGs in three main ways namely: a facilitator of standards, a tool for accountability and an evidence base for impact assessment.
- **Data for SDGs:** data can help achieve the SDGs by providing critical information on available resources, government operations, public services, and population demographics. These insights can inform national priorities and help determine the most effective path for action on national issues.
- **Impact assessment:** Data can reveal inequalities and disparities in income, wealth and access to government services and provide a basis for assessing progress over time.



SDG indicators requiring data on individuals and families.

Definition of Digital Data Governance Framework

Data governance framework defines the **rules, processes and behaviours related to the collection, management, analysis, use, sharing and disposal of data – personal and/or non-personal.**

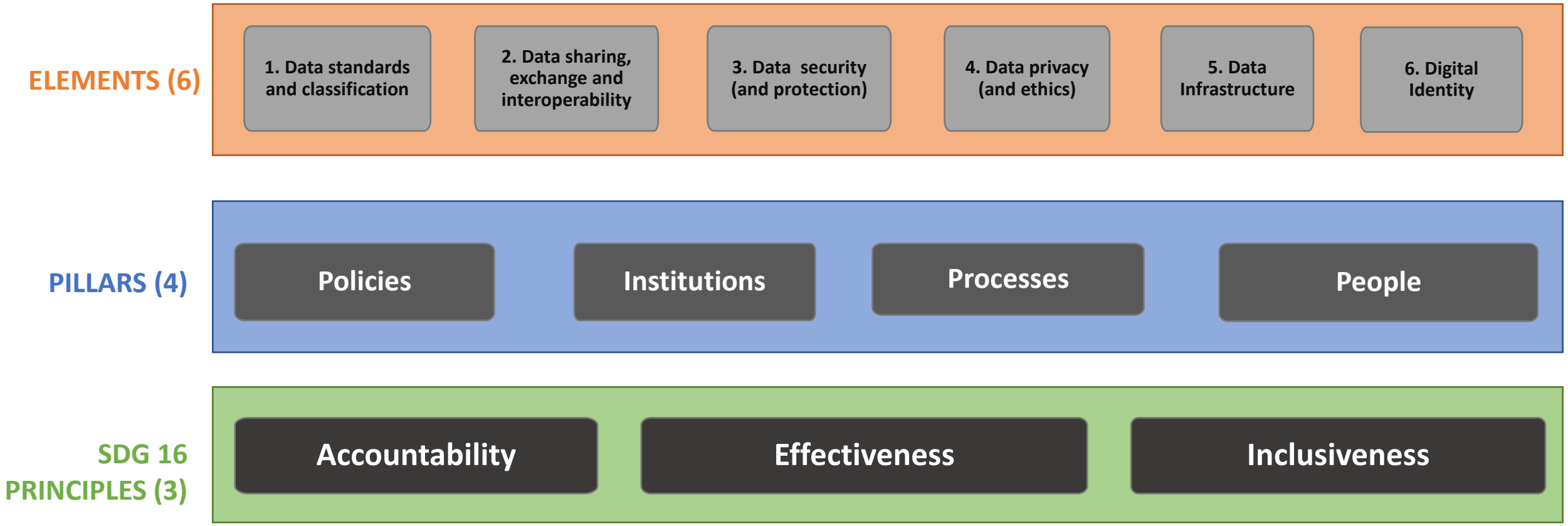
Effective data governance should both **promote full benefits and minimize (potential) harms** at each stage of relevant data cycles.

Source: Adapted from UN E-Government Survey 2020; "Data Governance and the Data Sphere", Tim Davies

UN DESA's Data Governance Approach

- Supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- From whole-of-government to whole-of-society
- Principles-based (3), pillars-supported (4), six (6) elements
- Across different levels (multilevel governance)
  - national level
  - sectoral level
  - institutional
  - regional level
  - Cross-border data governance (ASEAN, Asia Pacific, Global)
- Building data literacy, at institutional and individual levels

UN DESA' s National Data Governance Framework



Why 4 pillars of data governance (DG)?

Policies - a means of ***legitimizing*** *DG (legality, regulatory)*

Institutions -a means of ***empowering and institutionalizing*** *DG (leadership; institutional)*

People - a means of ***capacitating and supporting*** *DG (capacities, capabilities)*

Processes - a means of ***enabling and operationalizing*** DG *(push/pull factors)*

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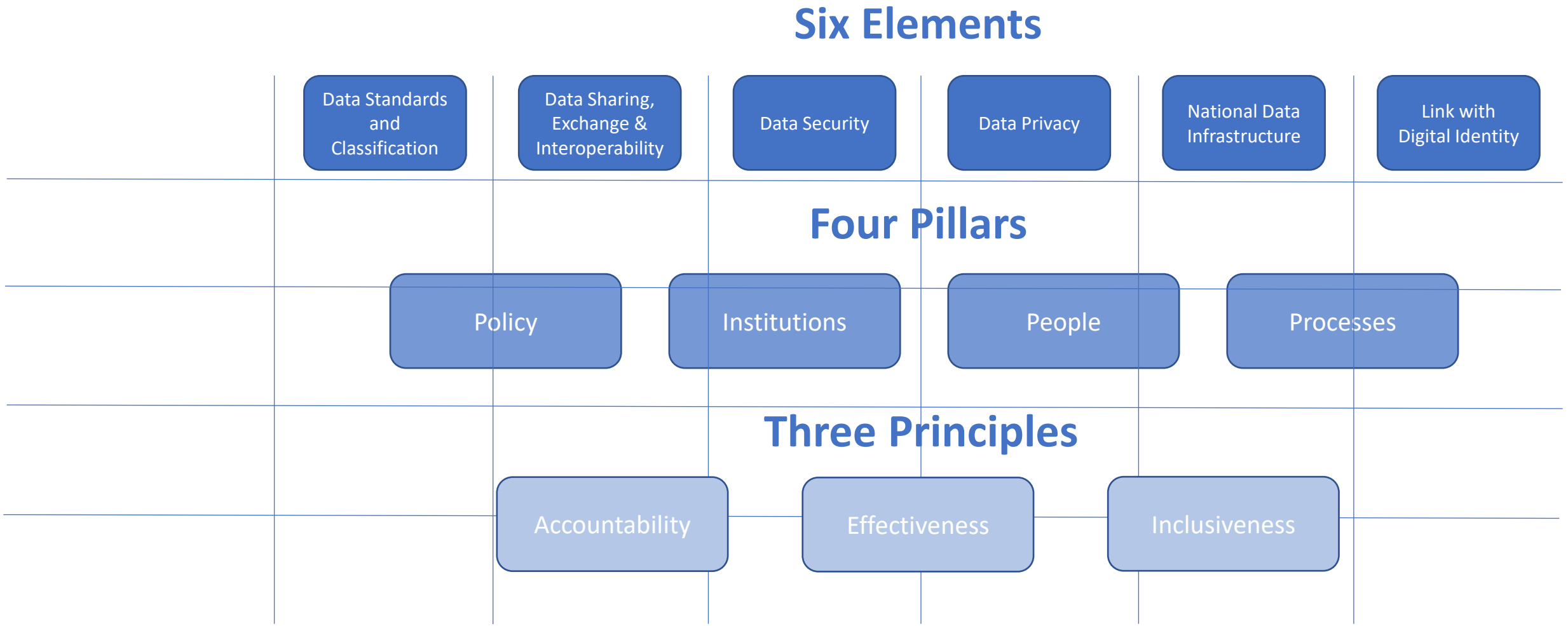

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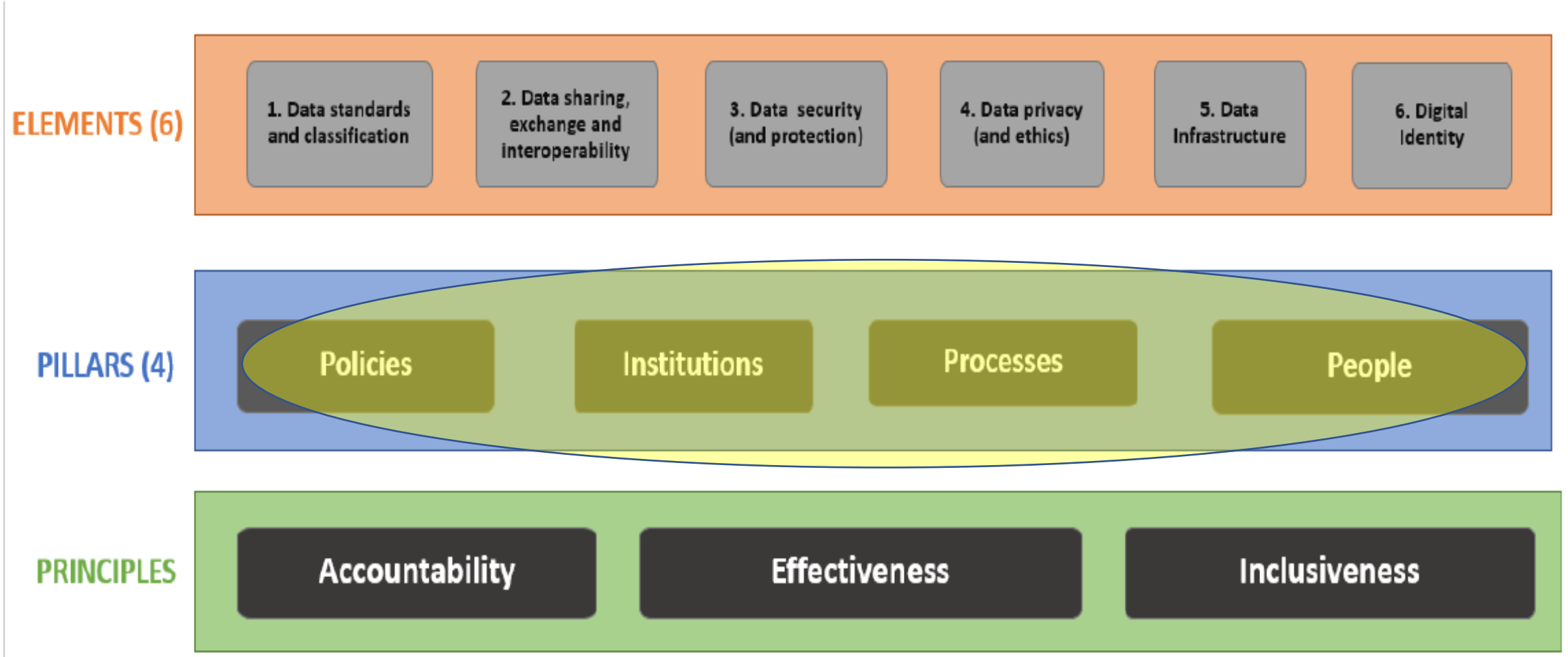
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

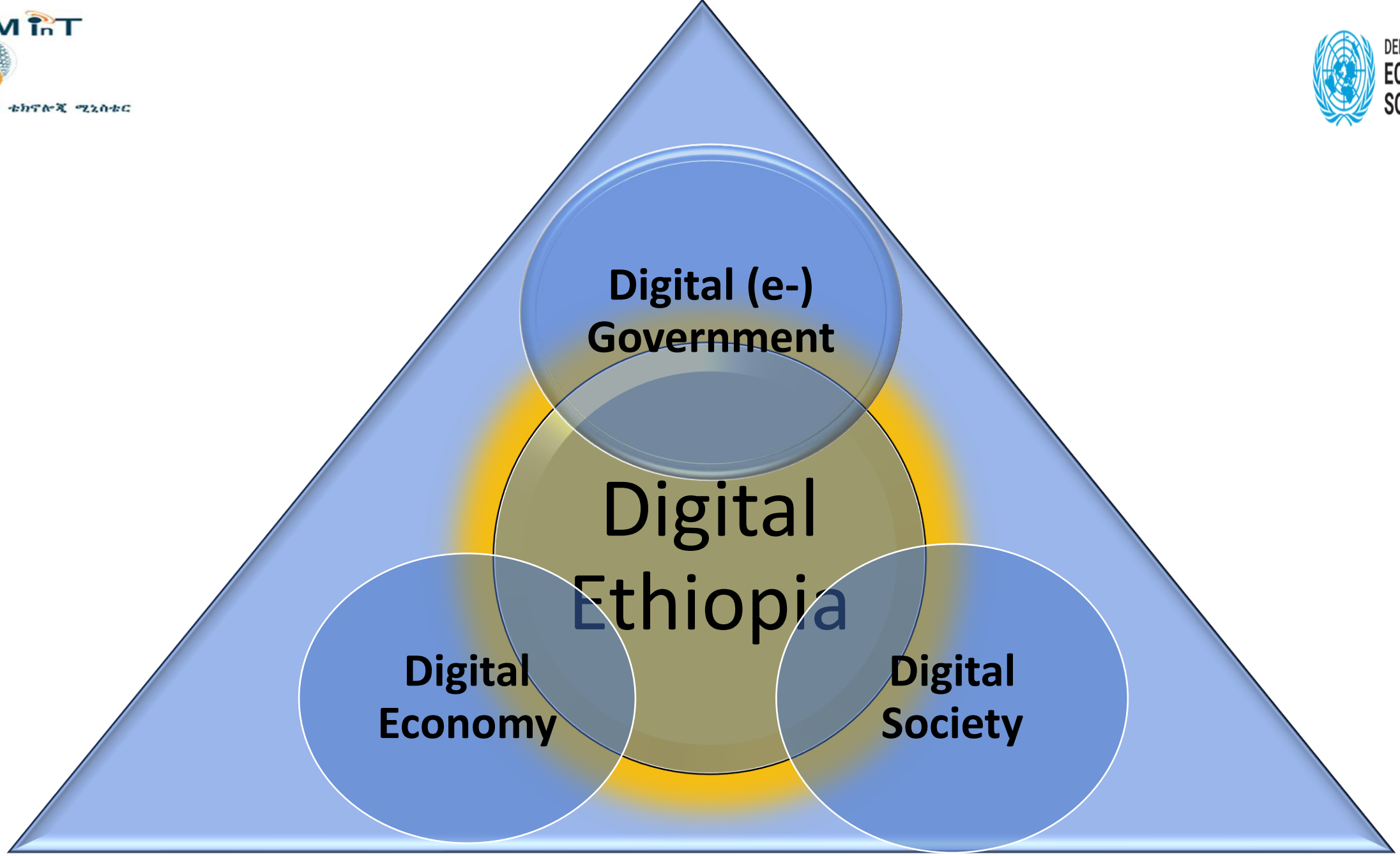
Moving Towards a Coordinated and Structured National Digital Data Governance

Jan 11 – 12, 2024

UN-DESA Data Governance Framework for e-Government



Baseline Study
Aug 2022
1st CD Workshop
Oct 2022
Development of DG documents
April 2023 …
2nd CD Workshop
Today
Project Progress Timeline - Ethiopia


Digital (e-) Government
Digital Ethiopia
Digital Economy
Digital Society

Data – the lifeblood of Digital Systems

National Data Governance

- A key enabling tool for
  - Digital Government
  - Digital Economy
  - Digital Society
- Science-lead
- Fact-based
- Home-grown

Leadership – National Data Governance

Approach

- **Whole-of-Government and Multi-stakeholder complemented by Silos**

- **Think Big, Start Small** (seedling), **Grow Big** (flourishing)

- **Cross-Sectoral - Coordination in a well-structured way**

Leadership Structure – NDG

- Steering Committee
- Technical Committee
  - Working Group 1
  - Working Group 2
  - ……
  - Working Group N

Roles and Responsibilities

20 tasks (proposed)

Sample:

- Oversee the development and implementation of a unified data governance framework across the nation that outlines the **policies**, **standards**, and **guidelines** for the governance and use of data
- Define standards for data collection, storage, analysis, sharing, and disposal
- Ensure all the relevant policies, standards, and guidelines for data collection, storage, and use,

Data Sharing Directive - Draft

Assessment

- Practice at ESS
- Practice at MoA
- International Practice (Bangladesh, Singapore, China)

Draft

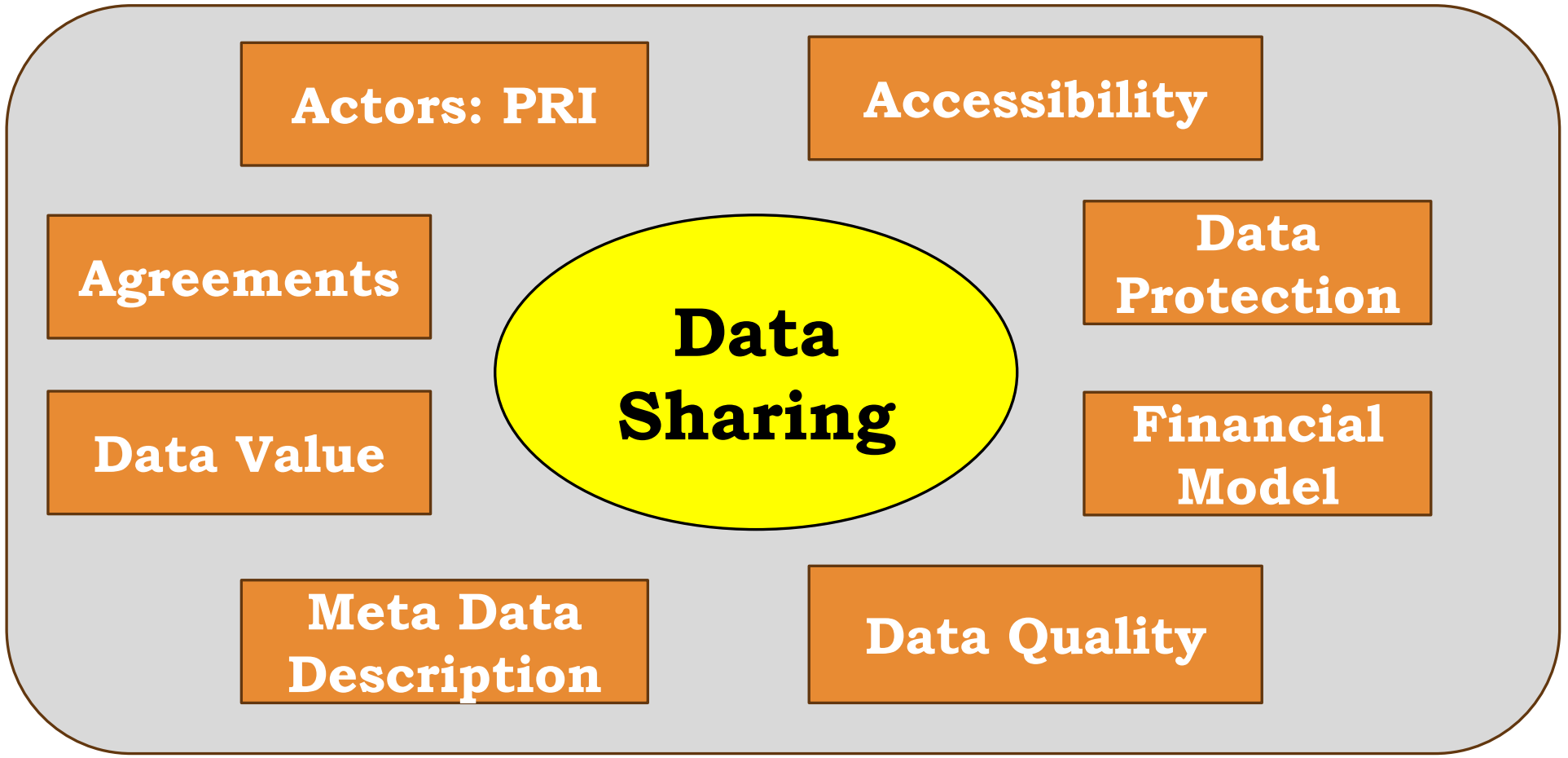
Part One: General Provision

Part Two: Provisions of Data Sharing

Part Three: Data Sharing Requirements

Part Four: Miscellaneous

Preliminaries – Data Sharing Framework



Discussion

Guiding Questions for discussion

1. What can be done to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration for advancing the data governance agenda at national level?

2. What responsibilities should get emphasis on the proposed committee/council Term-of-Reference?

3. What have to be - the next actions (way forward)?

4. .....