



## **WORKSHOP 7**

Data Governance for Digital Transformation

**CONCEPT NOTE**

## Introduction

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The 2025 United Nations Public Service Forum will take place in Samarkand, the Republic of Uzbekistan from 23-25 June 2025 under the theme 'Five Years to 2030: Accelerating Public Service Delivery for a Sustainable Future'.

The Forum will be comprised of a series of workshops where various elements related to the overall theme will be explored in more detail. The workshop is designed to build the capacity of policymakers and civil servants in North/Central Asia to understand the critical importance of data governance and equip them with the skills and knowledge required to implement effective governance strategies.

## Objective

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The programme aims to:

- To promote understanding of data governance and its relevance to digital transformation in government, highlighting the unique aspects that differentiate government data governance from private sector approaches;
- To explore the key components of data governance frameworks and how they apply to various government functions, emphasizing the challenges of cross-agency data sharing and integration;
- To examine practices and case studies in data governance reforms in the government sector from the Asia-Pacific and Europe-Central Asia region and globally.
- To equip participants with practical tools and strategies for implementing data governance in their respective ministries and departments;
- To describe the “government data ecosystem” including the roles of various key agencies, including the unique responsibilities of government statistical agencies.
- To explore the tension between data confidentiality and the need for identifiable data in government operations, and strategies for balancing these competing demands; and
- To provide strategies for developing and sustaining capacity for effective data governance, considering the specific constraints and opportunities within government contexts.

## Focus

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This workshop is strategically designed to address a fundamental imperative for governments in North and Central Asia navigating the complexities of digital transformation: **the establishment of robust and effective data governance frameworks**. Recognizing that data has become a critical national asset, akin to infrastructure or human capital, the workshop aims to empower policymakers and civil servants with the essential understanding, skills, and knowledge required to manage this asset strategically and responsibly. The core substance of the workshop revolves around building capacity to implement effective data governance strategies that unlock the transformative potential of data while mitigating its inherent risks.

At the heart of governmental modernization efforts lies the ambition to leverage technology and data for improved operations, enhanced public services, and a more responsive approach to the evolving needs of citizens. Data, when managed effectively, serves as the bedrock for informed decision-making, streamlined efficiencies, and the

transformation of service delivery. However, the mere existence of data is insufficient. To truly realize its transformative potential, government data must adhere to stringent standards of quality, reliability, and usability. Furthermore, and crucially, governments bear the significant responsibility of balancing the innovative use of data with the fundamental obligations to uphold privacy, security, ethical practices, and transparency. In this context, strong data governance emerges not just as an enabler of innovation but as a vital safeguard against the multifaceted risks associated with managing vast and often sensitive datasets.

Session one sets the stage by exploring the regional digital transformation context, data challenges, and the importance of effective data management. Session two delves into fundamental data governance definitions, principles, and frameworks, emphasizing their role in structuring data activities. A virtual session three focuses on the crucial role of National Statistical Systems in ensuring data quality and integrity. The final two sessions address the practical application of data governance frameworks, with part one focusing on building public trust through robust privacy and security measures, and part two exploring the critical aspects of data sharing and interoperability for improved service delivery and informed decision-making. Through a blend of theory, interactive exercises, and expert insights, the workshop equips participants with the knowledge and skills to champion and implement effective data governance strategies within their national and institutional contexts.

## Structure

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### ***Session 1: Introductions, Understanding Data and Its Role, Data Challenges***

- **Objective:** Explore national digital transformation strategy, current state, data needs, challenges, and implications for government data use and governance to improve service delivery and policy.
- **Activities:** Group exercise: mapping of Uzbekistan's digital transformation and data needs and challenges

### ***Session 2: Session 2: Data Governance Fundamentals***

- **Objective:** Introduce the fundamentals of Data Governance including definitions and frameworks
- **Content:**
  - Key definitions
  - Importance of Data Governance
  - International and country data governance frameworks and their pillars
- **Activities:**
  - Group Exercise: mapping of government ecosystem - key institutions, roles and laws

### ***Session 3: National Statistical Systems and Data Governance (virtual session)***

- **Objective:** Role of the National Statistical System in Data Governance.
- **Content:**
  - Principles of Official Statistics
  - Statistics Laws & Institutions
  - Statistical Data standards
  - Statistical Data sharing
- **Activities:**

- Q&A

#### ***Session 4: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 1 - Foundations for trust.***

- **Objective:** To explore the principles, definitions, and governance arrangements that underpin the protection of privacy and personal data in the public sector.
- **Content:**
  - Privacy,
  - Personal Data Protection
  - Data Security
- **Activities:**
  - Group exercise: Identify gaps in current governance arrangements for Personal Data Protections and/or Security

#### ***Session 5: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 2 - Data Sharing and Interoperability.***

- **Objective:** To explore the concepts and governance arrangements that relate to the sharing of data for service delivery.
- **Content:**
  - Sharing Data for Service Delivery
  - Sharing Sensitive Data Integration & Sharing (for policy & research)
- **Activities:**
  - Group exercise: Identify barriers and enablers for data sharing.

#### ***Session 6: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 3 - Infrastructure, Data Sovereignty and Ethical Data Use***

- **Objective:** To explore the concepts and governance arrangements for Data Sovereignty and Ethical use of data.
- **Content:**
  - Data Infrastructure
  - Data Sovereignty
  - Ethical Data Use

#### ***Session 7: Building Data Culture and Capability***

- **Objective:** Explore strategies to foster a data-driven culture and enhance skills in the public sector.
- **Content:**
  - Discuss leadership, literacy programs, and infrastructure development.
  - Highlight successful capacity-building initiatives from other countries.
- **Activities:**
  - Group brainstorming: Strategies for data literacy and leadership
  - Delegates present examples of capacity-building from their organisations / countries.

#### ***Session 8: Data Governance Implementation***

- **Objective:** Understand implementation options and practical steps for improving Uzbekistan's data governance.
- **Content:**

- Approaches to data governance improvement: Data Strategy, targeted programs, or specific projects.
- Assessment and Continuous Improvement
- **Activities:**
  - Group exercise: explore the pros and cons of different implementation options.

## Organisational Details

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- This workshop is organised by the **Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan** in collaboration with the **UN ESCAP** and the **UNDP**.
- Participants are expected to come from central and local government officials, policymakers, public government experts, public sector institutions, practitioners, civil society, academics, and media.
- The workshop will be conducted in English and Russian.

## Contact Persons

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