



# Digital Convergence

## USP2030

## Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI)

### About the Digital Convergence Initiative

A joint effort by USP2030 members, governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector towards creating integrated and interoperable social protection information systems.

...An open, transparent and virtual community working to build a global consensus around standards and guidelines for social protection information systems.

### What is the challenge at hand?

Despite widespread recognition of the benefits that digital solutions can unleash, countries are struggling to fully realise them. Even though social protection programmes follow a common set of processes, fragmented social protection information systems are unable to communicate with other systems. This lack of harmonisation and interoperability not only impacts on social protection outcomes, but also leads to wasted public expenditure.



### What does the DCI seek to achieve?

Consensus-based standards and guidelines are key to advancing the meaningful exchange of data. They have the potential to:

- Foster an **ecosystem for innovation** by technology solution providers to build products that are interoperable, based on globally agreed standards and guidelines.

- **Reduce the time and cost** of developing solutions at the country or programme level.
- Design systems that are **prepared for future** demands, beyond the current level of maturity of policy and information systems.
- Enable countries and programmes to **mix and match interoperable** pieces from various vendors.

### What can you gain from participating?

If you are a social protection programme implementer, integrating your contextual considerations could ensure that low-cost, future-ready digital solutions arising from global standards and guidelines meet your local needs. If you are a technology solution provider, these standards and guidelines could drive down the cost of accessing new markets. Ultimately, you will be able to shape this consensus-driven process, so that it is able to serve your needs at scale – across countries, programmes and target groups.

### What can participants contribute?

True convergence needs meaningful dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. The initiative's approach involves setting up a range of Standards Committees to review submitted standard drafts, consolidating existing efforts across institutions and countries. These committees will look into: (i) process workflows, (ii) data standards, and (iii) API standards. Participants can contribute by:

- Sharing existing materials
- Reviewing the outputs of the standards committees or joining the committees
- Joining discussions and workshops
- Contributing to drafting standards and guidelines alongside facilitators by providing feedback
- Submitting draft standards to DCI for consensus building
- Informing about availability of relevant open-source solutions or proprietary solutions

**How to get involved?** If you wish to participate, send an email to [contact@spdc.org](mailto:contact@spdc.org) and follow the Convergence Initiative's journey on the following channels



[www.spdci.org](http://www.spdci.org)



socialprotection-  
convergence.discourse  
.group



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