DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
Universal Safeguards

United Nations
Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies

UNDP

The DPI Safeguards Initiative

Agenda

01 What is Digital Public Infrastructure?

02 What is the DPI Safeguards Initiative?

03 How can DCI and SPIAC-B collaborate closer with the DPI Safeguards Initiative?

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What is Digital Public Infrastructure? (1/2)

Currently, Most governments build digital monoliths

- Governments often duplicate digital systems across every layer, from user interfaces to backend databases.
- This fragmented approach leads to:
  - Poor interoperability between departments
  - Increased costs due to repeated builds
  - Limited scalability and innovation

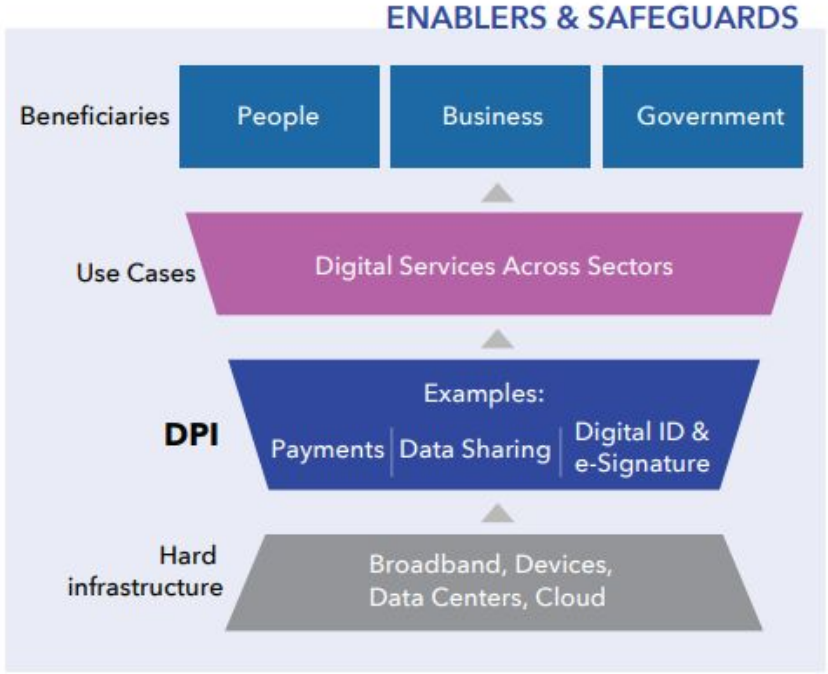
Visualization by David Eave

What is Digital Public Infrastructure? (1/2)

Governments building DPI, focus on horizontal shared digital capabilities

The DPI approach:

1. Builds shared digital tools that can be reused, instead of creating separate systems in each department.
2. Involves everyone in society—including government, businesses, and communities—in building and using these tools.
3. Is based on key values like openness, working together, fairness, transparency, good oversight, and protecting people's data and privacy.



Source: Adapted from World Bank (2024).

Mitigating the Risks of Digital Public Infrastructure (1/3)

Privacy Concerns

Data Security

Exclusion of Marginalized

Mitigating the Risks of Digital Public Infrastructure (2/3

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In a 2021 referendum, 64% rejected the Swiss eID, mistrusting reliance on licensing private companies to operate it

Conseil Constitutionnel de France, Décision n° 2012-652 DC du 22 mars 2012, rejected ID scheme for collecting data disproportionate to the purpose

Supreme Court in Madhewoo v Mauritius found the ID card scheme's indefinite period of retention of biometrics unconstitutional

Supreme Court in Justice Puttaswamy v Union of India ordered that, without data protection legislation, Aadhaar could not be used to verify individual identity to secure loans, file tax returns, open bank accounts, make large purchases or sell property

Mexico's Supreme Court suspended law requiring collection of biometrics by telcos for SIM registration

High Court in Nubian Rights v Attorney General of Kenya found the National Integrated Identity Management System unconstitutional violation of privacy, and prohibited the government from collecting GPS and DNA information, and also prohibited the government from making access to public services conditional on national identity registration

Supreme Court in Robinson v Attorney General of Jamaica declared the country's National Identification and Registration Act system that collected demographic, biometric and biographic information unconstitutional and void ("impact the trust level between citizen and state")

Mitigating the Risks of Digital Public Infrastructure (3/3)

UN Secretary-General calls for common frameworks on DPI

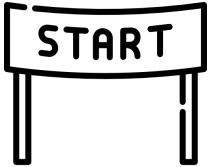
Summit of the Future: Global Digital Compact

Sep 2021 — Secretary-General's Report: Our Common Agenda

May 2023 — SafeDPI Initiative launched at UNGA78

Sep 2023 — Launch of the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework

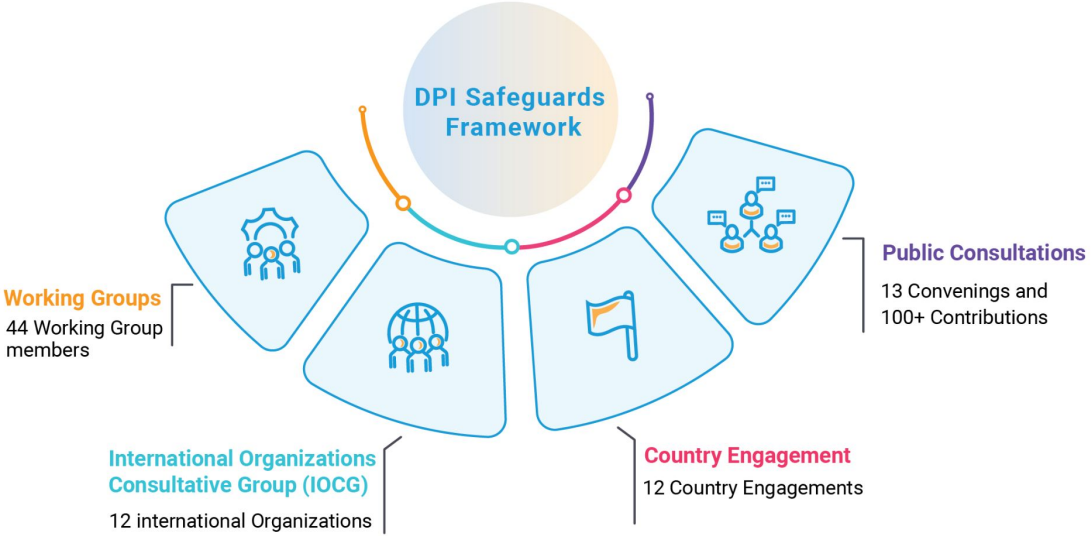
Sep 2024 — Kick-off 2025 Cohort



Feb 2024

Safeguards initiative provides the framework to strengthen implementations

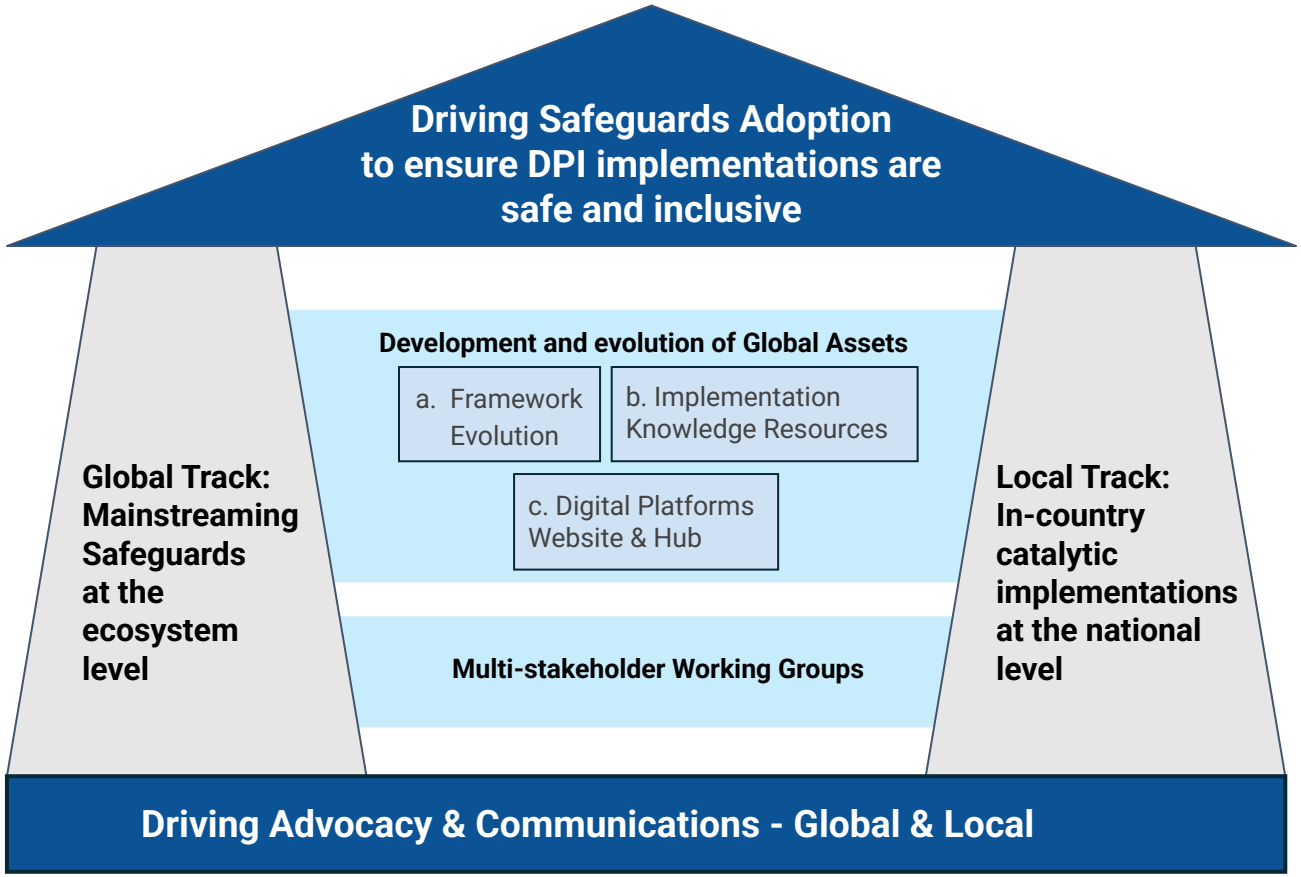
Stewarded by the United Nations, the **DPI Safeguards initiative** is a multi-stakeholder effort towards ensuring a safe and inclusive digital society.



Guide to Applying the Framework

Access the framework
https://www.dpi-safeguards.org/framework

Driving Adoption in 2025: Learn from the ecosystem



Enabling workstreams to be undertaken by secretariat

International Organization Consultative Group (IOCG)

Supporting international organizations in adopting the safeguards framework

- ➔ **Create** common understanding on DPI Safeguards to integrate DPI Safeguards in their global strategies.
- ➔ **Integrate** the framework in specific country projects
- ➔ **Partner** for in country reference implementations run by the secretariat
- ➔ **Commit** and raise funding for the mainstreaming and implementation of the Framework
- ➔ **Expand** the framework by integrating it with specific use case, unique to each organization

Working Groups

The 2025 Working Groups will function as a core mechanism to advance the initiative's goals in mainstreaming, implementation, and knowledge generation.

558
Nominations

- **187** | African States
- **166** | Asia Pacific States
- **18** | Eastern European States
- **59** | Latin American and Caribbean States
- **128** | Western Europe and Other States

24
Diverse Members

- **6** | African States
- **5** | Asia Pacific States
- **1** | Eastern European States
- **3**| Latin American and Caribbean States
- **7** | Western Europe and Other States

4
Main deliverables

- Framework Adoption/Measurement and KPI Resources
- Framework Version 2
- Playbooks (CSO, Implementers, etc.)

Working Groups

2025 Expected Outcomes & Impact

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2025 Outcome 1 - Adoption WG	Develop resources to support Adoption of DPI Safeguards by all the different Responsible Authorities in the DPI Ecosystem.
2025 Outcome 2 - Assessment WG	Develop an Assessment Framework to ensure trust and inclusion as DPI is implemented.
2025 Outcome 3 - Framework v2	Review and Refine Framework to include new practice and process recommendations
2025 Outcome 4 - Playbooks	Practical how-to-guide to support Government and CSOs in adopting Safeguards

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#SafeDPI