



# The Universal DPI Safeguards Framework

– Raja Chandrashekharan | UNDP

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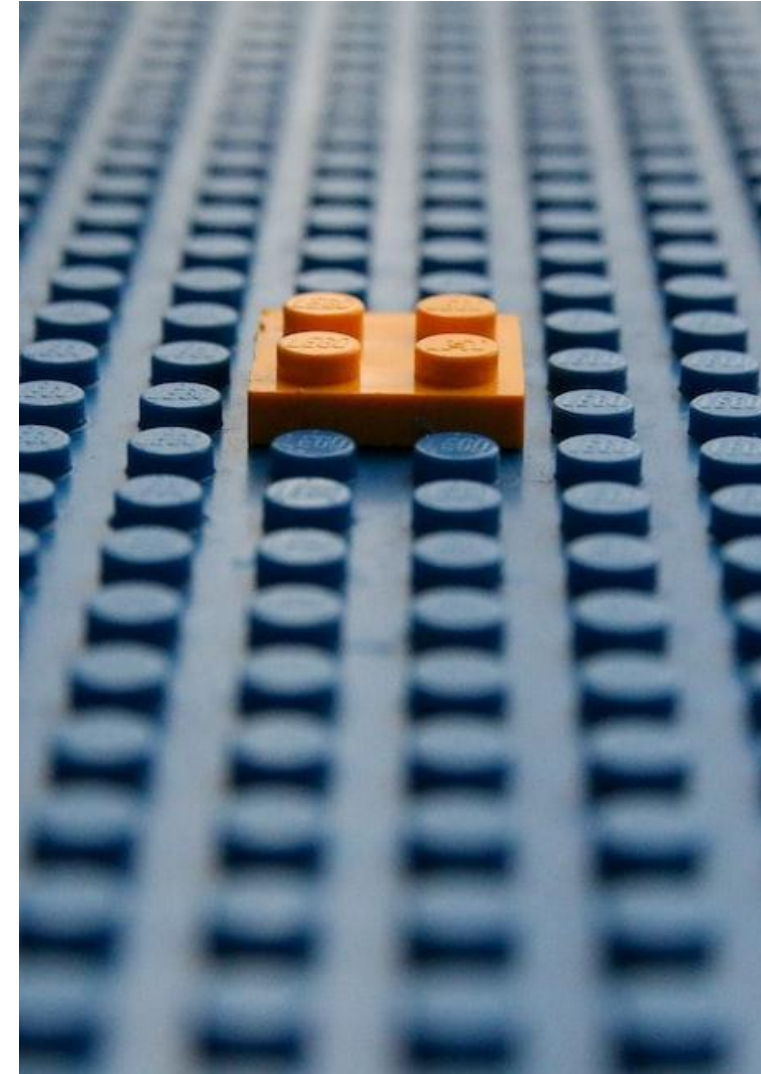


# Building Safe and Inclusive Societies with Universal DPI Safeguards

# DPI based digital transformation is not a magic pill, it has to be done right

A set of digital building blocks (platforms/ protocols/ networks) which are interoperable, driven by open standards/specifications, enable access to public and private services at societal scale, and are governed by enabling rules to drive innovation, inclusion, and competition

*Definition adopted by G20*



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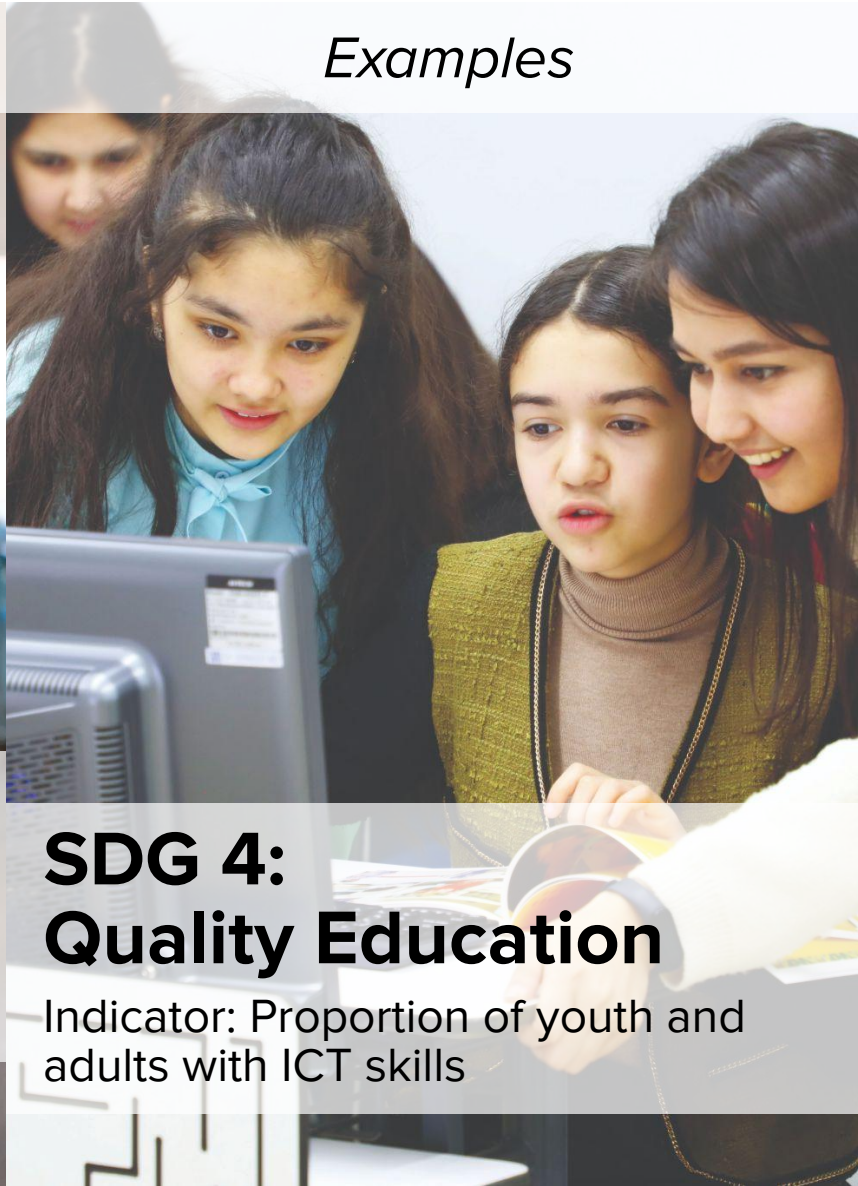


# Without Safeguards, DPI enabled SDG acceleration is at risk



## SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

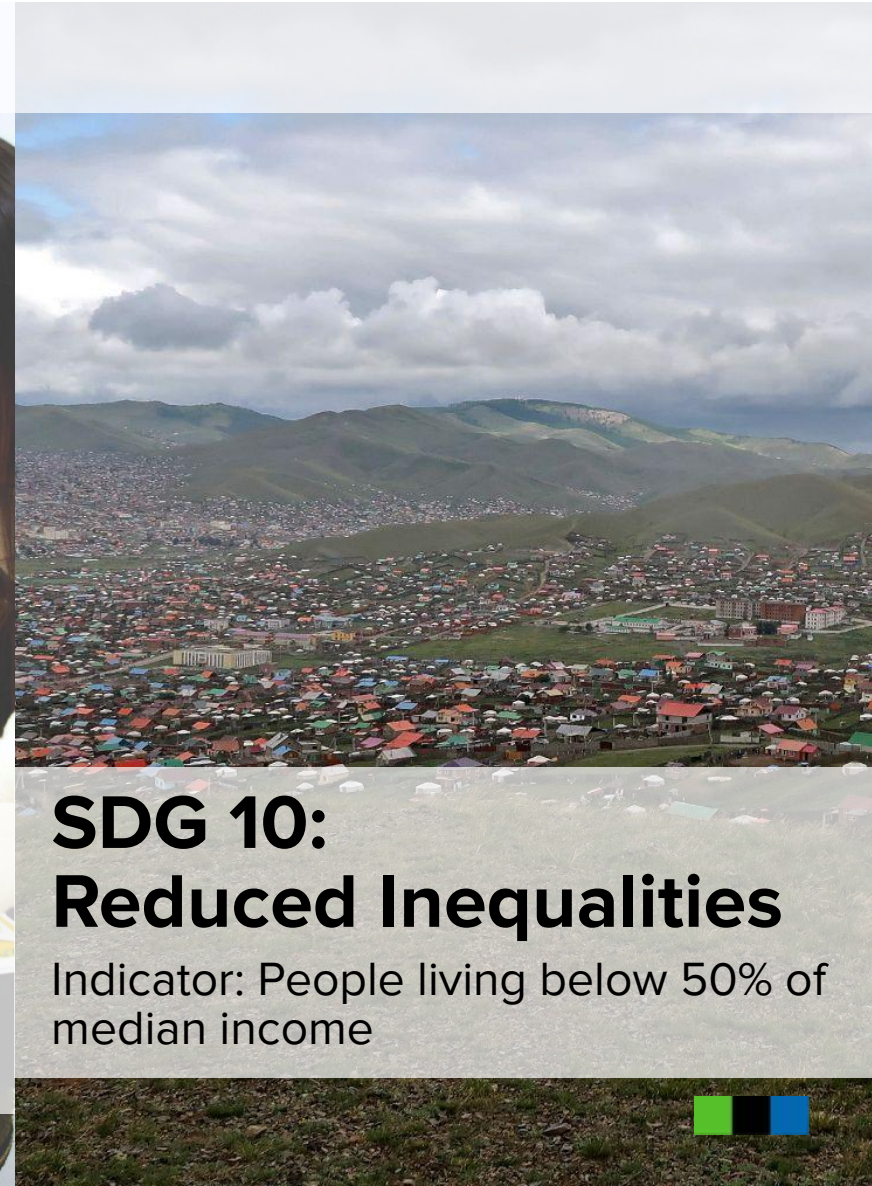
Indicator: Coverage of essential health services



*Examples*

## SDG 4: Quality Education

Indicator: Proportion of youth and adults with ICT skills



## SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Indicator: People living below 50% of median income





# UN DPI Safeguards Initiative



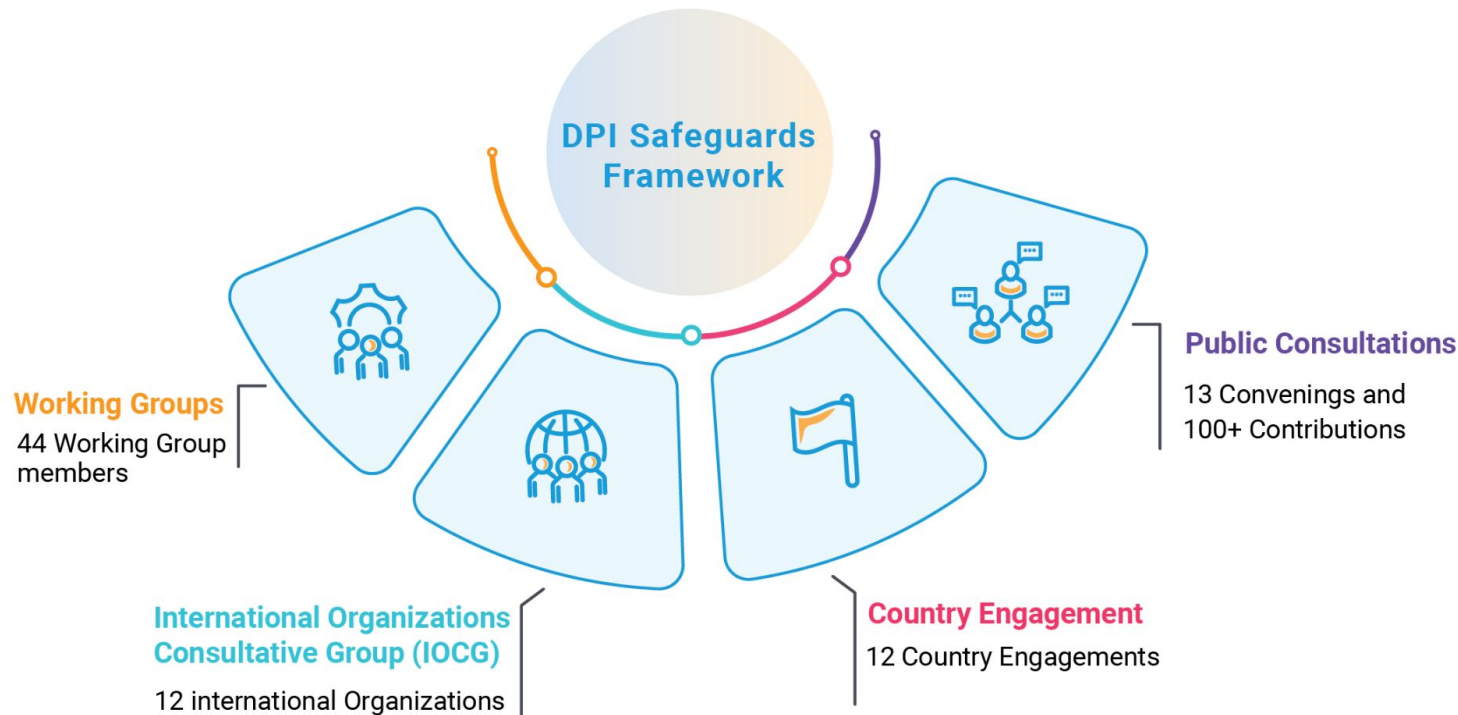
**Demonstrates commitment to including and protecting people everywhere while accelerating the achievement of SDGs;**

**Unifies and builds upon work done by the ecosystem of experts and institutions globally.**

**DPI adoption and safeguards must go side by side** to generate positive societal outcomes in a sustainable manner.

# 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>



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# Unintended consequences of poor planning, design and execution

<https://www.dpi-safeguards.org/>

## Risks to Individuals: **Safety**

- Privacy vulnerability
- Digital insecurity
- Physical insecurity
- Lack of recourse

## Risks to Individuals: **Inclusion**

- Discrimination
- Unequal access
- Exclusion
- Disempowerment

## Risk to Societies: **Structural Vulnerabilities**

- Digital distrust
- Weak rule of law
- Weak institutions
- Technical shortcomings
- Unsustainability

# The core components of a DPI-based digital transformation

**Inclusion**

**Technology**

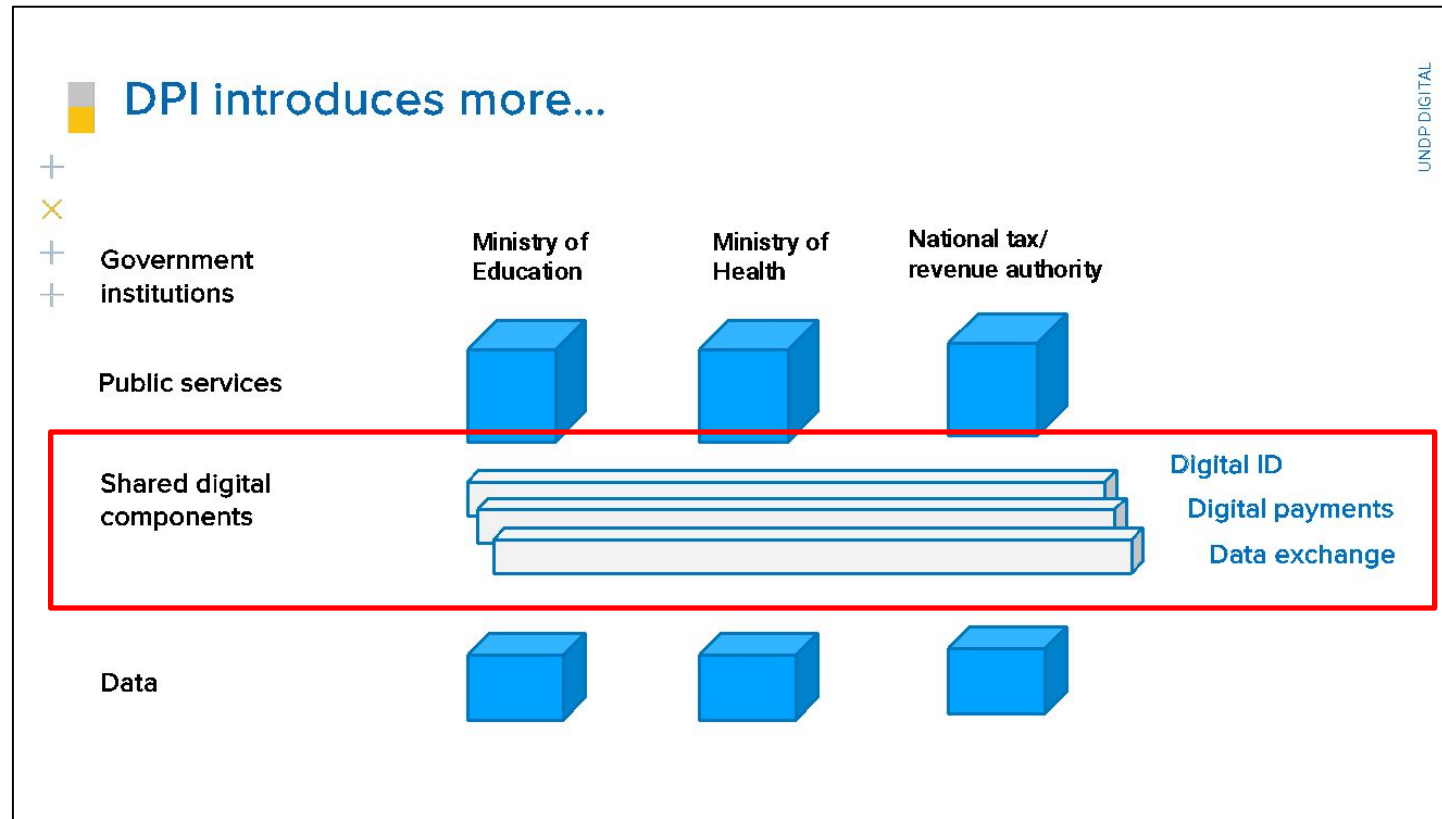
**Governance**



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# Designing Governance of DPI is hard



Who operates and maintains?

Who pays?

How is data privacy ensured?

What steps are taken to ensure inclusion?

How is remediation handled?

Do we have enough skills to do this?

What law and institution will uphold this?

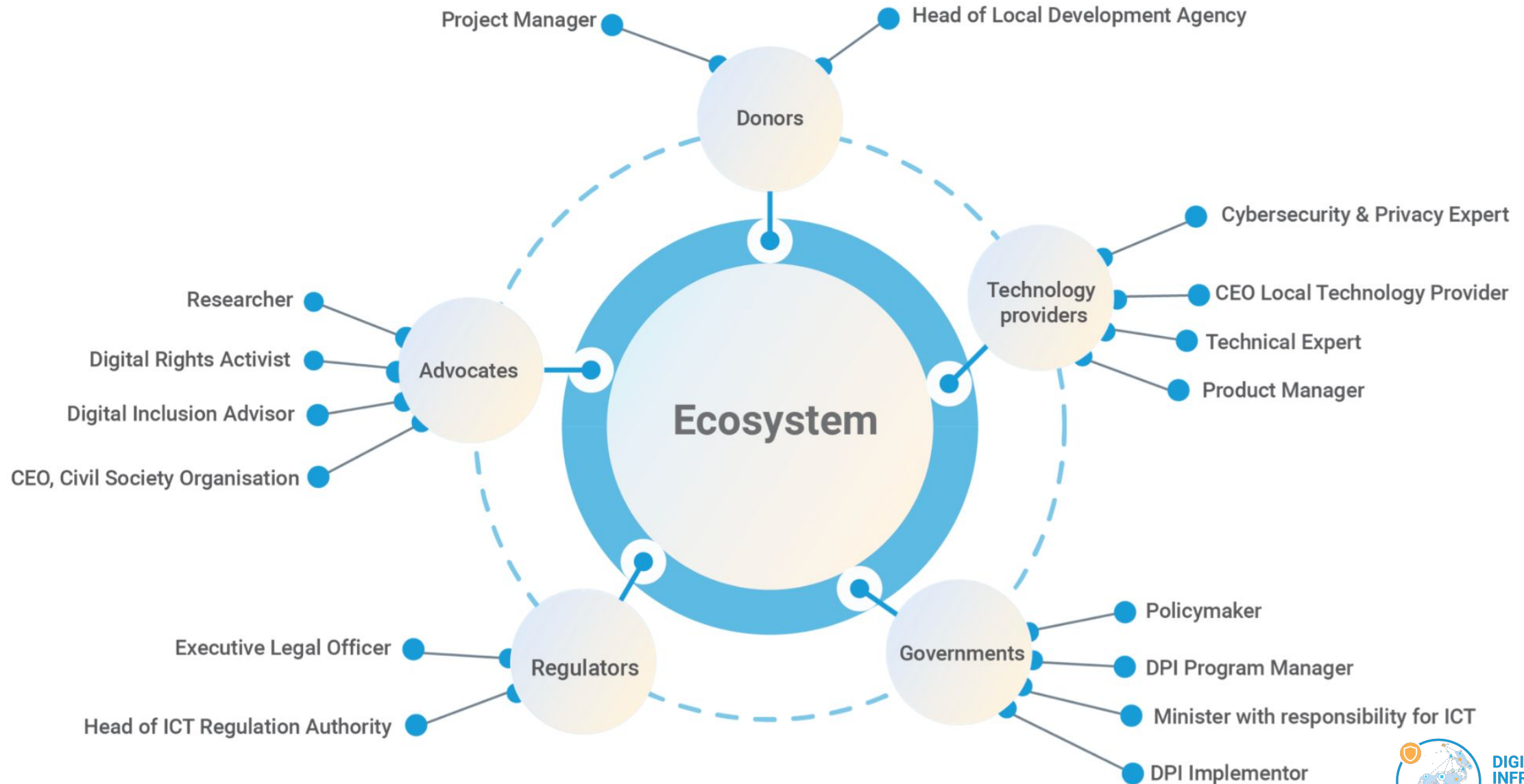
How is security handled?

Is procurement open and transparent?

How will we sustain?



# Build Governance with a Whole of Society Approach



# Together, Uphold Universal DPI Safeguards Principles

**Foundational principles:** Principles that should serve as the basis for any DPI



1. **Do no harm**
2. **Do not discriminate**
3. **Do not exclude**
4. **Reinforce transparency and accountability**
5. **Uphold the rule of law**
6. **Promote autonomy and agency**
7. **Foster community engagement**
8. **Ensure effective remedy and redress**
9. **Focus on future sustainability**

**Operational principles:** Principles that come into play at an operational level and may vary across contexts

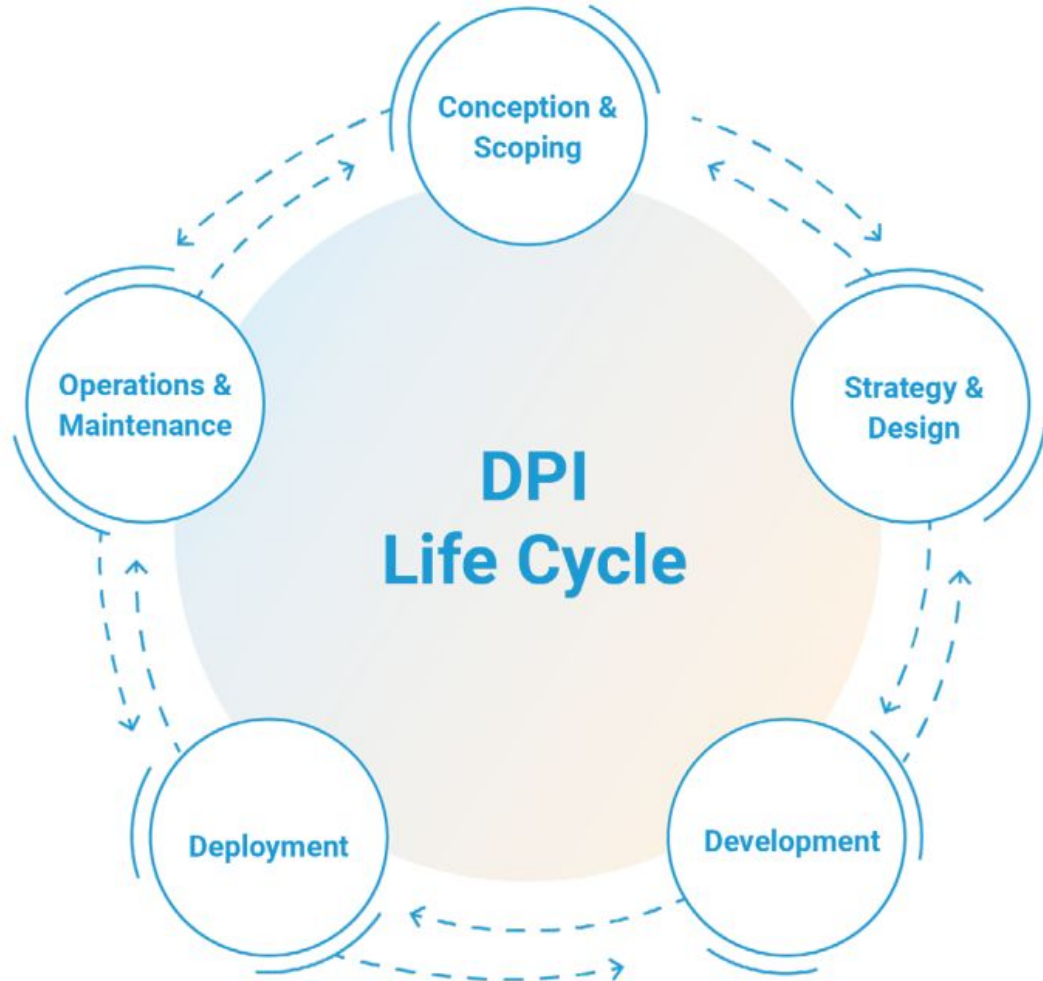


1. **Leverage market dynamics**
2. **Evolve with evidence**
3. **Ensure data privacy by design**
4. **Assure data security by design**
5. **Ensure data protection during use**
6. **Respond to gender, ability or age**
7. **Practice inclusive governance**
8. **Sustain financial viability**
9. **Build and share open assets**

<https://www.dpi-safeguards.org/>



# Build Safeguards as a continuous process throughout the DPI Lifecycle

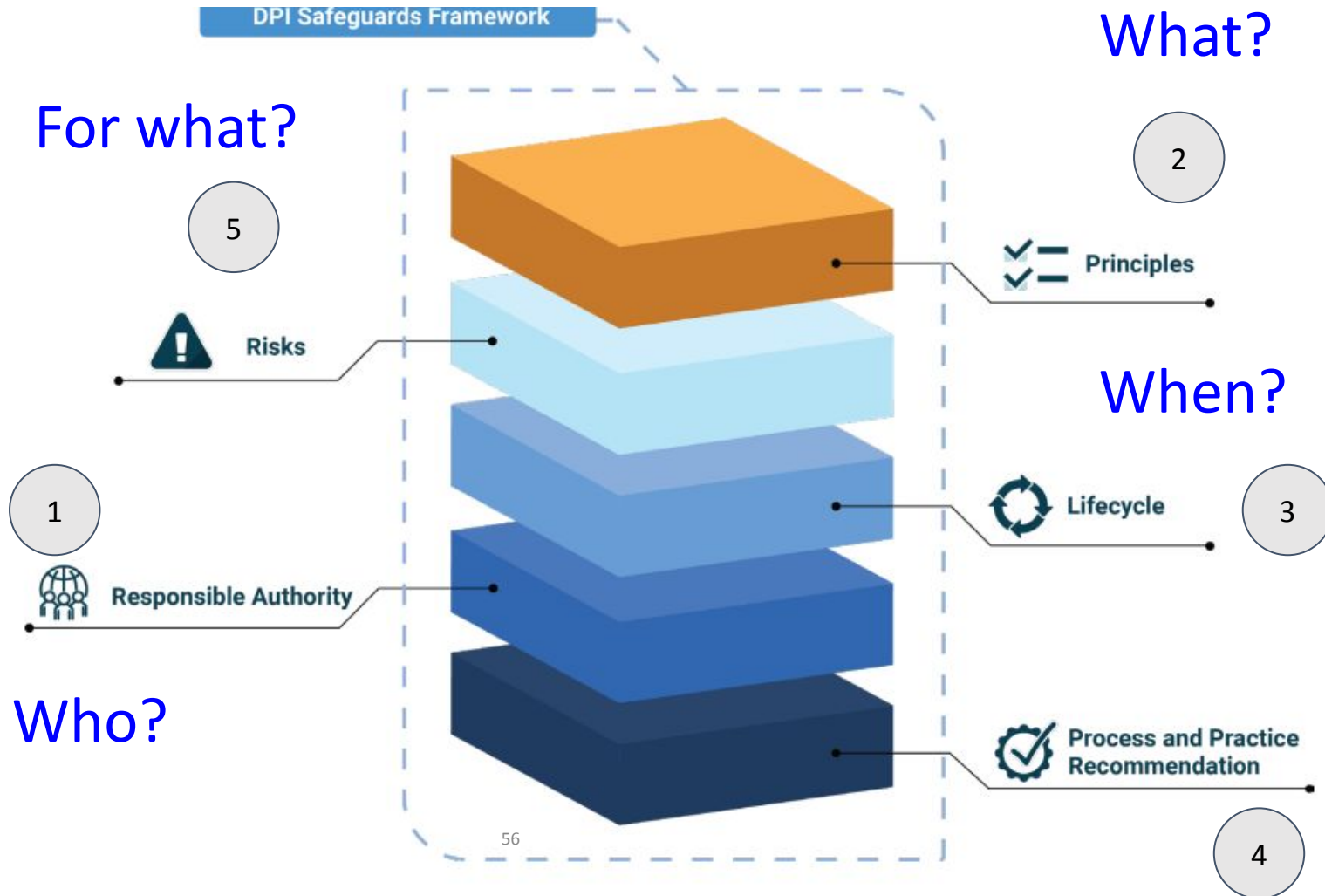


*“...Safeguards should be introduced during the process of DPI evolution and iteration at various stages of a typical DPI life cycle..”*

# Get practical knowledge from the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework

## The Framework

- is a living body of knowledge
- is agnostic in terms of approach and definition
- is designed to evolve and adapt to different societal contexts



# 2025: Call for Safeguards Pioneers

- Looking for countries who are on their DPI implementation and scale up journey to bake safeguards in their implementations
- Looking for countries who are just thinking of their DPI roadmap and journeys to learn and design the right way.
- Workshop on March 13th, 9 am to 12 pm

## Support from Safeguards Initiative

1. Build capacity of Safeguards know how
2. Orchestrate Multi-stakeholder Holding Environments
3. Implementers Knowledge Sharing
4. Measure & Track Safeguards Implementation Impact





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