

ID4AFRICA LIVECAST EP45 CONCEPT NOTE

TITLE: UNDP & NIST Guidelines for Digital Identity & Its Governance

October 18, 2023, 14:30 – 17:30 (Paris Time), 08:30 – 11:30 (EST)

SEGMENT 1: Digital Legal Identity Governance Framework

INTRODUCTION

Digitalization of the legal identity system completely changes the social contract between the government and citizens. As a foundational layer of digital public infrastructure, the digital legal identity system serves a critical role to ensure inclusion of the population, improve efficiency of public service deliveries and facilitate access to services. It also strengthens the capabilities of the governments to collect, process and analyze the personal data of people as there is a risk of abuse and misuse of such data unless the right safeguard is in place. Progress on technologies around digital legal identity is significant with several systems and technologies now mature in deployment and use. However, the development of appropriate governance frameworks and models has not received the same level of attention, and lags behind the development of systems and technologies. Currently, the risk of digitization on foundational public infrastructure is handled at the level of legal (revision of legal framework), operational/procedural (revision of SOP in using such technology) and technological levels (deployment of privacy design technology). However, the comprehensive and detailed tools on how to ensure that the government has the robust governance framework around digital legal identity has been missing.

OBJECTIVES

This LiveCast segment is intended to provide government policymakers, development practitioners, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders with a practical guide on how to comprehensively address governance concerns when designing, implementing and monitoring the digital legal ID project. The segment will:

- Enhance the community's understanding of what governance is and its importance around digital legal identity.
- Present the UNDP's model governance framework for digital legal identity and explain how this framework can be used in each country.
- Introduce experiences and perspectives from some countries who have used this framework and how it contributed to strengthening the governance system.
- Explain how this model governance framework can improve the governance of a country and contributes to protecting human rights.
- Receive feedback and strengthen further the existing governance framework.

SEGMENT SESSIONS

This segment consists of 4 parts, which will run as follows:

Part 1: Why Governance?

A look at governance and its importance, the difference between governance framework and legal framework, why we need a governance framework and what happens when a governance framework is lacking.

Part 2: UNDP Digital Identity Governance Framework

A presentation and discussion session on the recently published UNDP model governance framework. It examines how governments can use such frameworks to improve the legal identity system (the whole-of-society approach), as well as how it is being piloted and used.

Part 3: CSO Perspective

Civil Society Organization representatives share their perspective and expectations on the fitness of governance frameworks to address the risks that may be inherent in the data rich digital systems.

Part 4: Government Perspective

Representatives from identity authorities in Africa share their perspective on the biggest governance challenges they face, as well as how a governance framework could help them identify the gaps and guide their plans for closing these gaps.