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communications
& digital technologies
Department:
Communications & Digital Technologies
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



national treasury
Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

19 September 2025

To the Universal DPI Safeguards Secretariat,

Copy to:

- UN Resident Coordinator Nelson Muffuh
- UNDP Resident Representative Maxwell Gomera

Subject: Commitment to Adopt the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework in the South Africa Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of Government

We recognise the potential of DPI to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals as highlighted in the Global Digital Compact adopted by all UN members. We also take note that poorly designed, implemented or maintained DPI can undermine safety and inclusion.

Recognising the exponential potential of DPI in South Africa, it is essential that the South Africa Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of Government is built with the right safeguards to ensure that they are inclusive and safe for people and enable progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. **We, the Nominees of the Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG), commit to adopting the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework in our Roadmap Design and Implementation.**

The Universal DPI Safeguards Framework has been developed by the DPI Safeguards initiative, a global multi-stakeholder effort convened and supported by the United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging technologies (ODET) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Universal DPI Safeguards Framework reflects the role of necessary safeguards to ensure DPI implementations mitigate new risks and existing structural vulnerabilities of digital transformation at both the individual and societal level, advance the SDGs and foster trust and equity across all countries.

As part of this commitment:

- We will adopt the relevant Universal DPI Safeguards principles at the appropriate lifecycle stages of a DPI implementation.
- We will ensure consistent multi stakeholder engagement including civil society organisations across the lifecycle with special focus during design and implementation when choices of safety and inclusion are made.
- We will build the capacity of government officials to respond to the potential risks proactively including through robust redressal mechanisms engaging with citizens.

- We will actively enable ecosystem innovation on public infrastructure to ensure that we make progress towards Sustainable Development Goals delivering societal value.

Through this letter, we nominate **Sikhulekile Duma** as the focal point of our commitment. We look forward to engaging with the Universal DPI Safeguards secretariat via UNDP in implementing our commitments and look forward to sharing our experiences with other countries and implementation projects.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melvyn Lubega', written in a cursive style.

Melvyn Lubega

Head of the Digital Services Unit

The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa