



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**  
**Ministry Of Communication, Technology & Innovation**  
**6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, NaTCA Tower**

**Date: 15 September 2026**

**To:**

- **Ms. Seraphine Wakana**, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Fredrick Hans Ampiah**, UNDP Resident Representative in Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Lerato Dorothy Mataboge**, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy

**Subject: Letter of Commitment to Adopt and Uphold the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework**

Dear Madam,

The Ministry of Communication, Technology and Innovation (MoCTI), on behalf of the Government of Sierra Leone, formally submits this **Letter of Commitment to adopt and uphold the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework** across our national Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and broader digital transformation agenda.

As a founding member and board seat holder of the Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA), the Government of Sierra Leone has continuously championed digital solutions anchored in open-source software, open standards, and public value. From nationwide deployments including DHIS2, OpenMRS, and OpenIMIS in healthcare, to Primero in social and child protection, and the national 468 SMS Result Checker, our experience demonstrates that moving from fragmented digital pilots to sustainable national systems requires an institutionalized, safe, and sovereign digital architecture.

To achieve our National Digital Development Strategy and support the aspirations of the "Big Five" national agenda, MoCTI has formulated Sierra Leone's **Open-Source Software First Policy**. This policy establishes open-source software as the default mandate for public ICT investments to eliminate proprietary vendor lock-in, reduce total lifecycle costs (TCO), build local technical capacity, and ensure full sovereign ownership of national digital assets. Recognizing that technological openness must be anchored in comprehensive public safeguards, the Government of Sierra Leone hereby commits to upholding the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework through the following core undertakings:

- **Embedding Safeguards by Design Across DPI and Interoperable Exchanges:** MoCTI will work in close coordination with line ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs)

to uphold a whole-of-government approach, integrating universal safeguards foundational and operational principles—specifically data minimization, strict privacy protections, secure-by-design standards, and equitable accessibility—into all foundational and sectoral DPI layers, interoperable payment systems, and cross-government data exchange platforms.

- **Institutionalizing Safeguards Oversight via the OSPO:** Anchoring safeguard coordination and policy compliance within the central Government Open-Source Programme Office (OSPO) under MoCTI's Standards and Compliance Unit, in close partnership with the Directorate of Science, Technology, and Innovation (DSTI), the National Public Procurement Authority (NPPA), the Audit Service Sierra Leone, and cybersecurity and data regulators.
- **Enforcing Pre-Compliance Vetting, Diagnostic Tools, and Open Code Standards:** MoCTI and the OSPO will pilot and deploy the Universal DPI Safeguards diagnostic tools and risk checklists directly as part of the mandatory pre-compliance vetting gate before MDAs deploy live systems. Through the national Standards & Compliance Portal, we will operationalize automated compliance gates and audits, ensuring all custom digital solutions developed with public or donor funds are deposited into the national repository under recognized open-source licenses for safe public reuse.
- **Fostering Citizen Trust, Redress, and Local Digital Capacity:** Establishing responsive, transparent grievance and redress mechanisms across citizen interfaces, while convening a multi-stakeholder advisory group that elevates the voices of people to drive genuinely people-centric transformations, and actively investing in university curricula, developer mentorship, and local startup ecosystems to sustainably maintain secure Digital Public Goods.
- **Championing Regional Knowledge Sharing Through AA4DPI and South-South Cooperation:** Sharing Sierra Leone's policy instruments, automated pre-compliance frameworks, and implementation practices with African Union Member States and the wider global DPI community via the DPGA and the Universal DPI Safeguards Initiative, and, in particular, through UNDP's Africa Accelerator for Digital Public Infrastructure (AA4DPI) — the regional platform through which Sierra Leone's safeguards journey is documented as a peer-learning resource for fellow AA4DPI Cohort countries. Sierra Leone affirms its intent to actively co-convene and showcase these safeguards milestones at upcoming high-level summits, including the Global DPI Summit and African Union ministerial platforms.
- **Anchoring Safeguards in Continental Architecture:** ~Recognizing that national safeguards achieve their full effect only when harmonized across borders, Sierra Leone

will~ Work with the African Union Commission and ECOWAS to align our national safeguards practice with the AU Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (DTSA 2020–2030), the AU Data Policy Framework, and the AfCFTA Digital Trade Protocol, ensuring safeguards are embedded in cross-border interoperability frameworks.

Sierra Leone looks forward to deepening its collaboration with the United Nations System, the African Union Commission, and the Universal DPI Safeguards community to demonstrate people-centered, secure, and sovereign digital public infrastructure.

Yours Sincerely,



**Hon. Salima Monorma Bah**

Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation  
Republic of Sierra Leone

CC:

- **Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill**, Under-Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (ODET)
- **Mr. Marcos Athias Neto**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator / Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)
- **Ms. Aissata De**, Deputy Regional Director, UNDP RBA
- **Rob Opp**, CDO, UNDP
- **The Secretariat** - Universal DPI Safeguards Initiative
- **Liv Marte Nordhaug**, Chief Executive Officer, Digital Public Goods Alliance (DPGA) Secretariat
- **Mr. Fredrick Hans Ampiah**, UNDP Resident Representative in Sierra Leone
- **H.E. Lerato Dorothy Mataboge**, African Union Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy