

The Universal DPI Safeguards Secretariat

United Nations Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

By email: dpi-safeguards@un.org

Dear Secretariat,

Letter of Endorsement — Universal DPI Safeguards Framework

We recognise the potential of digital public infrastructure (DPI) to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals, as highlighted in the Global Digital Compact adopted by 193 UN Member States. We also acknowledge the risks DPI poses to safety and inclusion where the appropriate safeguards are not prioritised in its design, implementation and maintenance.

OpenCRVS is an open-source digital civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) platform, stewarded by OpenCRVS Limited, a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee registered in the United Kingdom. OpenCRVS is recognised as a Digital Public Good by the Digital Public Goods Alliance and is released under the Mozilla Public License 2.0. It is used by governments to register births, deaths and other vital events, and is designed specifically for low-resource settings. Our mission is to make civil registration easy and valuable for everyone.

Civil registration is a foundational registry. It is the basis of legal identity and of the rights and services that flow from it, and it holds some of the most sensitive personal data a state ever collects. Recognising this, it is essential that the appropriate safeguards are embedded in the platform itself, so that the safe and inclusive configuration is the one readily available to every country that implements it.

We, OpenCRVS Limited, commit to adopting the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework in the design, development and support of the OpenCRVS platform.

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 Framework reflects the importance of safeguards in ensuring that DPI implementations mitigate new risks and existing structural vulnerabilities of digital transformation at both the individual and societal level, while fostering trust and equity across countries.

As part of this commitment:

- We will adopt the relevant Universal DPI Safeguards principles at the appropriate lifecycle stages of our work as a Digital Public Good, interpreting those principles for the civil registration context and adopting what is available in the Framework as we see fit.
- **Inclusion.** OpenCRVS exists to help countries achieve universal civil registration. A foundational registry that does not reach everyone entrenches exclusion in every system built upon it, so we will continue to design for the hardest-to-reach first — offline-first operation, alternative pathways for people without prior documentation, assisted and in-person channels, and full localisation — in order to leave no one behind.
- **Privacy and data protection.** We will continue to treat the security of personal data as a first-order design constraint, and to advance privacy-preserving mechanisms within the platform as far as we are able to as a Digital Public Good — including data minimisation, purpose limitation, strong access control and auditability, and approaches that allow a fact to be verified without disclosing the underlying record.

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- We will support implementing governments to understand DPI safeguards and to respond to potential risks proactively, including through documentation, training and robust redressal mechanisms.
 - We commit to consistent multi-stakeholder engagement, including with civil society organisations, registration practitioners and implementation partners across the DPI lifecycle, and particularly during design and implementation, when the choices of safety and inclusion are made.
 - We will share openly. Our source code and architecture are publicly inspectable, and we will contribute what we learn back to the DPI Safeguards initiative and the wider Digital Public Goods community.

Following approval of this endorsement, we will complete our profile on the Universal DPI Safeguards Action Tracker and submit an action plan for the coming twelve months setting out how these commitments will be implemented.

With this commitment, we nominate Euan Millar, Chief Technology Officer of OpenCRVS, as the focal point for engagement. He can be reached at euan@opencrvs.org.

We look forward to engaging with the Universal DPI Safeguards Secretariat in implementing our commitments, and to sharing our experience with other Digital Public Goods, countries and implementation projects.

Yours faithfully,



Edward Duffus

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
OpenCRVS Limited