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August 2025

Welcome to the DPI Safeguards Digest! As we continue our journey towards safe and inclusive Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), this edition highlights the meaningful progress made across the global DPI ecosystem.

From partnerships to in-country implementations, the momentum for safeguarding DPI continues to accelerate. We spotlight key developments from our Working Groups, exciting new commitments, and the expanding network of champions driving safe and inclusive DPI worldwide.

📣 Introducing the DPI Safeguards Strategic Advisory Board

The DPI Safeguards Initiative broadened its multi-stakeholder engagement with the set up of the DPI Safeguards Strategic Advisory Board, a high-level body designed to provide strategic and independent guidance to the initiative. The Advisory Board brings together experts to share valuable perspectives and leverage networks from across the DPI ecosystem towards guiding

adoption, country implementations, and the long-term evolution and governance of the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework.

Members of the Advisory Board serve in the following role:

- Act as a safeguards catalyst by mobilizing networks and gaining active support for adoption at country and organizational levels;
- Provide strategic advice for in-country implementation;
- Serve as network listening posts to identify emerging trends and risks in the DPI ecosystem;
- Engage in professional advocacy for example through public speaking engagements;
- Act as safeguards custodians to ensure the work appropriately advances the initiative's mission.

🚀 Mainstream Safeguards in the Global Ecosystem

Over the past months, organizations across the ecosystem have been stepping forward with concrete commitments and implementation of Universal DPI Safeguards.
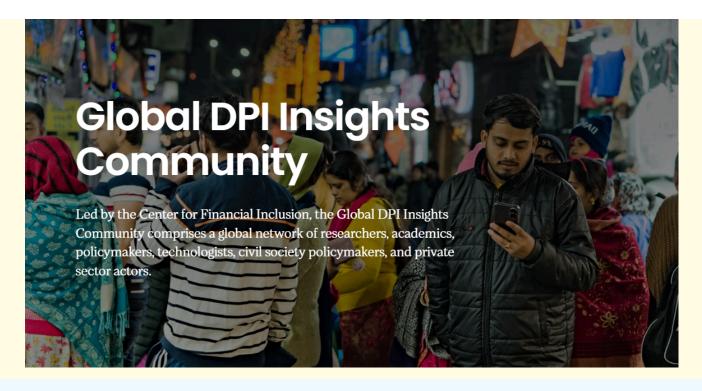
Women in GovTech Challenge – Graduation Day

The graduation ceremony on 11th June of [the Women in GovTech Challenge](#) highlighted the strong emphasis on safeguards in DPI implementations. During the 8-week program, 200 women were trained to use the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework as a core component of DPI design and implementation, now serving as champions of safe and inclusive DPI in their respective contexts.

Global DPI Insights Community Partnership

We're proud to partner with [the Global DPI Insights Community](#), a key platform advancing knowledge sharing and best practices across the global DPI community.

Why it matters? The Hub is offering 40,000 USD research grants to support evidence-based work on DPI safeguards.

This collaboration brings together the DPI Safeguards Initiative and the [Center for Financial Inclusion](#), [GSMA](#), [Integral](#), and [University of Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance](#) to strengthen our collective ability to generate insights and drive evidence-based approaches to further DPI safeguards implementation.

Global DPI Insights Community

Led by the Center for Financial Inclusion, the Global DPI Insights Community comprises a global network of researchers, academics, policymakers, technologists, civil society policymakers, and private sector actors.

🏢 DPI Day at UN Open Source Week

From 16 to 20 June, the United Nations hosted its first [UN Open Source Week](#), bringing together over 1,000 participants from 75 countries. The week showcased the power of collaboration and open digital innovation across the globe.

A highlight of the week was DPI Day, held on 19 June in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber. Co-hosted by the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Nigeria, the day brought together Member States, UN entities, and partners to explore how DPI can be built and governed in the public interest.

In his keynote address, [Dr. Bosun Tijani](#), Nigeria's Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, emphasized the importance of building DPI that is open, inclusive, privacy-protecting, and interoperable from the ground up. [Minister Sigmund Freund](#), Minister of Public Administration of the Dominican Republic, underscored his country's commitment to investing in public institutions and fostering a culture of innovation. He further emphasized that the Dominican Republic's digital strategy will align with the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework, reinforcing their support for responsible and rights-based digital transformation.

The session on Universal DPI Safeguards, a central feature of the DPI day, kicked off with members of the [Initiative's Working Group](#) - [Laura Bingham](#), [Elizabeth Garber](#), [Edward Cable](#), and [Innocent Ephraim](#) - sharing the group's ongoing effort on developing resources that can help implementers on the ground adopt DPI safeguards. The interactive discussion gathered valuable participant feedback to refine these tools, with an open invitation to continue shaping the work ahead. During a subsequent high-level segment, the Safeguards in Action panel showcased in-country implementation experiences. [Armando J. Manzueta Peña](#), Vice Minister for Public Innovation and Digital of the Dominican Republic, and [Richard Gevers](#), Head of Service Design and Delivery at the DSU, South African President's Office shared lessons on embedding safeguards into digital governance — including tackling technical debt, designing for trust, and advancing whole-of-society approaches to inclusive, rights-respecting digital infrastructure.

Regional convenings: Driving rich action-oriented dialogue and demand for DPI safeguards

Representatives from the DPI safeguards Secretariat participated in two events in the April-June quarter that brought together practitioners for rich dialogue and insights towards catalysing actions across the ecosystem.

[East African Community (EAC) hosted the Leaders Forum on Digital Public Infrastructure](#) – The 2nd Edition of the East African Digital Leaders Forum on DPI took place 14-16 May 2025, at EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. A total of 8 member states, comprising of the Republic of Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, Federal Republic of Somalia, Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania met and discussed the current state of DPI and potential for collaboration on cross border payment systems. The EAC Secretary General, Hon. Veronica Nduva, and various leaders underlined the [need for DPI safeguards](#) and offered early commitment to include Universal DPI Safeguards Principles in their deployments.

ID4Africa 2025- From 20-23 May, this year's ID4Africa conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, featured dedicated discussions on DPI and safeguards implementation across African identity authorities. DPI safeguards showed how safeguards led by DPI enable accelerated social innovation and public service delivery outcomes. We heard practices from Mphatso Sambo, Principal Secretary, National Registration Bureau (NRB); and ID4Africa Ambassador, Malawi, Engr Lanre Yusuf, Director - Information Technology & Identity Database Department, National Identity Management Commission, Nigeria and Thulani MAVUSO, Deputy Director General, Department of Home Affairs, South Africa. This session also showcased how various organisations like The Initiative of Social and Economic Rights (ISER) (civil society organizations), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (multilateral organisations) and Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) (digital public goods) are adopting safeguards.

The DPI Safeguards Initiative, along with [Co-Develop](#) and [ISER](#), convened a multistakeholder workshop titled "Partners in Progress: Discussing Multistakeholder Holding Environment at ID4 Africa" on Day 4, attended by representatives across Africa, Finland, Germany, India, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United States. This workshop unpacked critical elements of how to bring government and CSOs together. We explored shared values - justice, equality, trust, integrity, communication, and respect trended as top ones that all stakeholders of a society valued most. The workshop also touched on the power of partnerships, summarised as below:

- Effective collaboration between governments, the private sector, civil society, and development partners is essential for building inclusive and trusted systems.
- Partnerships and collaborative efforts between multi-stakeholders must be very strategic.
- Transparency and accountability around rules of engagement are important for trust relationships and to avoid performative civil society engagement.

🌍 In-country Catalytic Implementations Gaining Momentum

Focused on advancing the adoption of DPI safeguards at a country level, the local catalytic track of the initiative has been making progress in 10 countries that are engaged. These efforts aim to catalyze the long-term adoption of safeguards while creating reference models that demonstrate how safeguards can be practically integrated into diverse DPI contexts.

The Dominican Republic (population size: ~11 million people) is advancing its DPI implementation guided by a national vision of enabling a virtuous circle of development and flagship programs such as the Burocracia Cero (Zero Bureaucracy). DPI serves as a key enabler, providing the digital foundation to streamline public services, enhance transparency, and drive inclusive growth. At UN Open Source Week, Minister Sigmund Freund, the Minister of Public Administration, [announced the implementation](#) of a Digital Readiness Assessment (DRA) with a dedicated focus on Universal DPI safeguards. The goal of this assessment is to determine the level of digital maturity and uncover insights to support a safe and inclusive digital transformation. While the Dominican Republic is making strides in DPI implementation, there are emerging risks that exist. A safeguards-anchored approach will be essential to building public trust, ensuring equitable access and mitigating the risks associated with digitization. The process will also convene government, local stakeholders, and international partners to solidify a national vision for safe and inclusive DPI.

Malawi (population size: ~22 million people) has made significant progress in building its national ID, which now provides adult ID coverage and is expanding to integrate civil registration and digital services. Malawi, [which affirmed its commitment to DPI safeguards adoption](#) with the National Registration Bureau (NRB), is mapping its safety and inclusion practices against global principles to inform pathways for strengthening governance, trust, and resilience. This safeguards driven approach's long term aim is to ensure that Malawi's DPI evolution through initiatives like Digital ID, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) integration, and digital service expansion remains inclusive, secure, and responsive to the needs of its young, predominantly rural population.

UNICEF Nigeria (Nigeria population size: ~227 million people) is integrating DPI safeguards to bridge the digital divide and promote birth registration. This effort is focused on integrating national ID enrollment into prenatal care, addressing the denial of any services for expectant mothers and newborns without IDs. By linking health, civil registration, and ID systems, it aims to tackle inclusion gaps in rural and marginalized communities, strengthen system interoperability, and embed safeguards to ensure legal identity is established. This lifecycle approach will enhance access to essential services for women and lay the foundation for a more inclusive, secure digital identity ecosystem in Nigeria.

🔍 Safeguards News from the Ecosystem

- [DIAL Highlights 2025 Priorities for DPI Safeguards](#) – Digital Impact Alliance convened their Digital Donors Exchange community on 19 May

- [Interoperable DPI can revolutionize fast payments—but only with strong safeguards.](#) This World Bank article highlights how secure identity, data protection, and trust frameworks are essential for safe, inclusive transformation.
- [Safeguards Perspective on AI and DPI Integration](#) – On 7 May, DIAL published an analysis on the promise and challenges of integrating AI with DPI, emphasizing the importance of safeguards such as data privacy, ethical governance, and inclusive design.
- [Why digital public infrastructure is key to building a connected future](#) - this article from WEF emphasize how Digital public infrastructure is key to enabling a connected future for everyone, but it needs to be accessible, safe, scalable and trustworthy.

📅 Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- **UNGA Event:** On 22 September, during the High-Level Week of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly, the DPI Safeguards Initiative will host a special event to share its latest progress on advancing safe, inclusive, and rights-based Digital Public Infrastructure. Want to be part of the conversation? Register your interest to join the event.Click here to register your interest in joining the event.

- **DPI Cooperation in Motion, 50-in-5 Campaign Milestone Event on 22 September 2025:** Hosted by the Digital Public Goods Alliance on the sidelines of #UNGA80, the event will convene high-level representatives from 50-in-5 countries to share their experiences and learnings on implementing DPI, with a session dedicated to showcasing progress on the adoption of universal DPI safeguards. Sign up here to watch the livestream and receive updates on the event program.

- **Global DPI Summit 2025, Cape Town, 4-6 November:** The premier global gathering for DPI stakeholders will feature dedicated sessions on safeguards implementation, showcasing success stories and emerging innovations from our growing network of implementers.Click here and apply to attend the Summit.

Something missing? Share it with us

📣 Call to Action

Submit practices for the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework

We invite Civil Society Organizations interested in advancing DPI safeguards adoption in their countries to reach out. There will be upcoming DPI safeguards-focused sessions that could be relevant to your work and engagement.

If you're a Digital Public Good (DPG) provider or from the private sector working on DPI implementation and have documented practices around safety or inclusion measures, we'd love to hear from you.

💡 Innovation in Digital Tools and Platforms

The DPI Safeguards Initiative is focused on driving adoption by creating user-friendly, accessible digital tools that offer guidance and knowledge throughout implementation - whether by government authorities, technology providers or civil society advocates. To ensure these tools are fit-for-purpose and responsive to user needs, we are building a community of testers to provide valuable feedback that will help refine and improve our digital products.
Sign up now to share your insight and help us build better digital solutions.