

# Contextualizing and Adapting Digital Public Infrastructure for Local Needs, Scalability and Inclusive Growth in Africa

At The

## Workshop on Designing and Implementing Scalable and Inclusive DPI in the African Context

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# Our Motivation For DPI

ICEGOV  
2024 PRETORIA  
SOUTH AFRICA



## AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

“an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.”

### The Renewed Hope Agenda

- ▶ Reform the economy to deliver sustained inclusive growth.
- ▶ Strengthen national security for peace and prosperity.
- ▶ Boost agriculture to achieve food security.
- ▶ Enhance infrastructure and transportation as enablers of growth.
- ▶ Focus on education, health, and social investment as essential pillars of development
- ▶ Unlock energy and natural.
- ▶ Accelerate diversification through industrialisation, digitisation, creative arts, manufacturing and innovation.
- ▶ Improve governance for effective service delivery.

# Why DPI?

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“A set of **shared digital systems** that should be **secure** and **interoperable**, and can be built on **open standards** and **specifications** to deliver and provide **equitable access** to public and/or private **services** at a **societal scale** and are governed by applicable **legal frameworks** and **enabling rules** to drive **development, inclusion, innovation, trust**, and **competition** and **respect human rights** and **fundamental freedoms**” –  
*The Universal DPI Safeguards Framework*

DPIs have the potential to help **accelerate economic growth by 20% to 33% in low- and middle-income countries.**  
*-Report by Development Gateway.Reportvelopment*

Digitally transformed organizations are projected to contribute to more than half of the global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2023, accounting for **\$53.3 trillion** (IDC, 2020). 65% of the world's GDP is predicted to be digitized by 2022 (IMF, 2020).



1

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is **enabling digitisation** of services across Financial services, Healthcare, Education, Agriculture and Social welfare

2

DPI is enabling **reach to underserved & Unserved populations**. Remote areas can access education, healthcare, & government services. More focus on women and youth, fostering social inclusion and improved quality of life.

3

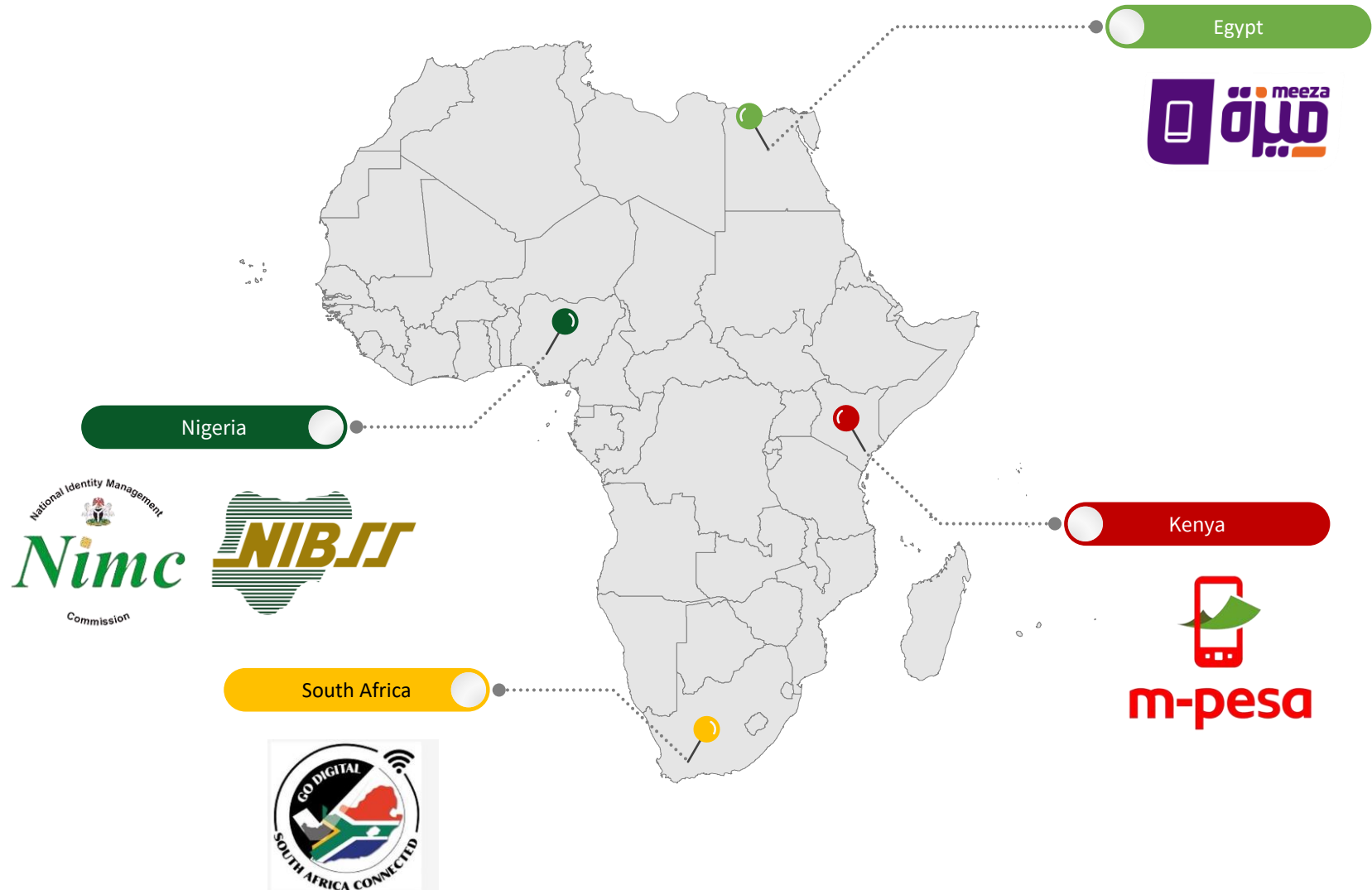
DPI **fosters financial inclusion** by scaling platforms for digital payments, mobile banking, and e-wallets. **Enables People and MSMEs** to access financial services and participate in the digital economy; and **Lowers barrier entry** for startups & entrepreneurs

4

Increases **government efficiency** through automating services to enhance transparency. Reduction in bureaucracy, minimized corruption, and boosts in public trust. It also encourages private sector investment, leading to economic growth.

# How DPI is Promoting Inclusive Growth in Africa

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# Adapting DPI for Africa

## Learning from the UN DPI Safeguard Framework

1. Risk to Safety,
2. Risk to Inclusion
3. Structural Vulnerability

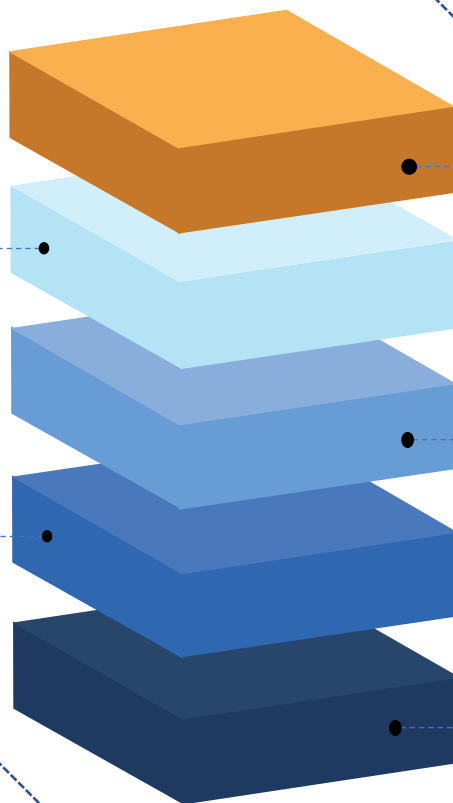


**Risk**



**Responsible Authority**

### DPI Safeguards Framework



✓✓ **Principles**

🔄 **Lifecycle**

⚙️ **Process and Practice  
Recommendation**

#### Foundational Principles

- i. Do no harm
- ii. Do not Discriminate
- iii. Do not exclude
- iv. Reinforce Transparency and Accountability
- v. Uphold the rule of law
- vi. Promote autonomy and agency
- vii. Foster community engagement
- viii. Ensure effective remedy and redress
- ix. Focus on sustainability

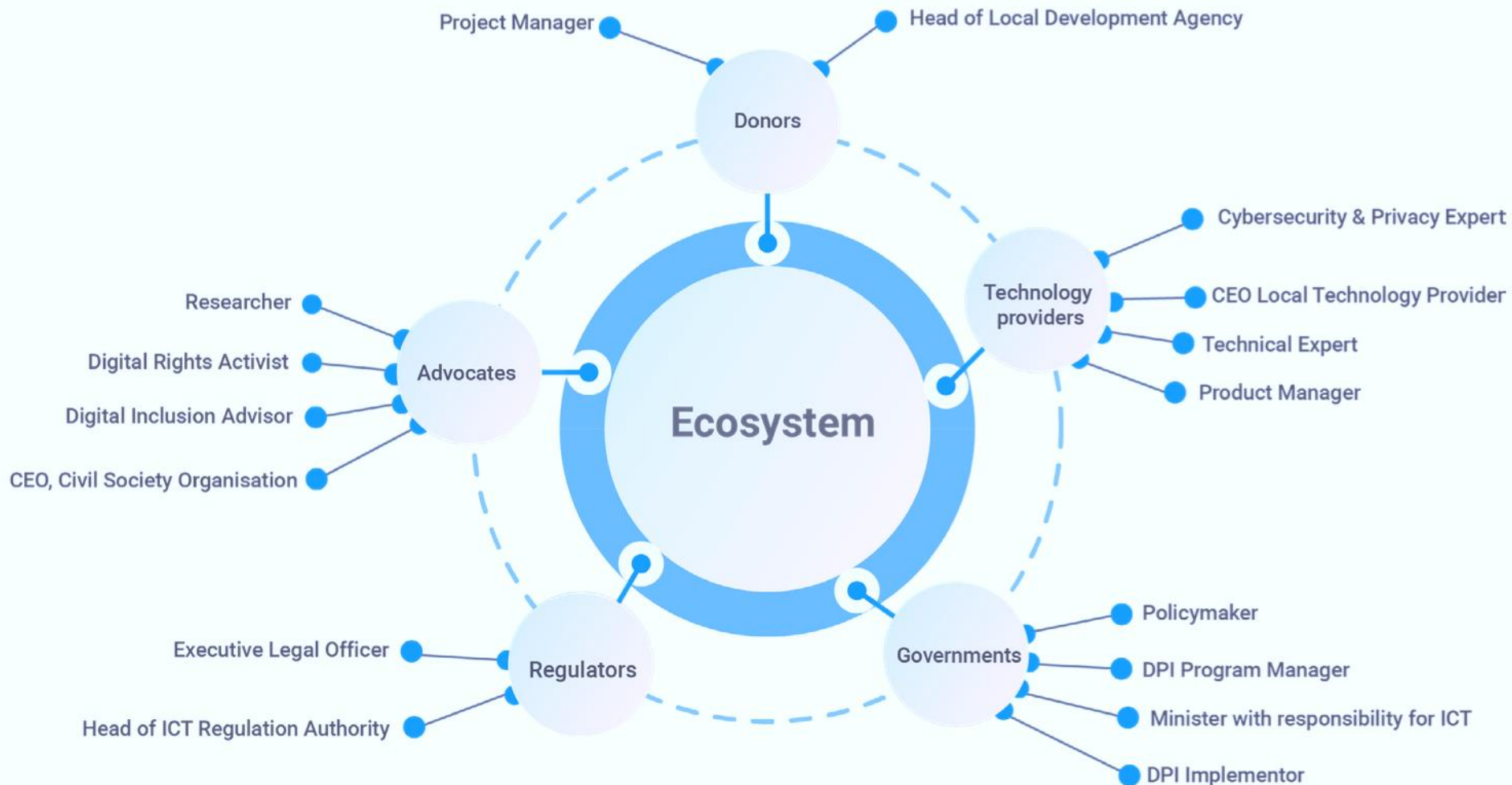
#### Operational Principles

- i. Leverage market dynamics
- ii. Evolve with evidence
- iii. Ensure data privacy by design
- iv. Assure data security by design
- v. Ensure data protection during use
- vi. Respond to gender, ability and age
- vii. Practise inclusive governance
- viii. Sustain financial viability
- ix. Build and share open assets

Source: UN DPI Safeguard Framework



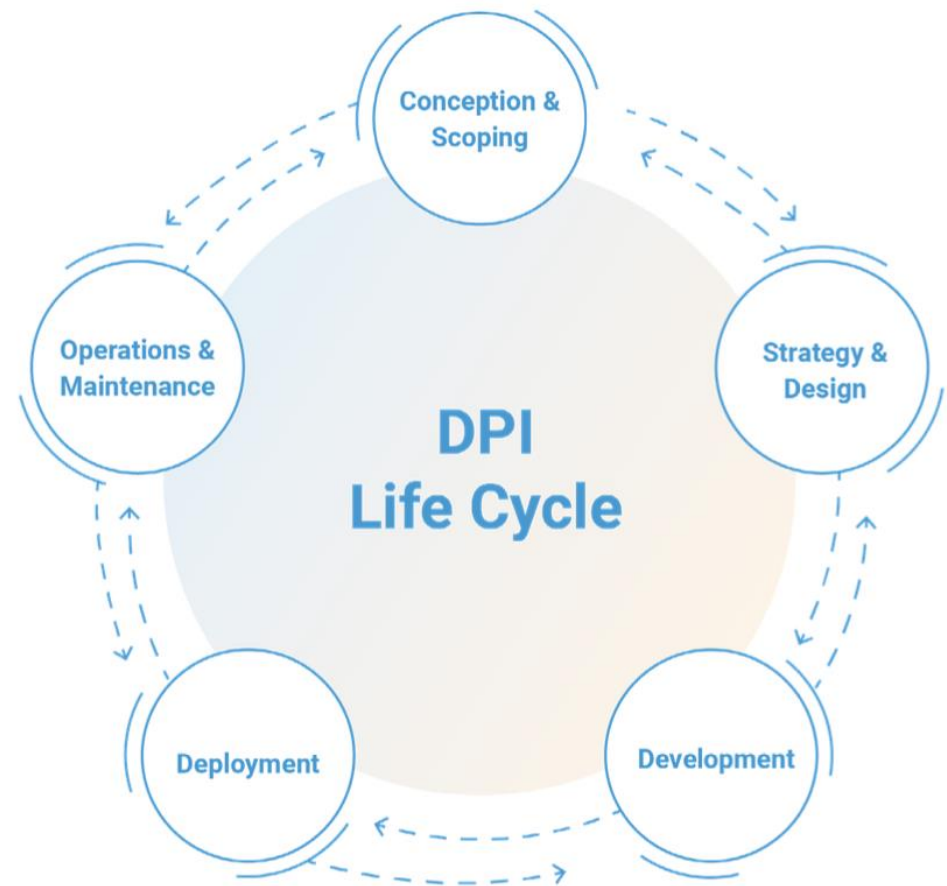
# Contextualising DPI – An Ecosystem Approach



Source: UN DPI Safeguard Framework

## Consider the UN DPI Safeguard Lifecycle: Can be adapted to any aspect of DPI

- I. Mapping and engaging with stakeholders to understand individual and societal needs.
- II. Identifying parties across responsible authorities and personas for collaboration.
- III. Raising awareness regarding the barriers to DPI implementation in the enabling environment and advocating for their removal.
- IV. Establishing standards, protocols and metrics to assess adoption and societal impact.
- V. Setting design objectives and specifications according to best practices and principles with a focus on incremental improvements and resilient architecture; and employing evidence-based strategies to mitigate design-related risks.



Source: UN DPI Safeguard Framework



# Call for Action

1

Africa should build its DPIs

2

Digital Literacy and Skills

3

Ecosystem & Community-based Approach

4

Human-centred Design

5

Interoperability/Open Standards

6

Strengthening Policy and Regulation

The background is a complex abstract composition of geometric shapes. It includes several overlapping triangles and polygons in shades of blue, green, and purple. A prominent feature is a white area in the upper right quadrant, which is partially covered by a grid of small blue dots. A large, solid purple semi-circle is positioned in the bottom right corner. The overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

Questions?

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# Thank You

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