

North and Central Asia Sub-regional Training on Data Governance for Digital Transformation

23-24 June 2025, Samarkand, Uzbekistan

BACKGROUND

Across the globe, governments are striving to modernize through digital transformation, leveraging technology and data to improve operations, enhance services, and address the evolving needs of citizens. At the core of these efforts is government data, a vital asset that, when managed effectively, can unlock efficiencies, enable data-driven decision-making, and transform service delivery. However, to fully realize its potential, this data must meet the necessary standards of quality, reliability, and usability. Additionally, governments must balance the transformative use of data with their obligations to uphold privacy, security, ethical practices, and transparency. This makes strong data governance not just an enabler of innovation but also a safeguard against the risks associated with managing vast and sensitive datasets.

Although definitions of data governance vary in scope and focus, they consistently emphasize key principles such as decision-making authority, accountability, and the systematic treatment of data as a strategic asset. Data Governance Frameworks are structured approaches or models that provide guidance on how to implement data governance effectively. They provide a systematic way to organise and execute data governance activities.

The implementation of effective data governance is essential to advancing the country's digital transformation agenda. As the government strives to modernize its systems and processes, it faces unique challenges, such as managing data across diverse agencies, ensuring interoperability between older legacy systems and new digital platforms, and addressing the evolving expectations for transparency and accountability. Additionally, the government must navigate the complexities of cybersecurity, data privacy, and ethical data usage to ensure public trust while meeting global standards. Enhancing the quality and accessibility of government data is key to leveraging it as a “whole-of-government” asset that supports evidence-based policymaking, efficient service delivery, and inclusive development.

In this context, the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT for Development (APCICT), Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and UNDP are organizing the Training on Data Governance for Digital Transformation on 23-24 June 2025 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The training is designed to build the capacity of policymakers and civil servants in North/Central Asia to understand the critical importance of data governance and equip them with the skills and knowledge required to implement effective governance strategies.

OBJECTIVES

The programme aims to:

- To promote understanding of data governance and its relevance to digital transformation in government, highlighting the unique aspects that differentiate government data governance from private sector approaches;
- To explore the key components of data governance frameworks and how they apply to various government functions, emphasizing the challenges of cross-agency data sharing and integration;
- To examine practices and case studies in data governance reforms in the government sector from the Asia-Pacific and Europe-Central Asia region and globally.
- To equip participants with practical tools and strategies for implementing data governance in their respective ministries and departments;
- To describe the “government data ecosystem” including the roles of various key agencies, including the unique responsibilities of government statistical agencies.
- To explore the tension between data confidentiality and the need for identifiable data in government operations, and strategies for balancing these competing demands; and
- To provide strategies for developing and sustaining capacity for effective data governance, considering the specific constraints and opportunities within government contexts.



RESOURCE PERSONS

Alena Klatte

Alena Klatte is the Data Practice Lead at UNDP's Chief Digital Office, where she leads global efforts to strengthen data governance and the responsible use of data for development. She is also a member of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Data Governance. As the lead of UNDP's Data to Policy initiative, she has supported policymakers worldwide in leveraging (big) data for evidence-based decision-making. With extensive experience advising governments on developing and strengthening their data governance frameworks, she has also delivered trainings to over 300 policymakers and data professionals across diverse contexts.

Jonathan Palmer

Over his career of more than 40 years, Jonathan served as Deputy Australian Statistician and he was the CIO for Statistics New Zealand, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the International Monetary Fund. In recent years Jonathan has assisted National Statistical System Strategy development in the Pacific and he is currently working with ESCAP and APCICT in the areas of National Data Strategy and Data Governance capacity building.

Shailja Sharma

Dr. Shailja Sharma is the Director of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), a regional training Centre under the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), based in Chiba, Japan. She assumed this role in August 2021, bringing over 36 years of experience from the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Government of India, where she served in various leadership positions, including Director-General of Statistics.

PARTICIPANTS

The programme is designed for government officials, policymakers, statistical officers, and data professionals involved in data governance, digital transformation, and cross-agency data management.

VENUE

The event will be held at Silkroad Resort, Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.

CONTACT

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PROGRAMME

Day 1 Foundations and Contextual Understanding	
Time	Description
09:00 – 14:00	Opening Session of the United Nations Public Service Forum 2025, Keynote, Ministerial Roundtable and Plenary Session
14:00 – 14:30	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Digital Technologies Mr. Kiyoungh Ko, Director, APCICT/ESCAP UNDP
14:30 – 15:45	Session 1: Introductions, Understanding Data and Its Role, Data Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Explore national digital transformation strategy, current state, data needs, challenges, and implications for government data use and governance to improve service delivery and policy. Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group exercise: mapping of digital transformation and data needs and challenges
15:45 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 – 17:30	Session 2: Data Governance Fundamentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Introduce the fundamentals of Data Governance including definitions and frameworks Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key definitions Importance of Data Governance International and country data governance frameworks and their pillars Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Exercise: mapping of government ecosystem - key institutions, roles and laws



Day 2 Applied Governance and Strategic Implementation	
Time	Description
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Registration</i>
09:00 – 09:45 [13:00-13:45 Tokyo time]	<p>Session 3: National Statistical Systems and Data Governance (virtual session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: Role of the National Statistical System in Data Governance. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Principles of Official Statistics ○ Statistics Laws & Institutions ○ Statistical Data standards ○ Statistical Data sharing ● Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Q&A <p><i>Facilitator: Dr. Shailja Sharma, Director, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)</i></p>
09:45 – 10:45	<p>Session 4: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 1 - Foundations for trust.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To explore the principles, definitions, and governance arrangements that underpin the protection of privacy and personal data in the public sector. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Privacy, ○ Personal Data Protection ○ Data Security
10:45– 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 5: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 2 - Data Sharing and Interoperability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To explore the concepts and governance arrangements that relate to the sharing of data for service delivery. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing Data for Service Delivery ○ Sharing Sensitive Data Integration & Sharing (for policy & research) ● Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group exercise: Identify barriers and enablers for data sharing.
12:30– 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>



13:30 – 14:30	Session 6: Data Governance Framework Elements Part 3 - Infrastructure, Data Sovereignty and Ethical Data Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: To explore the concepts and governance arrangements for Data Sovereignty and Ethical use of data. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Infrastructure ○ Data Sovereignty ○ Ethical Data Use
14:30 – 15:30	Session 7: Building Data Culture and Capability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: Explore strategies to foster a data-driven culture and enhance skills in the public sector. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss leadership, literacy programs, and infrastructure development. ○ Highlight successful capacity-building initiatives from other countries. ● Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delegates present examples of capacity-building from their organisations/ countries.
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:45 – 17:00	Session 8: Data Governance Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective: Understand implementation options and practical steps for improving data governance. ● Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approaches to data governance improvement: Data Strategy, targeted programs, or specific projects. ○ Assessment and Continuous Improvement ● Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group exercise: explore the pros and cons of different implementation options.
17:00 – 17:30	Evaluation and Closing

