

African Data Policy Framework

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Vision

The Data Policy Framework envisions the transformative potential of data to empower African countries; improve people's lives; safeguard collective interests; protect (digital) rights; and drive equitable socio-economic development.

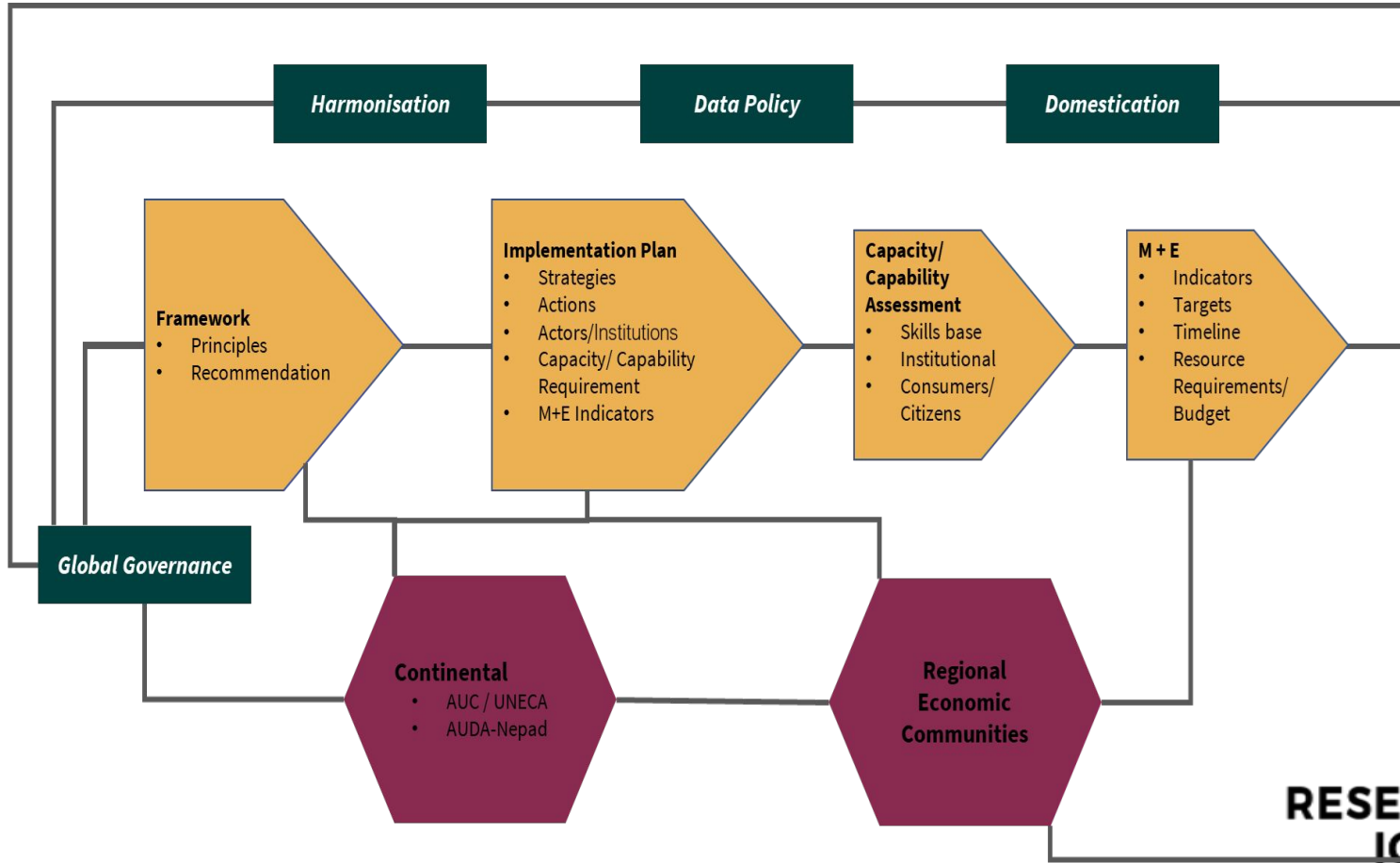
Practically the process seeks to translate this vision into a framework which will when implemented:

empower Africans to exercise their rights through the promotion of trusted, safe and secure data systems integrated on the basis of common standards and practices;

create, coordinate and capacitate governance institutions to regulate, as necessary, the ever-changing data landscape and to increase the productive and innovative use of data to provide solutions and create new opportunities while mitigating risk;

ensure that data can flow across borders as freely as possible while achieving an equitable distribution of benefits and addressing risks related to human rights and national security.

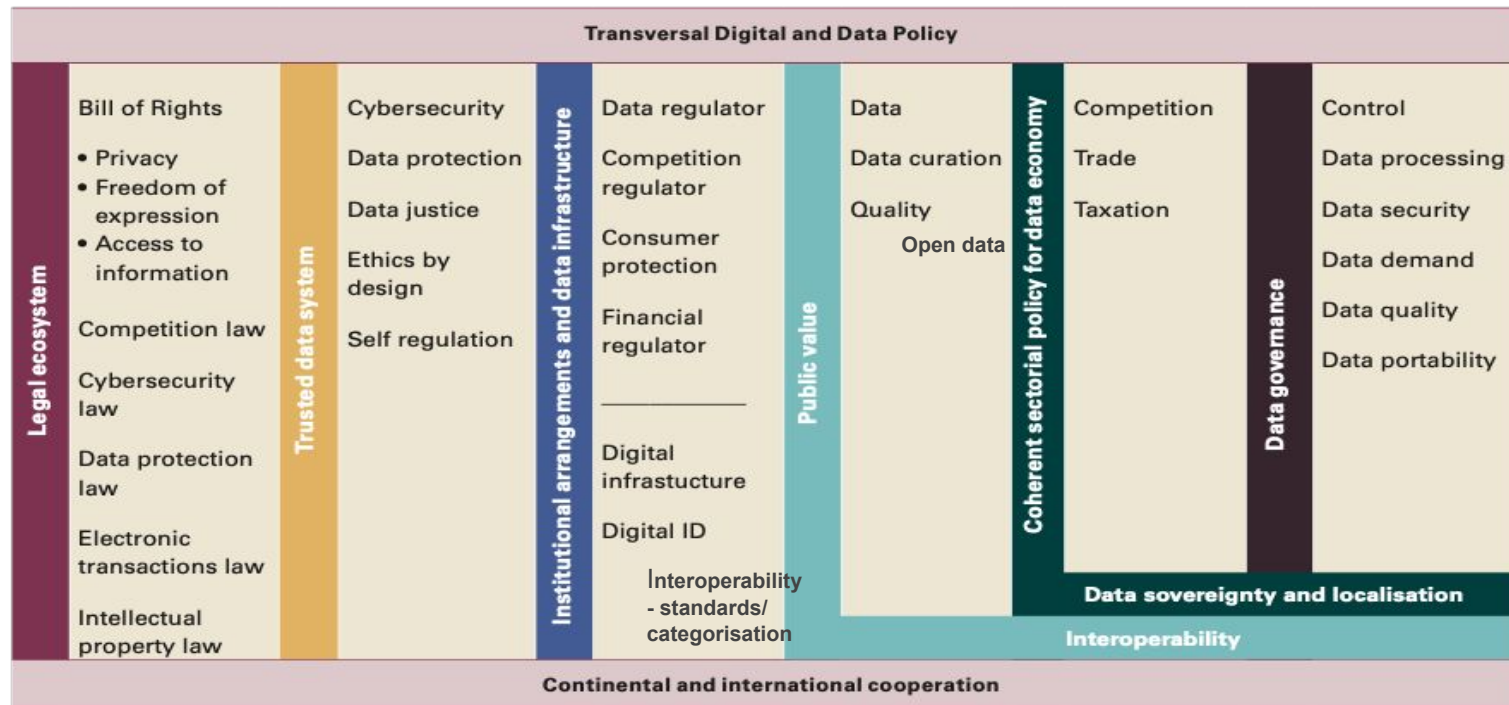
DPF Process



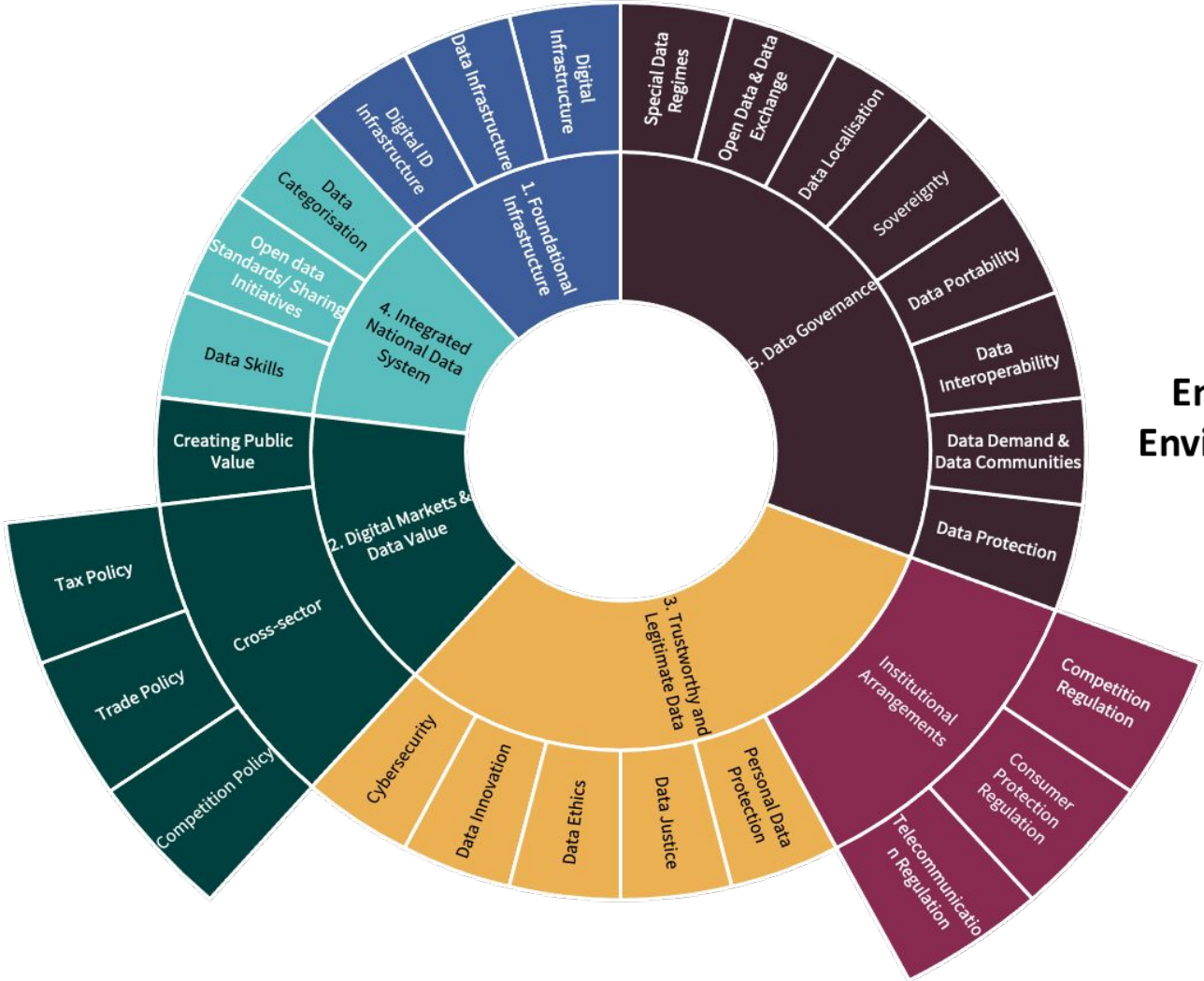
Scope and Objectives of the DPF

- ❖ **Enable** states to cooperate on matters of data governance to achieve common objectives of **sustainable development** across the continent
- ❖ Inform and support the **domestication** of continental policy by AU member states
- ❖ Ensure that data can **flow freely** across borders while promoting **equitable distribution** of benefits and addressing related **risks** and other legitimate interests of member states
- ❖ Establish **trust** mechanisms to allow data to circulate as freely as possible among member states while preserving **sovereignty**.
- ❖ Enable states, private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organisations to **coordinate** their efforts on data issues in pursuit of a single digital market.
- ❖ Enable **competitiveness** in the global economy through close and sustainable cooperation by African states, pvt sector and civil society through restructuring opportunities to optimise benefits from datafication of the economy and society.
- ❖ Ensure the **sustainable use of data** for the benefit of society and that it is available within appropriate safeguards in both commercial and non-commercial settings.
- ❖ Facilitate innovative ways to **promote public benefits** by using data in new ways esp for public sector decision making, planning and monitoring and evaluation.

Enabling Data Policy Framework



Enabling Environment



Guiding Principles of the Framework

Cooperation: Member states to cooperate in in *exchanging* data and enabling *interoperability* of data systems.

Integration: Framework to promote *intra-African data flows*, remove undue *legal barriers* to data flows, subject to only necessary measures. (eg human rights, data protection)

Fairness and Inclusiveness: States to offer opportunities and benefits to all africans to *redress inequalities*.

Trust, safety and accountability: States to promote trustworthy data environments that are *safe and secure*, accountable to data subjects and ethical and secure by design.

Sovereignty: DPF recognises member states wishes to maintain *oversight* over their data and urges member states, AUC, RECs to cooperate in creating *capacity* to enable self management of data.

Comprehensive and forward looking: DPF to enable creation of environment that encourages *investment and innovation* through development of infrastructure, human capacity and harmonisation of laws/regulations.

Integrity and Justice: Member states to ensure data collection, processing and usage are *just and lawful*, anti-discriminatory and pro-human rights.

UNLOCKING VALUE FROM DATA AND PREVENTING HARMS

Data Value?



Data Value

- ❖ Data in and of themselves are of very little value. (Merely factual information)
- ❖ It is only through analysis, transmission, storage or the combination that value is added
- ❖ Data can be understood as a public good.
- ❖ What is a public good?

Characteristics of Public Goods



Non-excludability

Once provided you can't stop anyone benefitting from the good.

Non-rivalry

If somebody benefits from good, it doesn't reduce the amount available for others.

Public Good

Free rider problem - Individuals have an incentive to use good without contributing towards cost.

Challenges to creating public value

- ❖ **Accumulation of data alone has little to no economic value and requires complementary investments** and activities to create a “virtuous data cycle”—where there is a demand for data, data infrastructure that supports accumulation and sharing of “cleaned” data, and skills to enhance product innovation and better data driven insights and services.
- ❖ **Creating value from data is not automatic** Existing digital maturity typologies of countries and digital/data ecosystems influence the ability/potential of a country to use data and benefit from data driven value creation.
- ❖ **Data sharing and Interoperability** A lack of consensus on data governance frameworks that are supplemented by the appropriate sector best practices (depending on the use case), can pose a significant threat to interoperability, open government data sharing efforts, and create limitations on the extent to which governments can embrace practices to use data to create data driven value in the

Challenges Continued

- ❖ Public sector capacity to use data Data sharing, quality, relevance, and interoperability do not only depend on data systems, technical protocols, infrastructure, or governance—they also require **leadership and political will for consensus** around an approach to interoperability, quality, and relevance that is supported and adopted across various public sector mandates of entities that curate and use public interest data.
- ❖ Ensuring quality and relevance Maintaining and generating high quality data should transcend **government silos**, it is crucial that the appropriate industry technical and regulatory norms, standards, and best practices that underpin the multiple ways data can be used, exchanged, collected, and combined to generate value in priority industries (as identified in the DTS) are also considered in **data quality assessments**.

Data policy framework issues

Data definition - Providing specificity and detail on the types of data to be regulated and to what extent to ensure the maximisation of benefit for different role players in the implementation of data policy. This should be done cognisant of the value and nature and data.

Continental coordination - Providing mechanisms and priorities for coordination within the continent to strengthen Africa's position within global governance and provide support for domestication.

Domestic institutional capacity - Assigning obligations, responsibilities and powers for institutional actors at the national level that can help create a consistent domestic environment for data communities (public and private) to institute data activities.

Domestic collaboration - Ensuring policy alignment, identifying multi-stakeholder participants and advancing mechanisms for successful domestication.

Policy support - Providing implementable standards and solutions that focus on the achievement of healthy domestic data quality, control, access and interoperability, processing and protection, and security as the means for growing a data economy.

Clarity - Ensuring clarity, which facilitates compliance, does not have unintended restriction but can also serve as a foundation for cross-border (and cross-silo) coordination.