1. BACKGROUND

Public sector data underpins a growing part of the economy and the amount is increasing at a dramatic pace. The driver is the emergence of online tools that allow people to use, reuse and create information in new ways\(^1\). Government agencies aware of this driver are sharing their data - allowing citizens to perform their own analyses, and this trend is usually referred as open government data (OGD). Much of this enormous volume of data is available under very open licenses and the push for more data and more openness is relentless\(^2\). Furthermore, there is growing evidence that OGD is saving government money\(^3\) and stimulating economic growth\(^4\).

Open government data (OGD) is strongly linked with DPADM’s work areas as it is an online service by governments (electronic and mobile government) and an important

\(^1\) [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/poi/power-of-information-review.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/advice/poi/power-of-information-review.pdf)

\(^2\) [http://www.w3.org/2012/06/pmod/](http://www.w3.org/2012/06/pmod/)

\(^3\) UN e-Government Survey 2010

\(^4\) The EU Commission estimates the Europe wide annual potential benefit amounts to 27 billion EUR ([http://epsiplatform.eu/](http://epsiplatform.eu/))
initiative to strengthen participatory governance, which allows citizens to monitor data streams and thereby monitor the government (transparency, corruption). It also allows citizens to be aware of important issues and to be part of the decision-making process to address policy issues (citizen engagement, e-participation).

Aware of the emerging trends in the area of open data and challenges in legal, institutional and technical frameworks, DPADM recently developed a toolkit on OGD\(^5\) which serves as an entry point for those UN Member States who plan to share data with their constituents. The toolkit includes strategies for opening government data, templates that governments can customize for their own needs, technologies for opening data, recommendations about the data hosting applications and platforms. In summary, step by step instructions for public officials interested in sharing government data online.

As an emerging subject, open data has been promoted as a tool in several developed countries\(^6\) where governments are opening for greater transparency and accountability. Government data is commonly shared through web portals with open licenses in accessible formats for public view. These portals usually gather a large number of datasets in different fields and for different use purposes. However, the situation in using open data is not as good as in developing countries – only a few developing countries\(^7\) have made progress in this area which in turn indicates that there is need for raising awareness, increasing capacities and assisting public officials in the implementation process.

\(^5\) The toolkit is result of the Capacity Building Workshop in WSIS …… accessible at [http://www.unpan.org/ogdtoolkit](http://www.unpan.org/ogdtoolkit).

\(^6\) Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

\(^7\) Bahrain, Brazil, China, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay
To utilize the OGD Toolkit in the field with developing countries especially with those from Africa as well as to assist the Member States in next steps after opening government data, the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DPADM/DESA), in cooperation with the Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI), is organizing an international workshop entitled “Next Stage in Open Government Data: Using Data for Transparency, Accountability and Collaboration”, to take place in Cape Town, South Africa, on 10-12 October 2012 during the annual UNPAN-SADC Partners Meeting of the CPSI. The proposed Workshop is a natural progression of the workshop organized by DPADM during WSIS in Geneva on May 15-17 in 2012. During the Workshop in South Africa, participants will be pilot testing the newly developed Open Government Data Toolkit with real data for their own constituencies. The participants, mostly from developing countries and particularly from Africa, will be trained not only on how to utilize technologies to publish their datasets but also on the next steps after publishing government data to ensure that the effort in publishing data leads to its effective usage. For this purpose, most inspiring examples from leading countries will be shared with the participants. Since the majority of the countries have inadequate resources to implement systems for publishing data, emphasis will be given to free or low cost technology solutions for publishing government data.

The workshop will serve as an enabling platform for an international and multidisciplinary (public officials, academia, civil society and private sector stakeholders) group of experts, and national practitioners, to go through the Open


9 All participants of the Workshop will be required to bring a dataset from their agency with at least 7 columns and 200 rows.
Government Data Toolkit and enable them to develop a national strategy for publishing government data, an implementation plan for publishing data and guidelines for monitoring and evaluating open data initiatives. The workshop sessions will also provide opportunities for participants to interact with speakers, in order to develop new capacities for designing and implementing successful open data programs and policies for better government transparency and citizen engagement, as well as to create and strengthen international networks of stakeholders and practitioners. Further, the workshop participants will be trained on the newly developed UNPACS platform to publish their relevant content in open data formats as well as to learn more about latest knowledge management tools integrated in the platform.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop has the following objectives:

- Build capacities of participants’ on open data via a hands-on training with the Open Government Toolkit. At the end of this session, all participants will be able to run through the toolkit and understand necessary steps for opening data in their respective agencies.
- Train the participants about the next steps after publishing data sets in open formats; specifically in creating an open data ecosystem, sustaining re-use community engagement, communication and feedback loops with stakeholders
- Collect datasets from the agencies in regards to public administration and prototype the data portal http://data.unpan.org together with feedback from participants
- Strengthen participants’ knowledge in data sharing features of the Division’s knowledge bases specifically in regards to recently implemented portal/portlet
concept so that data can be shared among organizations seamlessly with minimum effort in open data formats

In addition to strengthening capacities of Member States, the Division will also receive first-hand feedback from those public agencies who are interested in opening government data. This will allow the Division to improve the Toolkit and produce a more tailored product for Member States’ needs.

3. EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The workshop will produce a comprehensive report, outlining major findings and recommendations, and containing case studies resulting from the workshop. The report will be published online for maximum global outreach in an environmentally friendly fashion at minimum cost.

Other accomplishments will include following:

- **Enhanced knowledge** among participants on design of open government data strategies specifically in regards to policy, legislative, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as strategies for political commitment, human and organizational capital, technology and infrastructure needs.
- **Strengthened capacity** of participants to develop implementation plans for open government data initiatives specifically for choosing datasets, applying an open license (legal openness), making data available (technical openness), and making data discoverable.
- **Creation of networks** of participating organizations and individuals for further sharing of knowledge and best practices on open government data and service adoption. In this regard, networking will also facilitate DPADM to build the
section on participatory governance in open government data, for the new DPADM online knowledge-base platform named UNPACS.

- **Creation of a prototype** for a dedicated open data platform for public administration worldwide (http://data.unpan.org). This will enable the clients of the Division have access to bulk of data on public administration and improve the work processes of partner institutions. In addition, Division will be leading the open data initiative by example and will showcase its open data portal while providing assistance to Member States.

**4. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop will include one introductory session, three hands-on training sessions and a conclusion session. The introductory session will introduce the overall workshop objectives, tools that will be used in the Workshop, learning objectives for each hands-on training session and expectations from the participants.

Hands-on training sessions, listed below, will include a short presentation by UNDESA Staff followed by training activities and open discussions:

- **Session I**: Using Open Government Data Toolkit and Sharing of Case Studies and Best Practices on Open Government Data
- **Session II**: Using DPADM’s Online Authoring Tool (specifically for sharing the contents of the Workshop to share with other government agencies in participants’ respective countries)
- **Session III**: Global Open Data Portal for Public Administration (http://data.unpan.org): What should be there? Why you should contribute? How you can contribute? and What is the added value?
The workshop will be concluded with major findings and future actions to be taken by the organizers and participants.

5. PARTICIPANTS
Approximately 50 participants are expected; Participants include Government and public administration officials, including a knowledge management coordinator from each of the SADC countries, key citizens’ e/m-government experts from academia and research institution, civil society and private sector representatives, officials from DPADM Partner Organizations, staff from the United Nations system.

6. DATE AND VENUE
The workshop will be held at the Lagoon Beach Hotel, Milnerton, Cape Town, South Africa from 10-12 October 2012.

7. LANGUAGE
The Workshop will be conducted in English.

8. CO-ORGANIZERS
The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs through the Division for Public Administration and Development Management are co-organizing this workshop in conjunction with The Centre for Public Service Innovation (CPSI) of the South African Ministry of Public Administration.

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

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