

DATA  
GOVERNANCE  
IN AFRICA



Maputo, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

# Aligning Mozambique's National Data Policy to the AU Data Policy Framework

Supporting development-oriented and human-centric  
data regulation, use and infrastructure in Africa



# BACKGROUND (1)

- ✓ AU Executive Council endorsed the AU Data Policy Framework in February 2022.
- ✓ Builds on existing instruments and initiatives such as:
  - ✓ the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020-2030 (DTS)
  - ✓ the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement
  - ✓ the Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)
  - ✓ the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA)
  - ✓ Smart Africa Vision to Transform Africa into a Single Digital Market by 2030
  - ✓ the Free Movement of Persons (FMP)

# BACKGROUND (2)

- ✓ the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)
- ✓ The Single Electricity Market in Africa,
- ✓ the Interoperability framework on Digital ID,
- ✓ the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (Malabo Convention),
- ✓ the Declaration on Internet Governance and Development of Africa's Digital Economy of 2018,
- ✓ the Personal Data Protection Guidelines for Africa,
- ✓ regional model laws on data protection and cybersecurity and
- ✓ the African Union Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

# VISION (1)

The AU DPF 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.

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 everchanging 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.

# VISION (2)

- ✓ The AU DPF is necessary to realise the shared vision and common approach of an **integrated African data ecosystem**.
- ✓ This data ecosystem should support:
  - ✓ the establishment of an Africa Digital Single Market (DSM)
  - ✓ foster intra-Africa digital trade
  - ✓ boost the development of inclusive, data-enabled entrepreneurship and businesses.

# Guiding Principles

**Cooperation:** African Union Member States shall cooperate in exchanging data, acknowledging data as a central input of the global economy and the importance of the interoperability of data systems to a flourishing African digital single market.

**Integration:** the Framework shall promote intra-Africa data flows, remove legal barriers to data flow, subject only to necessary security, human rights and data protection.

**Fairness and inclusiveness:** in the implementation of the Framework, Member States shall ensure it is inclusive and equitable, offering opportunities and benefits to all Africans, and in so doing, seek to redress national and global inequalities by being responsive to the voices of those marginalised by technological developments.

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

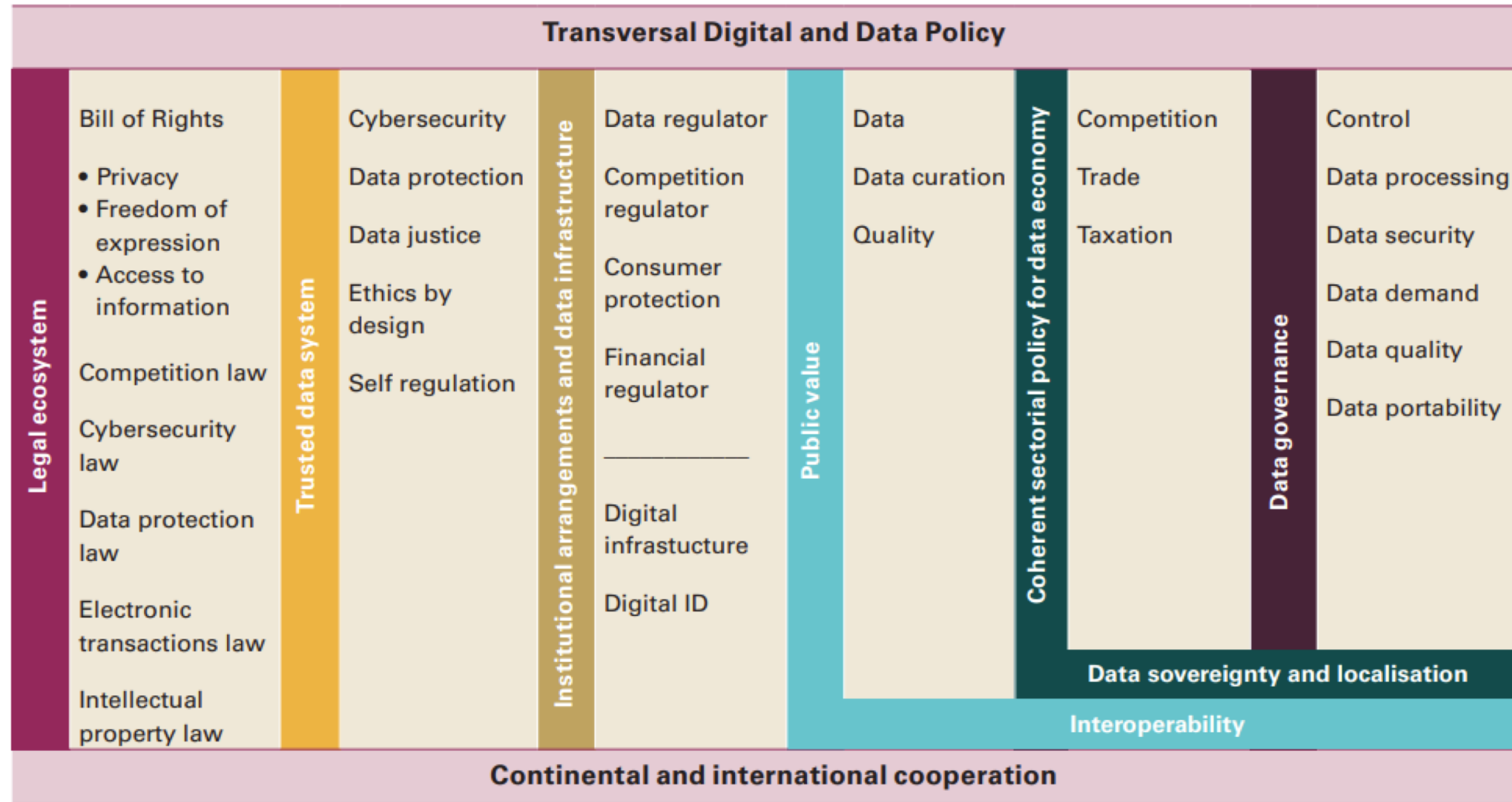
**Sovereignty:** Member States, AUC, RECs, African Institutions and International Organisations shall cooperate to create capacity to enable African countries to self-manage their data, take advantage of data flows and govern data appropriately.

**Comprehensive and forward-looking:** the framework shall enable the creation of an environment that encourages investment and innovation through the development of infrastructure, human capacity and the harmonisation of regulations and legislation.

**Integrity and justice:** Member States shall ensure data collection, processing and usage are just and lawful, and data should not be used to discriminate unfairly or infringe peoples' rights.

<https://d4dhub.eu/initiatives/data-governance-in-africa>

# Enabling Data Governance Framework



# Recommendations (1)

## Data Usage, Data Innovation and Data Entrepreneurship

- ✓ Enable cross-border data flow while safeguarding human rights, data protection, upholding security and ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits
- ✓ Promote interoperability, data sharing, and responsiveness to data demand, facilitate non-personal data, and certain categories of personal data are accessible to African researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs
- ✓ Promote data portability to ensure competition and consumer choice
- ✓ Establish an integrated national data system to enable data-driven public and private value creation that facilitates the flow of data necessary for a vibrant data economy



# Recommendations (2)

## ✓ Capacity Building

- ✓ Create the necessary data capabilities to take advantage of data-reliant technologies and services, including the capacity to govern
- ✓ Promote research, development and innovation in various data-based areas, including Big Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, and Blockchain

# Recommendations (3)

## Legal, Regulatory Environment and Governance

- ✓ Promote transversal data policy and agile regulation to navigate the emergence of new dynamic data-driven business models that can foster data-enabled entrepreneurship
- ✓ Create co-jurisdictional frameworks for the coordination of autonomous competition, sector, and data regulators to regulate the data society and economy effectively
- ✓ Develop national legislation on personal data protection and adequate regulations, particularly around data governance and digital platforms, to ensure trust
- ✓ Establish and maintain an independent, well-resourced and effective Data Protection Authority to ensure a high level of protection of personal data
- ✓ Govern the integrated national data system according to the principles of access, availability, openness, interoperability, safety, security, quality, and integrity;

# Recommendations (4)

## Data/Digital Infrastructure

- ✓ Improve unevenly developed infrastructure across the country
- ✓ Support efficient broadband network coverage
- ✓ Provide reliable energy supply
- ✓ Digital ID
- ✓ Interoperable, trustworthy payments, cloud and data infrastructure
- ✓ Open data sharing systems

# DATA GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA



## Thank you for your attention!

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