



**National Consultation on  
“Frontier Technology Policy Experimentation and Regulatory Sandboxes  
for Sustainable Development” for the Maldives**

**Tuesday 7 September 2021, 08:00 – 10:00 am (Maldives time)  
Virtual Meeting**

**Concept Note (Draft)**

### **Background**

Frontier technologies carry a promise to fast track the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through supporting innovative, forwarding-looking policies and solutions. There are, however, numerous risks and complexities of digital technologies that come along with those opportunities, such as a widening digital divide as well as policy and regulatory challenges.

In recent years, relatively new approaches of policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes have emerged among countries, and have proven to be effective in creating a more conducive space where governments, in partnerships with relevant stakeholders, can experiment and trial with digital technologies and innovations at the edge or outside of the existing policy space and regulatory framework.

It is in this context that the United Nations Development Account DA2124B project has been conceived, with the objective to enhance the institutional capacity of selected countries in special situations<sup>1</sup> to understand and develop policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes to accelerate the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project aims to support recipient countries to attain ability to identify and establish means for policy experimentation and regulatory sandboxes. Concrete project outcomes may be translated into policy documents or implementation strategies, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships with the private sector and the civil society. The project will be jointly implemented by the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD) of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The Maldives is one of three<sup>2</sup> target countries of the project. A sensitization workshop was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021<sup>3</sup> of which the Maldives identified ‘Cryptocurrency’ and ‘Mobile Wallet’ as potential project’s focus areas. As a follow-up to the sensitisation workshop, DESA, ESCAP and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT) are jointly organising a national consultation workshop with relevant domestic stakeholders on the project.

### **Objective**

The objectives of the national consultation are to:

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<sup>1</sup> Note: Countries in special situations include the: (i) least developed countries (LDCs); (ii) landlocked developing countries (LLDC); and (iii) small island developing States (SIDS)

<sup>2</sup> Bangladesh and Kazakhstan.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.unescap.org/events/2021/sensitization-workshop-frontier-technology-policy-experimentation-and-regulatory>

- (1). Conduct in-depth consultation with national stakeholders and experts on the opportunities and obstacles of implementing policy experimentation on 'Cryptocurrency' and 'Mobile Wallet'.
- (2). identify the next course of action in strategic planning and implementation for advancing the project in the Maldives.

#### **Format of the meeting**

The meeting will be held virtually through the MS Teams platform. Link to the meeting will be shared with registered participants at <https://forms.office.com/r/pULVscWz3v>

#### **Date/time**

Programme Date: Tuesday 7 September 2021, 08:00 – 10:00 am (Maldives time)

#### **Participants (By Invitation Only)**

It is expected that the participants for the sensitisation workshop to include:

- National government and other domestic stakeholders from the Maldives
- Staff representatives from UN Resident Coordinators' Office in the Maldives
- Experts (international) that have implemented/regulated policy experiments and regulatory sandboxes on Cryptocurrency and Mobile Wallet.
- Other domestic stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the project.
- Experts and staff members from (i) Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); (ii) Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

#### **Organizers**

The sensitization workshop is jointly organized by the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA DPIDG), the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP IDD), and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology (MECCT) of the Maldives.