

Ethiopia Digital Foundation Project

Project No.: P171034

Summary Report on National ID Legal Workshop

**March, 2022,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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1. Background

Unique identity will greatly facilitate Ethiopia's participation in the African digital economy. The program was established with a vision of building a foundational identity platform for Ethiopia, proving that an individual is who he/she claims to be, in a secure, electronic, and sustainable way, to support all individual identity use cases for both citizens and legal residents of Ethiopia by 2025. It has also been strongly engaged in sustainable development due to its direct relation to development and implementation in the support of the digital transformation strategy of the country. The national ID program was established under the prime minister's office in September 2021.

One of the major objectives of the program is to enroll and provide authentication services and also transition to country rollout by the end of 2025. Therefore, in order to achieve this goal a pilot registration has been planned to start from the current fiscal year using a project-by-project approach. As a result, different use cases have been selected and discussions are undergoing to work together.

As a major part of the program, ensuring the legal establishment is highly essential to the overall successful implementation process. The National ID law is drafted and ready for submission to the parliament. Although, it is required to have public engagement and collect feedback beforehand. Therefore, NID office organized a workshop on March 11, 2022 at Skylight Hotel in order to present the draft and take expert opinion, especially from the legal community. The workshop will have a brief presentation and also an open discussion session.

2. Objective of the legal Workshop

The objective of the legal consultation meeting was to provide a platform for stakeholders to learn about the National ID Program as it is being developed and provide their feedback. The consultation detailed the necessary legislative provisions and policy interventions required to enable a trusted, secure, and robust digital identity ecosystem in Ethiopia. It solicited input from stakeholders on how to best achieve this. This feedback will be used as input to further develop the legislation and overall program.

3. Composition of Participants of the Legal Workshop

The attendees of the workshop were those who are directly involved in the legal departments of the Government and private sectors.

The workshop attracted the participation of 146 persons from regional, and federal governments, Civil Society groups and organizations, and representatives from international organizations, (The list of participants is attached in Annex 2)

The organizations attended the workshop includes representatives from the 10 regional governments and 2 city administrations, 34 federal institutions and NGOs, and 13 from local radio and TV

4. Presented Topics

Two major presentations were made during the workshop regarding the National ID platform and the draft ID law. The presentations were made by Mr. Elias Debebe and Mr. Dilnesa Israel on the Digital ID Registration platform and Digital ID proclamation respectively.

4.1. Officials Opening Remark

The official opening remark was given by H.E. Mrs Huria Ali, the state Minister for MInT . Her speech focused on the benefits of having National ID, including the importance of recognizing peoples identity for the improvement of public service. She also mentioned that the implementation of National ID helps citizens to exercise their right to be treated equally and get proper government services. Using of technology like digital ID will pave the way for digital transformation and transition to digital economy and will also contribute to the digital economy development. To this end the need for the preparation of legal framework and development of digital platform is a primary requirement to envisage the intended objectives of the National ID.

Introductory remark has also been made by Yodahe Zemichael the executive director of National ID Program . H.E mentioned that As stakeholders, the NID office have been and will continue to be active in helping create and foster a robust environment for the development of the Digital Identity System. For digital identity systems to be effective a legal and policy framework must be built on the basis of informed choice, consent & inclusiveness that guarantee data privacy and protection.

4.2. Digital ID Platform Introduction

4.3. Digital ID Draft Proclamation (Part-1 & 2)

5. Discussion

Based on the key topics covered in the presentation: enrollment, privacy, data ownership, inclusion, and digital authentication. Discussions have been made thoroughly in relation to policies, legislation, and regulations as required to define and enact a Digital ID System followed by an extensive Q&A session with active participation representing views from various institutions, sectors, and communities. Yodahe Zemichael introduced the participants of the workshop to the topic of national ID and the draft proclamation Some highlights of his introduction were about national ID and its practices in different countries and what the national ID program is doing in Ethiopia and the status of the draft proclamation

A “Question and Answer Time” chaired by Yodahe Zemicael, rounded off the day by providing participants the opportunity to question the NIDP panel. Some raised questions and suggestions are mentioned below.

Question/Comment	Answer/response
<p>It is stated in the draft proclamation residents are not obligated to get a national ID. would it be possible for a national ID to fulfill its aim of registering 70 million people by 2026 if citizens were not compelled to take a national ID.</p>	<p>While citizens are not required to obtain a Digital ID, the authority that will be founded will be required to provide a national ID to people who come to the organization to obtain the ID. Services can set national ID as a requirement for their services and the liability will rely on the NID organization to give the ID. Making the ID mandatory would not ensure its success; as time goes on, and it becomes necessary for different services, the necessity for the ID will become higher.</p> <p>Furthermore, persons who are unable to get functional IDs for a number of reasons can easily obtain a national ID and have access to government services.</p>
<p>Does the proposed law include provisions that address residents lacking supportive documents to secure their National ID that could exclude them from accessing essential services?</p>	<p>Is there a part of the draft proclamation that explains how individuals who do not have sufficient paperwork will be handled? Residents who do not have supporting papers can bring three persons who already have a national ID to serve as testimonies and receive their national identification.</p>
<p>Different terms are being used to refer to the ID. One is National ID and the other is Digital ID. what exactly will be the name of the proclamation and the ID.</p>	<p>This can be used as input, and more consultation and study into the name of the proclamation as well as the name of the ID will be conducted.</p>
<p>The proclamation states that data belongs to citizens and that National ID will ensure that the data is protected from third-party access, but it does not specify what penalties the organization would face if it fails to provide data protection.</p>	<p>The concern is appropriate and it will be included in proclamation</p>

6. Major Achievements of the workshop

The major outcome of the workshop is the awareness created about National ID, the draft proclamations to stakeholders, and valuable feedback and recommendations were recorded.

Based on the feedback from the participants the necessary amendments were made to the ID law, and NIDP is preparing to have a second consultation with the public to get final feedback before the ID law is passed.

1. Annex I. Workshop Schedule for the Legal Workshop

Time	Activity	Person in charge
(9:00 - 9:25) AM	Doors open and Guest Registration	NID Team
(9:30 - 9:40) AM	Opening sessions and greetings	Mr. Yodahe A. Zemichael Executive Director, National ID Program
(9:40 - 9:50) AM	Keynote Speakers	Ministers and officials from: MINT, MOF, and UNECA
(9:50- 10:00) AM	Digital ID Platform Introduction ዲጂታል መታወቂያ ፕላትፎርም	Mr. Elias Debebe Biometrics System Lead, National ID Program
(10:00- 10:30)AM	Digital ID Proclamation (Part-1) ዲጂታል መታወቂያ አዋጅ	Mr. Dilnesa Israel Legal Advisor, National ID Program
(10:30AM-10:45) AM	Break	
(11:00-11:30) AM	Digital ID Proclamation (Part-2) ዲጂታል መታወቂያ አዋጅ	Mr. Yodahe A. Zemichael Executive Director, National ID Program
(11:30- 12:30) AM	Q & A session (Part-1)	Mr. Yodahe A. Zemichael Executive Director, NIDP Mr. Dilnesa Israel Legal Advisor, NIDP Mr. Eyob Alemu Technical Director, NIDP Ms. Bethelhem Mergia M&E Director, NIDP Mr. Elias Debebe Biometrics System Lead, NIDP
12:30 AM- 2:00 PM	Lunch	
2:00 PM-3:30 PM	Q & A session (Part-2)	>> >>
3:30 PM - 3:40 PM	Closing	Mr. Yodahe A. Zemichael Executive Director, National ID Program

7. Annex II. Group Picture of the Legal Workshop Participants



8. Annex III. List of Participants of the NID Legal Workshop

No.	Name	Institute	Position
1	Ayalneh Lemma	MINT	Director
2	Mandefro Eshete	MINT	SLA
3	Dr. Mesfin Belachew	MINT	DFP Director
4	Abeje Mamo	Ministry of Transport and Logistics	Legal Advisor
5	Yonas Bekele	MoE	General Director
6	Nathnael Zemo	MoE	ICT expert
7	Dr. Zelalem Assefa	MOE	Director
8	Mengistu Alemayehu	INVEA	ICT Director
9	Gezahegn Mekonnen	INVEA	Research
10	Mekeleya Bargicho	Ministry of Labor and Skills	Technology Advisor
11	Emebet Assefa	Ethiopia Ministry of Industry	Team Leader
12	Dr. Getachew Assefa	AAU School of Law	Dean
13	Dr. Biruk Haile	AAU School of Law	Lead
14	TIgist Dagnenet	Civil Society organization	Director
15	Henock Melese	Civil Society organization	General Director
16	yemane Desalegn	AA City Vital Events	Deputy Director General
17	Yonas Alemayehu	AA City Vital Events	General Director
18	Aemiro Kassa	AA City Vital Events	IT Director
19	Dawit Bekele	AA City Vital Events	Director
20	Solomon Sileshi	Document Authentication Authority	Director
21	Redwan Hussein	Ministry of Labor and Skills	Advisor
22	Abdulkidus	AA City Vital Events	Driver
23	Sentayehu Abebe	Document Authentication Authority	Director
24	Seble Girma	INSA	Legal Director
25	Biruk	Ethio Telecom	CMMO
26	Tsegaye	Ethio Telecom	CISO

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No.	Name	Institute	Position
27	Ermiyas Getachew	CBE	Director
28	Ashenafi Ababte	CooP	Director
29	Mesfin Getachew	National Bank	Director
30	Tsegaw Meteku	Banks Associations	PR&IR Director
31	Abewaw Getaneh	Federal Attorney General	Office Director
32	Eshetu Belete	NIS	Legal Service D/ Director
33	Yanetfenta Eskinder	Ministry of Peace	Legal Expert
34	Temesgen Ayele	Ministry of Health	Legal Service
35	Robel Tesfaye	Single Window Service	Director
36	Tewodros Mulugeta	Single Window Service	Director
37	Andarge Kabtyimer	Safari Com	Chief Sales
38	Sisay Zeryihun	Safari Com	Head of External Affairs
39	Senayit Berhe	Civil Service Commission	Project Manager
40	Yonas Aynalem	Bank of Oromiya	Principal Attorney
41	Yemsrach Leyew	NEBE	Project coordinator
42	Awol Abamecha	Ethiopian Statistics Service	HR Director
43	Abebe Alene	Ethiopian Bar Association	Member
44	Commissioner yohannes Gashema	Federal Police commission crime Investigation	Deputy Director General
45	Yidnekachew G/Meskel	Ministry of Foreign affairs	director
46	Hamid Kassa	Ethiopian Lawyers Association	General Director
47	Dr. Helen	Ethiopian Science and Technology women Association	Board Secretary
48	Eskedar Abebe	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	Director
49	Tizta Taddesse	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	Senor Legal Expert
50	Abebe Girmay	Viditure	CEO
51	Tsion Teklay	ECA	Consultant

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No.	Name	Institute	Position
52	Lamiya Naji	World Bank	Consultant
53	Dawit Feleke	MS4G	BEE Advisor
54	Biniyam Mosisa	CBE	Project bureau Director
55	Kidus Asnake	Ethiopia Disability Association	Driver
56	Bernard Laurendeau	Laurendeau and Associations	Consultant
57	Rahel Fidel	AA City Administration	IT Advisor
58	Tekalegn Feleke	Driver	
59	Mekonen Madi	Driver	
60	Kidus		
61	Dereje		
62	Mactar Seck	UNECA	
63	Addis Mekonen	MINT	
64	Robera Girma	MINT	Audio Video SYDS
65	Smauel Lema	INVEA	Advisor of DG
66	Biruhtesfa Mulugeta	INVEA	Director-General
67	Ashenafi Mulugeta	Sweden Comp	Area Manger
68	Sweat Yousuge	Tony Blair Institute	Senior Analyst
69	Yilikal Abate	ICTET	Board Member
70	Teshome Abdisa	Driver	
71	Nialasrd	USAID MS4G	Digital Advisor
72	Dereje Paulos	Sidama	Driver
73	Daniel	Oromia	Legal Advisor
74	Abdella Ugete	Oromia	Legal Advisor
75	Ali Sadik Mohammed	Afar	Legal Advisor
76	Mohammed Yayo Mohammed	Afar	Director-General
77	Merhatsdik	Amhara	Legal Advisor

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No.	Name	Institute	Position
78	Mola Tizazu	Amhara	
79	Kinde Andarge	Amhara	Security
80	Assefa Kebede	Amhara	Driver
81	Tesfaye Agafari	SNNP	Director-General
82	Nuriye seme	SNNP	Legal Advisor
83	Abezu Assefa	Sidama	Legal Advisor
84	Abraham Berera	Sidama	Director
85	Mohammed Abdela	Somale	Director
86	Abdullahi Mohammed Abdi	Somale	legal Advisor
87	Mohammed Hamid Ahmed	Benishangul Gumuz	legal Advisor
88	Usman Kelifa Mohammed	Benishangul Gumuz	Vital Events General Director
89	Horden Kong Reat	Gambella	legal Advisor
90	Otongo Ujulu Ujulu	Gambella	General Director
91	Arsellan Hasshim	Harari	General Director
92	Abedele Beker Musse	Dire Dawa	Director
93	Tejudun Abedule Yusufe	Dire Dawa	Advisor
94	Tesfaye Mekuriya Ambaw	SNNP	Vital Events General Director
95	Aklilu Kebede	SNNP	Legal Advisor
96	Abdulnasir Ahmed	Harari	Legal Advisor to the President
97	Zelekash Girma	Addis Media	Reporter
98	Yirgalem Yimenu	Addis Media	
99	Haymanot Giramy	Walta Tv	Reporter
100	Meron Nibret	FM 105.3	Reporter
101	Yibeltal Sewnet	Nahoo Tv	Reporter
102	Zulfikar Mohammed	Nahoo Tv	Camera Man

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No.	Name	Institute	Position
103	Sentayehu Tamrat	EBC	Editor
104	MEseret Behayilu	EPA	Reporter
105	Moges Tesfa	EPA	Reporter
106	Hadush Abereha	EPA	Photo Reporter
107	Daniel Musse	ENA	Camera Man
108	Ermiyas	Yegna TV	Camera Man
109	Hayimanot Legesse	Semena Werk	Camera Man
110	Selamawit Tesfaye	Addis Media	Reporter
111	Hayimanot Wendemeneh	Woyira Media	Reporter
112	Biniyam Alemu	ESAT	Camera Man
113	Yared Yadete	ESAT	Reporter
114	Andualem Tesfa	ESAT	Reporter
115	Zekariyas Zewdu	Fikr Selam	Camera Man
116	Haileyesus Tefera	ENA	Editor
117	Tibebe Minbelogn	ETV	
118	Betlhem Tigabu	ETV	Reporter
119	Feyera Merga	ETV	Reporter
120	Tariku Legesse	FBC	Reporter
121	Ermiyas Tefera	FBC	Camera Man
122	Solomon Tamiru	HT	Ashara
123	Addisalem Fikru	HT	Ashara
124	Eyob Alemu	NIDP	Technical Director
125	Betlhem Mergia	NIDP	M&E Lead
126	Dereje Abdisa	NIDP	System Engineering Lead
127	Ashenafi Gadisa	NIDP	Development and Implementation Lead
128	Elias Debebe	NIDP	Biometrics System Lead
129	Yohannes Hailu	NIDP	Enrollment Operations Lead

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No.	Name	Institute	Position
130	Yared Taye	NIDP	Infrastructure and System security Lead
131	Feven Bulbula	NIDP	Strategy and Partnership
132	Bereket Gebrehiwot	NIDP	Advisory and Support Unit Director
133	Surafel Mehari	NIDP	Network Engineer
134	Ruth Michail	NIDP	Digital Delivery Expert
135	Yafet Getachew	NIDP	Developmt and Program Unit
136	Elsabeth Tesfaye	NIDP	Finance and HR expert
137	Henock Tilahun	NIDP	Enrollment Operations Lead
138	Mesay Negusse	NIDP	Comms
139	Naol Kebede	NIDP	Enrollment supervisor
140	Tomas Muluneh	NIDP	Enrollment supervisor
141	Mulu Batu	NIDP	Enrollment Supervisor
142	Chernet Hailu	NIDP	Enrollment Supervisor
143	Henok Tiba	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
144	Kalkidan Urga	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
145	Samiya Sultan	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
146	Melat Ajeme	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
147	Meron Ajeme	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
148	Melat Engedashet	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
149	Kuleni Melaku	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
150	Belete Alehegn	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
151	Lemlem Hailiye	NIDP	Enrollment Officer
152	Tesfaye Demisse	NIDP	Driver

9. Annex IV. List of Organizations Participated at the NID Legal Workshop

From Regions	
1	Afar National Regional Government
2	Amhara National Regional Government
3	Oromia National Regional Government
4	Somali National Regional Government
5	Benishangul-Gumuz National Regional Government
6	South Nations, Nationalities & Peoples Regional Government
7	Gambella National Regional Government
8	Harari National Regional Government
9	Sidama National Regional Government
10	South-Western Peoples Regional Government
11	Addis Ababa City Administration
12	Dire Dawa City Administration
13	Addis Ababa City Administration Vital Events Registration and Information Agency
From Federal Institutions	
1	Ministry of Innovation and Technology
2	Ministry of Justice
3	Ministry of Transport and Logistics
4	Ministry of Education
5	Ministry of Industry
6	Ministry of Labor and Skills
7	Ministry of Health
8	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9	Ministry of Peace
10	Ministry of Revenues
11	Ethiopian Federal Police Commission
12	Information Network Security Agency
13	National Intelligence & Security Service
14	Immigration Nationality and Vital Events Agency

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15	Documents Authentication and Registration Service
16	F.D.R.E Authority for Civil Society Organizations
17	Ethiopian Statistics Service
18	Information Communication Technology Ethiopia
19	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
20	National Election Board of Ethiopia
21	Ethio Telecom
22	Safaricom Ethiopia
23	Ethiopian National Bank
24	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
25	Oromia Bank
26	Ethiopian Lawyers Association
27	Ethiopian Science and Technology Women's Association
28	Federation of Ethiopian Associations of Persons with Disabilities
29	Ethiopian Bankers Association
30	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
31	The World Bank - ID4D
32	USAID Market Systems for Growth (MS4G)
33	The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
34	Viditure
	Media attendees:
1	Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation
2	Fana Broadcasting Corporation
3	Ethiopian News Agency
4	Ethiopian Press Agency
5	Addis TV
6	ESAT
7	Walta Radio
8	Nahoo TV
9	Afro FM 105.3
10	Sheger FM 102.1