National Digital Transformation Policy Validation workshop to advance Solomon Islands’ digital journey

Honiara, Solomon Islands, 25 July 2024 - The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNOPS, and the Ministry of Communications and Aviation of the Solomon Islands co-organized a National Digital Transformation Policy Validation Workshop in Honiara from 23 to 25 July. The workshop gathered key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, as well as global development partners, for a review and discussion of the draft National Digital Transformation Policy.

The workshop aimed to build consensus on the Solomon Islands’ national digital transformation vision by creating a collaborative environment where participants could share insights, expert knowledge, and address concerns to refine and improve the draft strategy.
The opening ceremony on July 23 convened 25 participants from the Solomon Islands’ government, the UN system, the private sector, and development partners in the Pacific, moderated by Mr. Vivek Anand, UNOPS ICT Specialist.

On behalf of the Solomon Islands’ Government, Mr. Alwyn Danitofea, Permanent Secretary for Communications and Aviation, delivered the keynote address, “We envision a future where technology empowers our industries, enhances governance, and enriches the lives of every Solomon Islander. However, achieving this vision will require coordinated action, which is why we are here today.”

Following an overview presentation of the National Digital Transformation Policy at the opening ceremony, nine thematic sessions were held to discuss the draft National Digital Transformation Policy in detail, focusing on digital infrastructure, e-governance, health, digital literacy, cybersecurity, economy, inclusion, and the way forward. The sessions elaborated on the rationale behind the policy development, including the vision, key strategies and key outcomes.

During the workshop, consensus was achieved on the national vision for Solomon Islands’ digitalization agenda, aligning with local, regional, and international development goals. Participants recognized that the draft strategy addresses the country’s unique needs and aspirations, guiding its transformation into a digitally empowered economy. The shared vision is a comprehensive digital policy that supports sustainable growth, enhances quality of life for all Solomon Islanders, and promotes resilient, environmentally sustainable development.

Reflecting on the workshop, Mr. Vivek Anand, UNOPS ICT Specialist, said, “UNOPS believes in the power of innovative solutions. We are pleased to complement ITU and UN agencies’ technical expertise and deliver the digital visions in Solomon Islands with our operational expertise.”

The draft National Digital Transformation Policy was developed by ITU and UNOPS under the UN South Pacific Digitisation Joint Programme, officially named "Advancing the SDGs by
Improving Livelihoods and Resilience via Economic Diversification and Digital Transformation." The joint programme is funded by the Joint SDG Fund and led by ILO with ITU, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNOPS, and UNODC as participating UN agencies.

Inputs received from the validation workshop will be incorporated into the draft strategy, which will then be circulated for stakeholder endorsement before finalization.

**ENDS**

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