

Session Outcome Document**Strengthening health data governance legislative frameworks: The foundation of trusted digital health and AI****Transform Health****Monday 06 July, 09:00–09:45 CEST**<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/127>**Key Issues discussed:**

- AI, digital technology, and the data driving them hold extraordinary promise for health - planning, innovation, patient care, outbreak prediction, stronger health systems - but that promise can only be realised equitably, responsibly, and with people's trust if governance keeps pace.
- There are existing foundations to build on, including Transform Health's [Health Data Governance Principles](#) (endorsed by 175+ organisations and governments), the [legislative blueprint \(Model Law\)](#), the [OECD's recommendation on health data governance](#) (backed by 38 member states), WHO AI guidelines, and ongoing work by the Health Data Collaborative.
- A convergence moment for global alignment: there are overlapping global processes, including political support at the 2026 World Health Assembly for a global health data governance and AI resolution, the Global Digital Compact, the WSIS Action Lines, Africa CDC's continental health data governance framework. These efforts must not be separate conversations but should converge towards a common global standard.
- Governance is lagging behind AI and digital health innovation, and only legislation - not policy or guidelines alone - establishes rights and responsibilities, provides the legal certainty, enforceability, and accountability needed to sustain public trust as digital transformation and AI advance.
- Fragmentation and duplication plague national, regional, and global governance processes, with siloed focal points, parallel frameworks, and limited coordination even within the same government (Lawyers Hub).
- There is fragmentation and duplication across governance processes, with siloed focal points attending different forums, resulting in parallel frameworks and initiatives, and limited coordination.

- Africa faces an implementation gap rather than a policy gap: national AI strategies exist, but many lack the budget, technical skills and institutional capacity to execute them, and frameworks are often borrowed from other regions without local adaptation (Africa AI Governance Index findings).
- Key stakeholders remain underrepresented in governance discussions, including end users/under-served populations, parliamentarians, the judiciary, the private sector, and African voices specifically in global discussions, the latter constrained further by visa cost and validity barriers to attending fora like this one.
- Regional frameworks offer building blocks for global alignment. The Africa CDC's continental health data governance framework (validation expected later in 2026, adoption in early 2027) and the EU's European Health Data Space are regional efforts that should directly inform global standard-setting.

Key Outcomes of the session:

- **Agreement around key priorities and foundations:** Agreement that legislative - not just policy-level - action is the necessary foundation for trust, accountability, and enforceability. Broad agreement that existing tools and frameworks (e.g. Transform Health's Health Data Governance Principles and legislative blueprint/Model Law; OECD recommendation; WHO AI guidelines) provide a foundation to build for a global framework and World Health Assembly resolution.
- **Increased political awareness and commitment:** Consensus that the political momentum generated at the 2026 World Health Assembly for a global health data and AI governance resolution should be sustained and built upon ahead of WHA 2027, and that regional frameworks (Africa CDC, EU) should feed directly into this global alignment.
- **Convergence on strengthening alignment:** Need for alignment between different global processes, to ensure they contribute towards a common goal - global alignment through a legislative frameworks/standard, endorsed through the World Health Assembly in 2027.
- **Momentum toward a WHA 2027 resolution:** Oman's delegation set out four priority pillars for the path forward: building consensus among member states and stakeholders; strengthening national capacities and laws with practical WHO-backed implementation guidance; continuing broad consultation (governments, international organisations, academia, civil society, private sector, industry, and end users); and supporting countries at different levels of digital maturity while respecting national sovereignty.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions:

- Strengthen national legislative frameworks for health data and AI, paired with practical implementation guidance and dedicated capacity-building. (*WSIS Action Line C6 – Enabling Environment*)

- Build global alignment around a legislative standard for health data and AI governance, including building on the Africa Continental Framework and the European Health Data Space as inputs into a global standard. (*Action Line C11 – International and Regional Cooperation*)
- Broaden and coordinate meaningful stakeholder engagement, including parliamentarians, the judiciary, the private sector, and end users/under-served populations in national, regional and global governance processes. (*Action Line C10 – Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society*)
- Sustain political momentum from WHA 2026 toward a global health data governance framework/resolution for WHA 2027, which also supports sector-specific implementation of the Global Digital Compact. (*Action Line C11 – International and Regional Cooperation*)