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Session Outcome Document

Scaling trust: from Digital Proof-of-Life to a UN Digital Identity ecosystem

United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Tuesday, 7 July 2026 | 14:00–14:45

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/528>

Key Issues discussed

- Explored how the UNJSPF's Digital Certificate of Entitlement (DCE), originally developed to modernize the annual proof-of-life process, has become a scalable digital identity solution.
- Examined how the DCE's use of biometrics, blockchain and artificial intelligence can strengthen secure, user-centered digital public infrastructure by improving efficiency, security and access to services.
- Discussed how lessons learned from the DCE informed the development of the UN Digital ID, a system-wide digital identity ecosystem designed to reduce data fragmentation, facilitate secure data sharing and provide a trusted digital identity throughout an individual's UN journey.
- Highlighted trust-by-design as a foundational principle for digital identity, emphasizing strong authentication, distributed verification, auditable records, user consent and responsible governance.
- Addressed digital inclusion through UNDP-supported DCE kiosks, which help users overcome connectivity, device and accessibility barriers.
- Underscored the value of collaboration among UNJSPF, UNICC, UNDP and IDB in developing trusted digital identity solutions that can be adapted and scaled across institutions.

Key Outcomes of the session

- Demonstrated how a practical pension administration tool has evolved into a model for digital public infrastructure and identity across the UN system.
- Showcased the DCE's global impact, enabling more than 60% of UNJSPF retirees and beneficiaries worldwide to complete their annual proof of life digitally.
- Positioned the DCE as the practical foundation for the UN Digital ID, supporting the development of a trusted, interoperable digital identity ecosystem across UN organizations.

- Reinforced trust-by-design, noting that the DCE is the first and only UN system solution to receive ISO certification for responsible AI.
- Showcased practical measures to promote digital inclusion, including UNDP's deployment of DCE kiosks in 18 duty stations to expand access for those requiring additional support.
- Strengthened collaboration among participating organizations, including IDB's announcement that it will launch a similar DCE solution for its own beneficiaries.

Key Recommendations and Forward-Looking Actions

- Continue advancing the UN Digital ID by building on the experience and lessons learned from the DCE to create a trusted, interoperable digital identity ecosystem across the UN.
- Expand secure digital public infrastructure to improve service access and reduce administrative burdens for staff, retirees and beneficiaries.
- Embed trust-by-design principles into future digital identity initiatives by incorporating strong authentication, distributed verification, responsible AI, user consent and robust governance.
- Strengthen digital inclusion by expanding assisted digital services, low-connectivity solutions and accessibility measures to ensure equitable access for all users, particularly vulnerable populations and those in remote locations.
- Continue fostering inter-agency and multilateral partnerships to share expertise, strengthen governance and accelerate the adoption of trusted digital identity solutions.