

An Open Government framework for the Arab Region

Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for achieving the 2030 Development Agenda

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ESCWA

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Introduction

- **Technology, Innovation and Openness**
- **Powerful tools in strengthening Government**
 - Technology
 - Each revolution of technology → opportunities for government and citizen
 - Innovation: Processes, structure, networks and customer
 - Openness
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
 - Effectiveness
 - Inclusiveness

Introduction

- Supports Agenda 2030
 - Calls good governance at all levels of Government, and
 - Transparent, effective and accountable institutions
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
- SDG 17: Means of implementation
- Support of other SDGs

ESCWA Initiative

Fostering Institutional Development for Participatory Approaches towards the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Western Asia

- **Objective**
 - To build the capacity of ESCWA Member States to:
 - Utilize technology for increased transparency and accountability
 - Adopt effective and efficient participatory approaches for better governance and to address root causes of conflict and prevent its potential relapse.

ESCWA Initiative: Technology for Development

- Effective use technology and innovation:
 - Enhance transparency
 - Implement participatory approaches to governance
 - Through utilization of open government
- Activities:
 - Development of studies and report (4)
 - Meeting (1) and Workshops (3)
 - National activities
 - 3 National workshops
 - National reports and advisory services based on requests

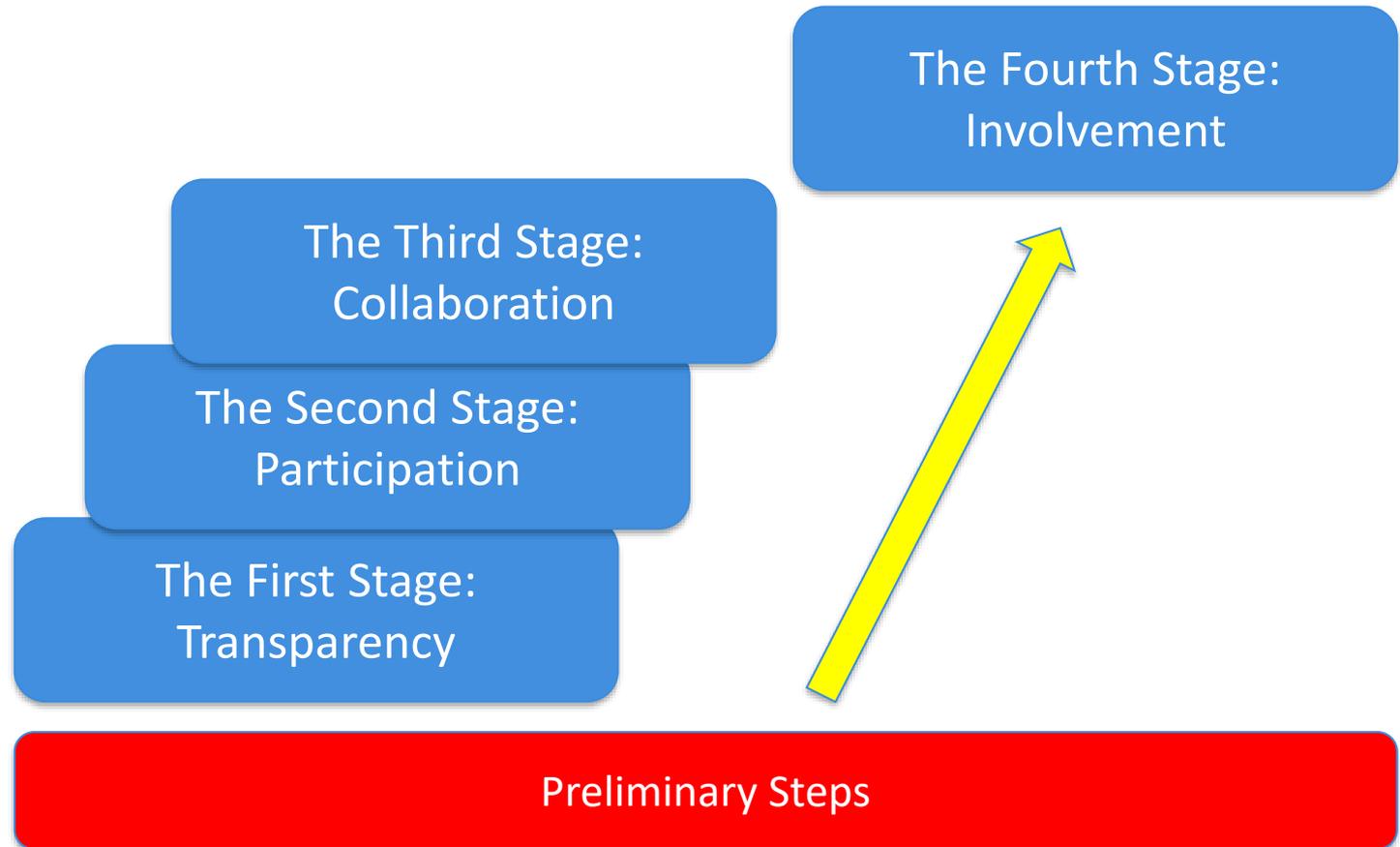
Open government

- Term dates back to 1950s – “the right to know”
- No one definition
 - Can relate to data and information access, online services, and/or citizen involvement, but...
 - The **objectives** between definitions are the same:
 - *improved participation, transparency and accountability*
- Require interaction with technology as an enabler
- Beyond technology
 - Political will to lead the change
 - Innovative processes, structures and technologies require change

ESCWA Framework on Open Government

- Build on two existing models
- Considerations in developing the framework
 - Should be derived from the best global practices
 - Should be realistic and simple, so that easily applied action plans can be developed
 - Should be clearly linked to the adopted e-Government activities
 - Should allow for the effortless use of available information and communication technologies, including social media and web technologies
 - Should be adaptable, both vertical and horizontal

ESCWA Framework on Open Government



ESCWA Framework: Preliminary steps

- Establish the link to e-government
- Other preliminary considerations
 - Raise awareness
 - Capacity building
 - Internet and information networks
 - Organizational structures
 - Legislation and Regulations
 - Challenges of open government

Preliminary Steps

ESCWA Framework: Transparency

- **Focus on**
 - open data, its dissemination and quality
 - Build a culture of cooperation among government agencies
 - foundation for open participation and collaboration
 - Use of available ICT such as traditional Web applications or mobile applications
- **Procedures**
 - Data inventories, quality assurance, and dissemination, management and evaluation

The First
Stage:
Transparency

Preliminary Steps

ESCWA Framework: Participation

- **Focus on**
 - promote citizen participation in government work
 - Enhance interaction
 - Enhance receipt of feedback and suggestions
 - Intensify ICT use
 - Improve mechanisms
- **Procedures**
 - Social media and other two-way communication technologies means of expression
 - Requires implementation program: needs, method and achievement

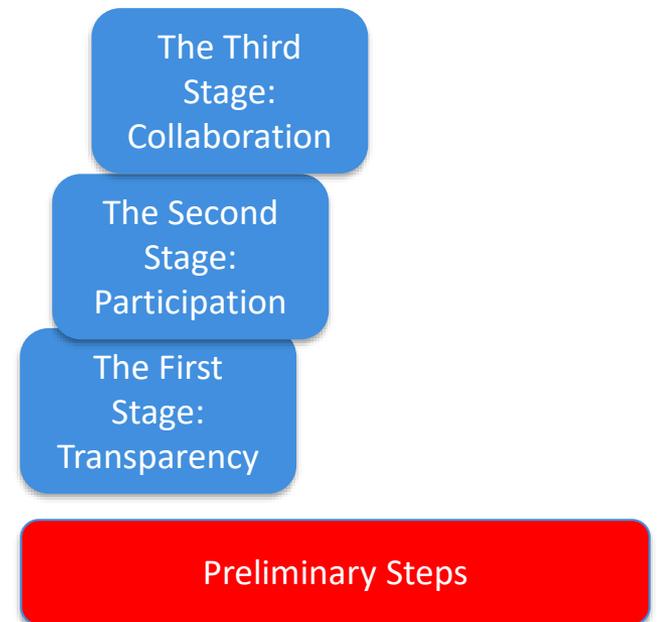
The Second
Stage:
Participation

The First
Stage:
Transparency

Preliminary Steps

ESCWA Framework: Collaboration

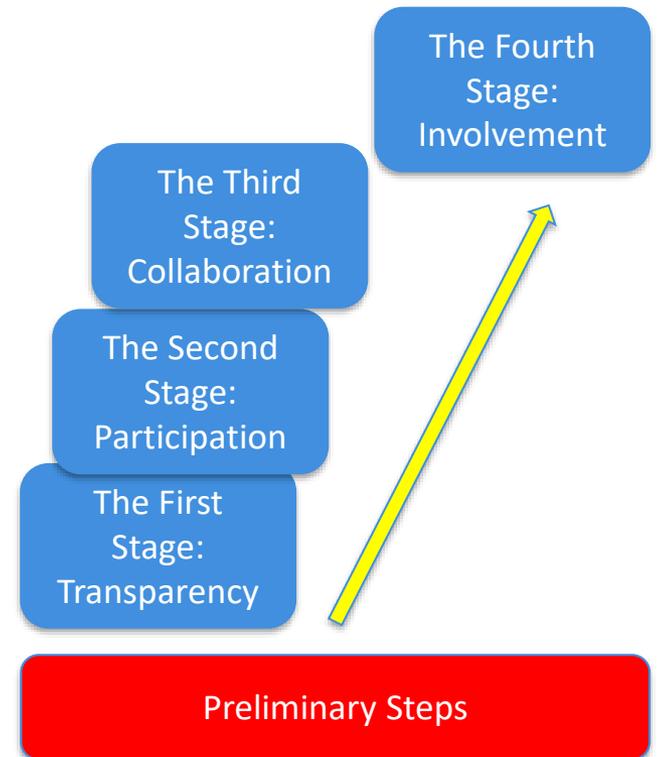
- **Focus on**
 - Collaboration between government and citizens
 - innovative, value-added government services with any time, access and participation from any location
 - Collaborative technologies
 - Move towards the agile government and rebuild its institutions
- **Procedures**
 - Social media as collaboration tool
 - Open administrative cooperation
 - Citizen sourcing
 - Public-Citizen partnership



ESCWA Framework: Involvement

- **Focus on**

- Total participation of citizens in government work
- Comprehensive access to data and services
- Involvement of all parties in policy-making and decision-making
- Build a citizen-centered and accountable government
- Open government sustainability and improvement



Conclusion

- Open government is a continuous program at the heart of government business, not a time-limited project.
- Political will is needed for commitment and support from the highest structures are necessary.
- Government should issue a policy document, outlining its framework, vision for the open government and principles underlying it.
- Coherence of the legislations with the national policies and action plans of the open government
- Detailed action plans at the national and government departments for implementation according to the stages with clear, realistic and measurable outputs.
- Ensure the involvement of government officials and all categories of citizens in all processes of designing, implementing and evaluating open government programs and activities

Thank you



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