

Intervention by Mr Saurabh Thukral, Senior Specialist, NITI Aayog,
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At

Eighth session of Committee on Statistics

on

Data governance in a changing world

Bangkok August 24, 2022

Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates, It is an honour and privilege for me to participate in the Eighth Session of the Committee on Statistics of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and to share best practices of India on data governance in changing world.

Mr. Chairman,

India recently launched the Account Aggregator (AA), a data-sharing system that can enable access to create and ensure individuals have control over their personal data, Account Aggregator(AA) enables sharing of financial records, safely and securely, only after the consent and permission of the individual with financial service providers to get access to small formal credit. For example, when an individual or business applies for a bank loan, then with their consent, an account aggregator can collect information from bank accounts and for other financial assets and share the details with other financial institutions as lenders on the AA network.

AA is a paradigm shift from physical collateral to information collateral and will unlock access to affordable credit in a streamlined and trustworthy way. This will reduce the transaction cost and time to sanction loans, make lower-sized loans more feasible and viable for banks. Protecting user privacy is the crux of the AA network. It is developed on consent mechanism and permission from individuals to share the data with Financial Information User. The consent method is designed by the principles of Data Empowerment and Protection Architecture (DEPA). Secondly, the data shared on AA is end to end encrypted. AAs are not allowed to store, process and sell the customer's data. These design principles ensure that ownership of the data lies with individuals and data is not monetised.

Account aggregator will improve the formalization of credits for MSMEs and economic growth in the post covid era. It will enable access to affordable micro-credit and insurance on information collateral rather than paperwork

Mr. Chairman,

I sincerely hope that discussions, in this forum, would lead to innovative ideas and practical solutions for data governance.

Thank you, Chair.
