The Philippine eGovernment Interoperability Framework (PeGIF) defines a common
language, principles, and standards that national government agencies should use in
the design of data and information systems to enable data exchange and re-use across
agencies.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Interoperability is a tool to achieve the following:

• **Increased Efficiency of Government Services**: The PeGIF will enable
government to design efficient and integrated services that are responsive to
citizens' needs. Integration will reduce redundancies and inefficiencies in existing
government processes. Through the PeGIF, agencies will be able to better
collaborate in developing public policy and services.

  This outcome will be achieved when the increased number of inter-agency
  systems lead to new ICT-enabled public services that better meet citizens' needs and
  facilitate socio-economic growth.

• **Improved Decision-Making in Government**. The PeGIF will improve decision-
  making through easier access to consolidated and processed data/information
  across government.

  This outcome will be achieved when all NGAs use and rely on ICT-enabled
decision support and/or business intelligence systems to deliver their mandate.

• **Reduced Costs and/or Increased Savings for Government**. The PeGIF will
  allow information systems across agencies to exchange data seamlessly and
  reduce, if not remove, the need for middleware. The PeGIF will also prevent
  single-vendor lock-in which can lead to cost-savings or gaining more value for
  the same price.

  This outcome will be achieved when government gains more value for the same
  price for its ICT systems.

The above would then lead to:

• **Increased Citizen Satisfaction in Transacting with Government**: The PeGIF
  will help create interoperable egovernment systems that would make trustworthy
  anytime, anywhere transactions with government possible.

  This outcome will be achieved when secure government services are fully or
  partially delivered electronically and traditional service delivery channels (e.g.
over the counter, mail, and telephone) are enhanced by the use of ICT.

- **Enhanced Ability to Interoperate With Other Nations.** The PeGIF will enable exchange of data and information across national boundaries.

  This outcome will be achieved when national government agencies regularly exchange and reuse data from their counterparts in other countries to protect and promote the national interest.

- **Better Informed and Active Citizenry:** The PeGIF will help produce an informed and active citizenry by giving rise to reliable and readily available government data/information as well as new electronic channels for citizen participation in governance.

  This outcome will be achieved when government data/information is readily available to all citizens via an Open Data portal and all national government agencies are able to provide a variety of electronic participation channels that will enable Filipinos to participate in policy development and the design and delivery of public services.

- **Improved Ecosystem for Competition and Innovation Among IT Service Providers.** The PeGIF will contribute to improving market competition among IT Service providers by defining and sharing the standards that can be used for different providers to compete for government accounts.

  This outcome will be achieved when there rises a diverse set of players in the market to compete for government accounts.

**DEFINITION**

eGovernment Interoperability is defined as the ability to exchange and reuse government data and information in a uniform and efficient manner across multiple ICT systems and agencies.

Interoperability will be addressed through its three domains:

- **Technical interoperability** – All matters relating to linking ICT systems and services, including but not limited to interfaces, interconnection, data integration, data exchange, security, and presentation;

- **Information interoperability** – All matters relating to a common methodology, definition and structure of information, along with shared services for its retrieval; and,

- **Business-process interoperability** – All matters that deal with the common methods, processes and shared services for collaboration, including workflow, decision-making and business transactions.
Cross-cutting these three domains are:

- **Security**: All aspects related to defining, achieving, and maintaining confidentiality, integrity, availability, non-repudiation, accountability, authenticity, and reliability of a system; and,

- **Best (Good) Practice**: Aspects related to demonstrating the best uses of standards in the public and private sectors to achieve technical, information and business process interoperability.

This interoperability document is limited to Technical Interoperability. Information Interoperability Framework shall be covered by another document. Business Process Interoperability will be developed at a future time.

**COVERAGE**

The use of PeGIF is mandatory to the Executive branch of government (ie, National Government Agencies, Bureaus, and Offices (NGAs), Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Government Financial Institutions (GFIs), and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).

The PeGIF shall be implemented prospectively. It shall guide the design, development, procurement, implementation and evaluation of all new ICT systems (both software and hardware) in government whether these be agency or inter-agency systems. It shall also be used as ICT systems reach the end of their life cycle or as existing ICT systems are upgraded.

PeGIF shall be used in reviewing agency ICT spending proposals by the appropriate governmental bodies. Unless there are compelling security, health and other reasons, ICT projects not complying with the PeGIF shall not be funded by government nor shall they be eligible for foreign funding.

Procurement shall be used as a tool to ensure PeGIF compliance. Upon its adoption all government ICT suppliers/service providers shall be required to submit a Declaration of Conformity to PeGIF when they bid for ICT projects.

As the benefits of the PeGIF are not limited to the executive branch of government, the Legislature, Judiciary and other Constitutional bodies are invited to consider adopting the PeGIF. Likewise, Local Government Units (LGUs) are encouraged to adopt the PeGIF. The PeGIF is also open to use by:

- non-government organisations;
- the private sector (business community);
- academe; and,
- the public.

**PRINCIPLES**
The following tenets govern the PeGIF:

- **Openness and citizen engagement.** The PeGIF facilitates transparency in government and enables citizen participation in governance.

- **Collaboration.** The PeGIF allows national government agencies to work together in order to deliver better, more efficient public services.

- **Alignment with existing standards.** The PeGIF draws from established international, regional, and national standards and it also notes opportunities from current industry developments.

- **Preference for open standards.** The PeGIF is based on open standards. All PeGIF standards and guidelines must conform with open standards definition, unless there are specific and compelling reasons against its use in specific agencies.

An open standard is a set of technical specifications that are usually published by formal standard-setting organizations, using an open decisions-making process. These standards are generally made available to the public on royalty-free terms without restrictions as to its use or redistribution of any of its implementations. The actual written specifications must be available for free or for a nominal fee.

- **Trust and security.** The PeGIF will promote safety, resiliency and confidence in eGovernment systems.

- **Inclusiveness.** The PeGIF requires agencies to closely work with relevant sectors and communities of interest to define their interoperability needs.

**KEY TECHNICAL POLICIES**

The following are adopted:

- **Alignment with the Internet:** the universal adoption of common specifications used on the Internet and World Wide Web for all public sector information systems

- **Adoption of the browser as the key interface:** all public sector information systems are to be accessible through browser-based technology; other interfaces are permitted but only in addition to browser-based ones. Browsers will not have active content so that users are not forced to reduce the browser's security settings

- **Addition of metadata** to government information resources
Standard Selection

The technical specifications adopted in the PeGIF are those that:

- **Enhance data/information exchange** – Specifically, standards that are relevant to systemsʼ interconnectivity, data integration, presentation and interface, e-services access and content management metadata;

- **Promote openness** – Specifications that comply with the definition of open standards used in this document and contribute to open systems;

- **Conform with international practices** – Preference will be given to standards with the widest applicability. When appropriate, international standards will take precedence over regional and national standards;

- **Adapt easily to scale** – The standard should satisfy changed demands made on the system, such as changes in data volumes, number of transactions or number of users; and

- **Have existing market base** – The specifications selected are widely supported by the market and leads to reduction of costs and risk for the government information system

MANAGING THE PeGIF

*Development*

The DOST-ICT Office, through the iGovPhil Project, managed the development and issuance of the PeGIF.

A PeGIF Task Group was organized to draft the PeGIF. The PeGIF Task Group is composed of ICT experts from government, private (business) sector, Civil Society/Non-Government Organizations and Academe.

The draft PeGIF underwent a multi-channel national consultation involving stakeholders before it was finalized and adopted.

*Implementation*

An appropriate Order shall be drafted and issued by DOST-ICT Office to adopt and implement the PeGIF.

The Deputy Executive Director for eGovernment of DOST-ICT Office shall be responsible for the overall implementation of the PeGIF. He shall develop
implementation plan and mechanisms. He will also ensure the integration of the PeGIF in all national government plans and processes (e.g. PDP, GPPB).

The National ICT Governance Service of DOST – ICT Office (or its successor unit) shall assist the Deputy Executive Director for eGovernment in PeGIF implementation.

Deputy Executive Director for eGovernment shall also be supported by a multi-stakeholder PeGIF Advisory Committee.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

DOST – ICT Office shall develop tools to monitor PeGIF implementation.

IDOST – ICT Office, with the assistance of technical experts, shall issue as yearly Evaluation Report of PeGIF Implementation. These reports shall serve as input to updating of the PeGIF.

**Policy Updating**

The PeGIF is a living document and will adapt to changing requirements over time and will be maintained at a strategic level.

The PeGIF will be formally reviewed a year after its implementation. Subsequent reviews will be biennial. However, specific standards in the catalogue can be updated after a Change Request (including use-case) is submitted and accepted by DOST – ICT Office.

**Role of Agencies**

Interoperability requires a culture of collaboration within and between national government agencies as it does on the consistent use of agreed standards.

Government Chief Information Officers (GCIOs or their equivalent) of NGAs, GFIs, GOCCs and SUCs are primarily responsible for the success of the PeGIF. In pursuit of this mandate, GCIOs shall have the PeGIF adopted as agency policy and ensure that it is referenced in their ICT plans and procurement. GCIOs should also raise awareness of the PeGIF within the agency and create an environment for officials to raise and act on interoperability issues.

GCIOs are encouraged to use the adoption of the PeGIF as an opportunity to rationalize processes to improve the quality of services and to reduce the cost of service provision in their agencies.