How Can DPI Make a Tax Administration AI-Ready?

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AI readiness as more than technology | Session 3 | Lusaka, 14 July 2026

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Seven dimensions of AI readiness

AI readiness is not having an AI strategy or buying an AI tool – it is the state of the system underneath:

1. **Reliable taxpayer identification** – unique IDs linked to national identity, minimal duplication
2. **High-quality, linkable data** – accurate, current records that can be matched across sources
3. **Interoperable systems** – APIs and standards that let systems talk, inside and beyond the authority
4. **Access to relevant external data** – banks, customs, registries and other government databases
5. **Clear legal and governance framework** – authority to access and use data, with data-protection safeguards
6. **Skills and internal capacity** – analysts, data engineers and managers who can own the tools
7. **Staff and taxpayer trust** – confidence that outputs are fair, explainable and contestable

Breakout groups: stress-test the framework

Discuss:

1. When is a tax administration AI-ready?
2. Which readiness dimensions are strongest in your country or institution?
3. Which are the weakest or most binding?
4. What AI use cases are realistic under current conditions?
5. Which are not yet realistic, and why?
6. What two or three improvements would most expand responsible AI use?

Report back:

- The most binding constraint your group identified
- The readiness dimension most debated
- Any “minimum conditions” for responsible AI use
- What the final AI-readiness framework should include