# Importance of international data flows

- Over the past decade, international data flows have increased global GDP by more than 10 per cent.

- Data transfers are estimated to contribute $2.8 trillion to global GDP—a share that exceeds the global trade in goods and is expected to grow to $11 trillion by 2025.

- Data flows are driving the transformation of traditional industries such as agriculture, logistics, and manufacturing.

# Need for protecting personal data flows
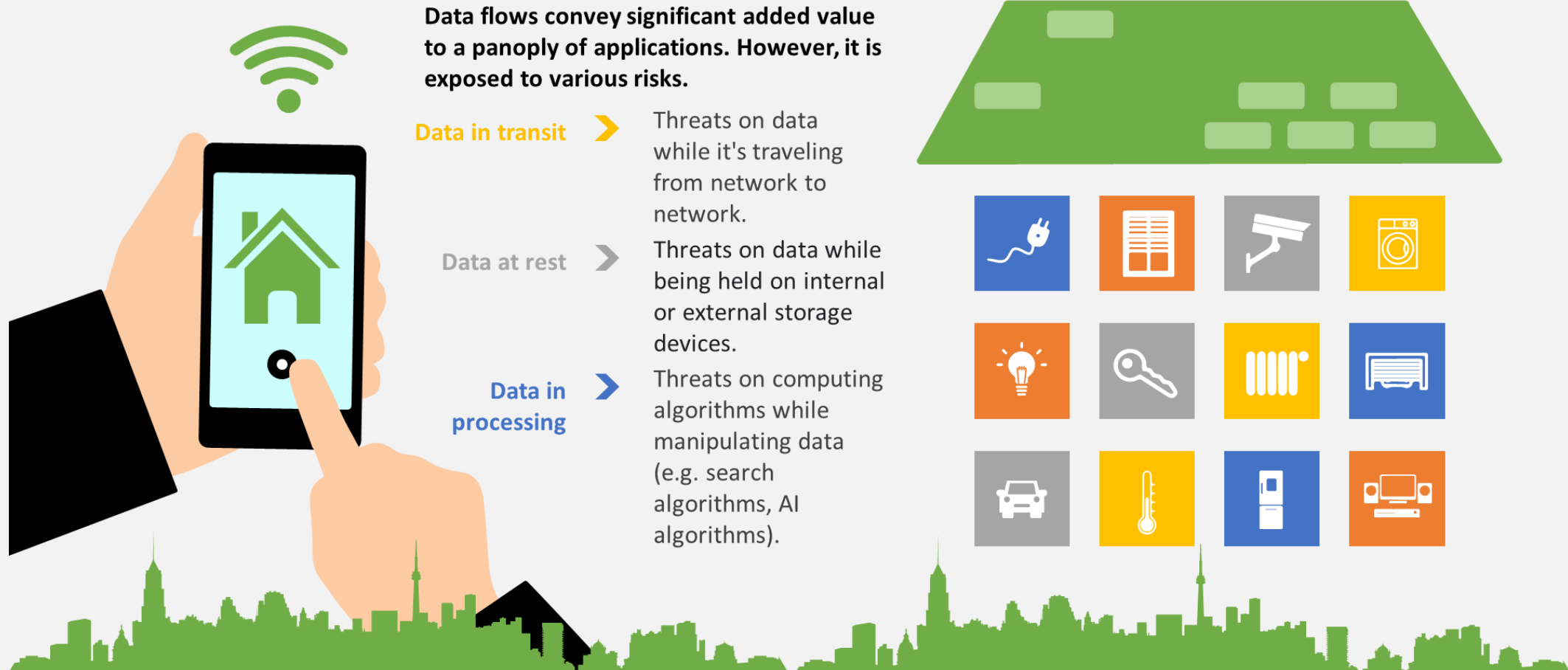
**Data flows convey significant added value to a panoply of applications. However, it is exposed to various risks.**

**Data in transit** ➤ Threats on data while it's traveling from network to network.

Data at rest ➤ Threats on data while being held on internal or external storage devices.

**Data in processing** ➤ Threats on computing algorithms while manipulating data (e.g. search algorithms, AI algorithms).
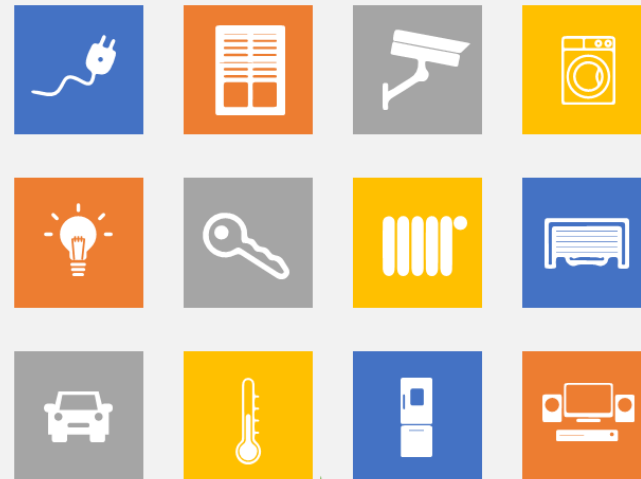
# Towards an Arab regional data framework
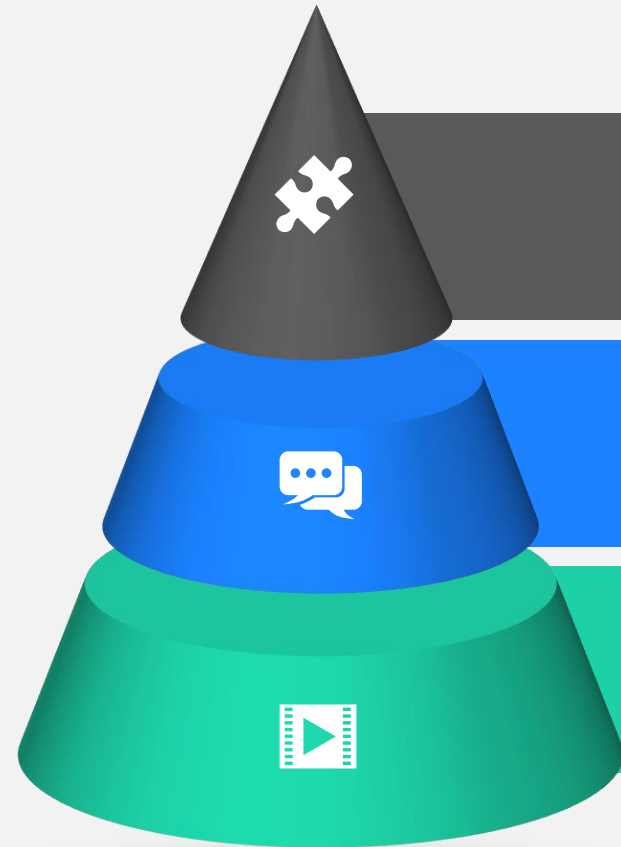
Cross-border data flows enable rapid economic growth and accelerates the internationalisation of the Arab businesses

Cross-border data flows enable businesses in the Arab region to grow in a digital world,especially micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups

Cross-border data flows enables the mutualization of the data storage and networking infrastructures, therefore reducing the direct implementation costs.

# Key challenges to harmonisation



Different status of data privacy laws

Cost and lack of capacity

Certification problems

Maturity gap
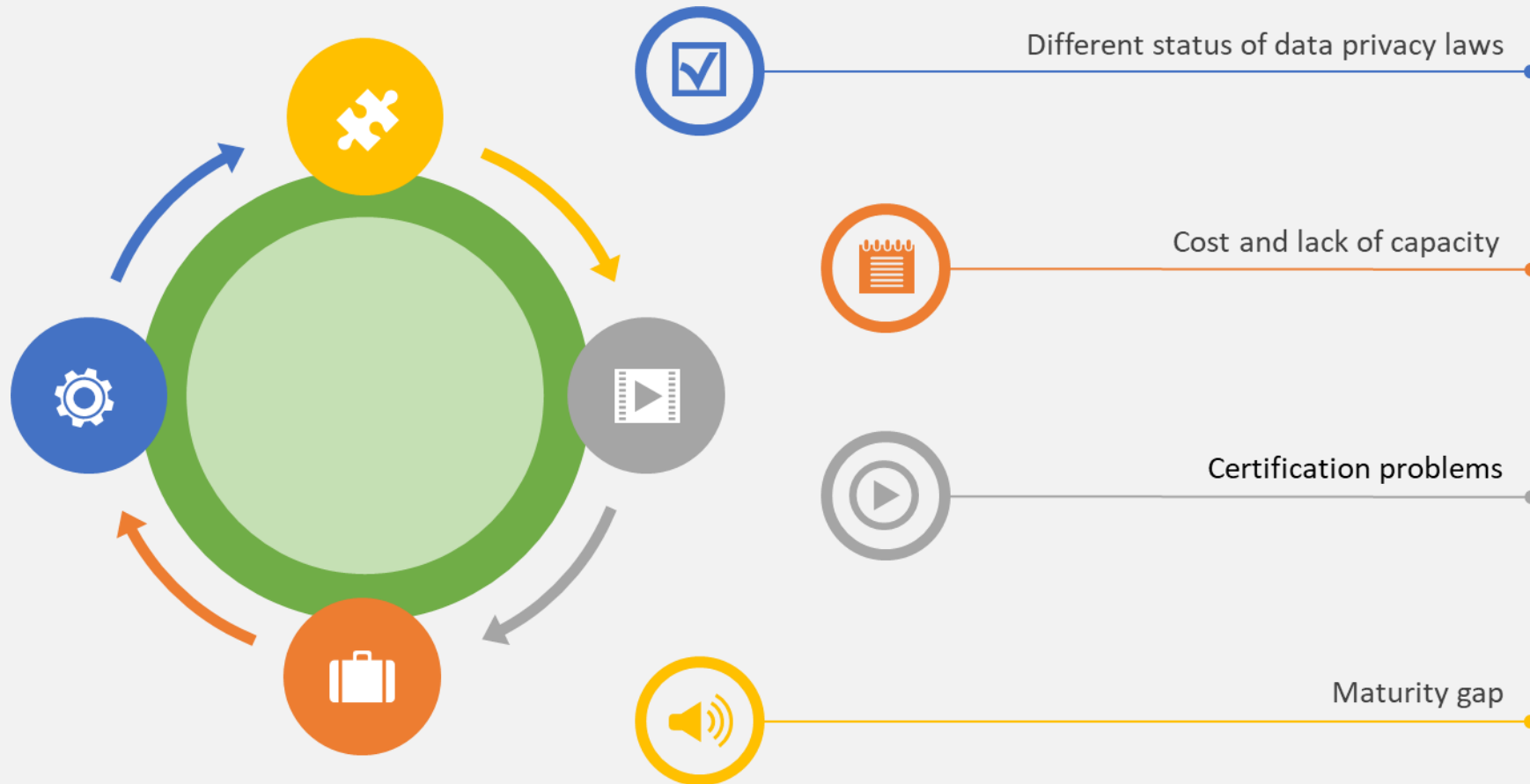
# Building blocks of the Arab regional data protection framework

**Create practical rules for consent, notification and purpose**

**Ensure accuracy of personal data and provide channels for updates**

**Provide security safeguards for personal data**

**Avoid inappropriate retention of data**
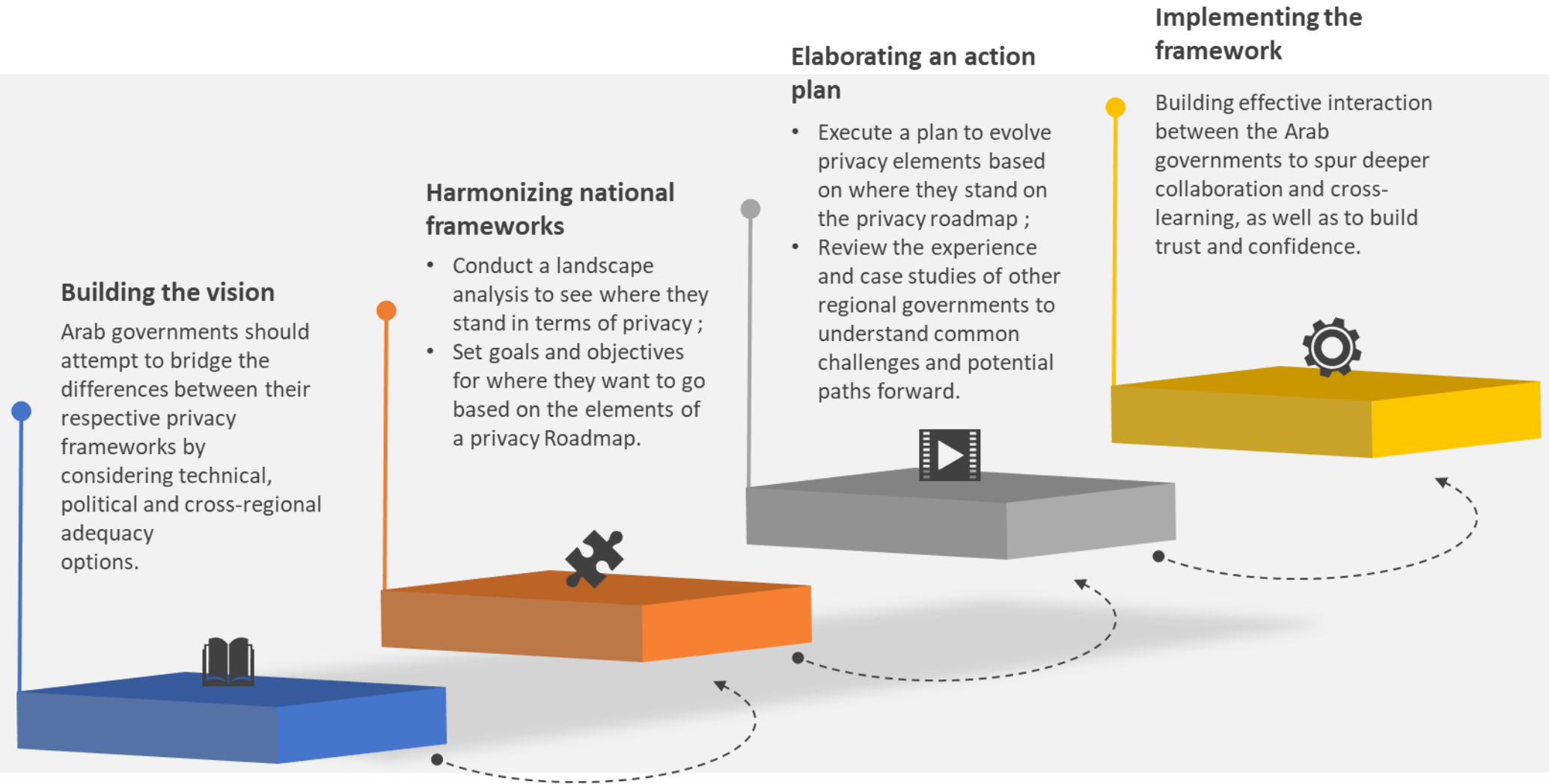
**Establish reasonable breach notification parameters**

**Introduce remedies as deterrent**

**Refer to evolving jurisprudence on privacy**

**Create accountability mechanisms**

**Consider scope and definitions**

# Roadmap

### Building the vision

Arab governments should attempt to bridge the differences between their respective privacy frameworks by considering technical, political and cross-regional adequacy options.

### Harmonizing national frameworks

- Conduct a landscape analysis to see where they stand in terms of privacy ;
- Set goals and objectives for where they want to go based on the elements of a privacy Roadmap.

### Elaborating an action plan

- Execute a plan to evolve privacy elements based on where they stand on the privacy roadmap ;
- Review the experience and case studies of other regional governments to understand common challenges and potential paths forward.

### Implementing the framework

Building effective interaction between the Arab governments to spur deeper collaboration and cross-learning, as well as to build trust and confidence.

Workshop on Building Trust in Digital Government Services, Beirut, 11-12 September 2023