United Nations E/CN.3/2024/22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 December 2023

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Fifty-fifth session
New York, 27 February–1 March 2024
Item 4 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Items for decision: open data

Open data

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2023/325 and past practices, provides an overview of the work on open data carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in 2023, in collaborative efforts with its partners. It encompasses methodological advancements, data dissemination activities and capacity-building endeavours in relation to open data for official statistics. In addition, the document outlines a proposed work programme, led by the Division in collaboration with other partner organizations, aimed at advancing the implementation of open data practices in official statistics at the global, regional and national levels. The Statistical Commission is invited to call upon all members of the global statistical community to actively participate in the modernization of the UNdata platform, to use it as a complementary mechanism for the open dissemination of official statistics and to endorse the proposed work programme, as covered in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the present report, on continued efforts towards the modernization of the UNdata platform and the implementation of open data principles.

* E/CN.3/2024/1.

23-22674 (E) 050124

I. Introduction

1. In 2018, the Statistical Commission, by its decision 49/105, created a subgroup on open data under the Friends of the Chair group on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to work on principles, guidance and support for the implementation of open data in countries. In 2019, the Friends of the Chair group reported on its work on open data in a background document that provided a synthesis of existing open data work covering data interoperability, the implementation of open data practices and the anonymization of data for official statistics. The Commission, in its decision 50/105, established a working group on open data to continue the work, including developing guidance for the assessment and practical application of open data in the context of official statistics. The working group presented its work in providing guidance to national statistical offices on open data practices in the production of official statistics to the Commission in 2020. In 2022, at its fifty-third session, the Commission agreed that, as open data issues became more relevant and in order to create innovative new value from data, the issues should be incorporated into the discussions of the Working Group on Data Stewardship (decision 53/126).

2. The present report describes the work related to open data carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and its partners in 2023; the work of other working groups, including the Working Group on Data Stewardship, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, the collaborative on administrative data and the collaborative on citizen data, in relation to open data; capacity-building activities that support countries on open data; and a work programme on open data, on which the Commission is to provide feedback.

II. Work on open data by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with partners

Modernization of the UNdata portal

3. In response to the Secretary-General's Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere and the recommendation of the Statistical Commission at its fifty-second session,[1] the Division is leading the modernization of its UNdata portal, which is aimed at providing a single entry point for authoritative statistical data and metadata from the United Nations system and other participating international and regional organizations. As part of this initiative, the Division is focusing on increasing the visibility and accessibility of authoritative national and international sources of official statistics, improving search, analytics and validation capabilities for policymakers and decision-makers, fostering the interoperability of statistical data across the United Nations system, Member States and partner organizations and enhancing the value and dissemination of data by creating meaningful interlinkages across global, regional, national and subnational data portals, all presented through an innovative, user-friendly web interface.

4. As part of the UNdata modernization efforts, the Division launched a customized knowledge graph platform [2] with a specific focus on the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators during the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023, in partnership with Data Commons, an initiative of Google. The platform enables users to seamlessly explore and retrieve Goal data

[1] See E/2021/24-E/CN.3/2021/30.

[2] United Nations, "Announcements – SDG Media Zone at the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly". Available at https://media.un.org/en/asset/k19/k1990zw3x3.

organized by country and region or by Goal, target and indicator.[3] It also offers advanced search functions using natural language queries and helps users to gain a comprehensive understanding by consolidating Goal data and narratives from The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 in a single place. In addition, users have access to tools for the in-depth exploration and visualization of Goal data, enhancing the comprehensibility of the data and actionable insights.

5. Future updates and improvements will involve expanding data content and data services to include statistical data compiled by different entities across the United Nations system, as well as enhancing cross-domain data integration, user experience and user engagement. The next phase of the project will build upon existing standards, infrastructure and communities of practice. This includes integration tasks to validate transformations and mappings, utilizing .Stat Core as a dimensional data repository, leveraging Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standards, deploying .Stat Core and associated tools on United Nations global platform infrastructure and engaging with the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community to build capacity to manage data life cycles within .Stat Core. Additional plans include creating new thematic and data provider landing pages, equipping partner agencies with tools to streamline their data integration workflows and refining search capabilities using natural language processing and machine learning.

Data documentation

6. Data sets available online must be accompanied by metadata to support the discoverability and repurposing of existing data. According to a survey of national statistical offices in 2021,[4] 86 per cent of the offices in low- and lower-middle-income countries identified strengthening the compilation and dissemination of metadata as the top priority to support the adoption of open data principles and practices.

7. In this context, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys produced a guidance note entitled “Standards and Good Practices for Survey Data Documentation”,[5] led by the World Bank. The note is focused on the production, dissemination and use of metadata to ensure the visibility and discoverability of survey microdata, as well as their usability and credibility. In the note, the Working Group also recommends a research programme on data discoverability (for example, recommender systems and semantic searchability). Moreover, the note contains a call upon the international community to support the broad and rapid adoption of the Data Documentation Initiative Codebook and other metadata standards and the improvement and harmonization of data documentation and dissemination practice.

8. The collaborative on administrative data organized a webinar focused on metadata and the need to harmonize concepts, standards and definitions in order to increase the sharing of data by administrative data holders with national statistical offices. While the offices have a relatively good understanding of data documentation in many countries, the levels of knowledge and implementation vary significantly across administrative data holders.

Data interoperability

9. Data interoperability is an important element of open data that enables data usability and use, brings data communities together and supports the effort towards data integration as the statistical community moves towards a more integrated approach by bringing a variety of data sources together. There is no internationally

[3] See https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/undatacommons/sdgs.

[4] World Bank, *Survey on the Implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data*, (Washington, D.C., 2022).

[5] Available at https://unstats.un.org/iswghs/documents/ISWGHS-metadata-20221123.pdf.

agreed definition of data interoperability, but it can technically cover broadly four aspects:[6]

(a) Syntactic interoperability: adopting standard data formats and implementing application programming interfaces and connectors that allow data to be accessed and integrated;

(b) Semantic interoperability: developing common vocabularies and classifications to ensure that data are described and mapped across data systems without ambiguity;

(c) Conceptual interoperability: designing and collecting data in a standardized and harmonized manner to ensure that data are interoperable by design and to facilitate data integration;

(d) Search interoperability: enabling users to search for and find data across data sources.

10. Strengthening national capacity on data interoperability and integration is one of the eight technical priorities highlighted in the paper of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys entitled "Positioning household surveys for the next decade",[7] endorsed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-fourth session (decision 54/105). For household surveys, interoperability by design refers to using harmonized concepts and definitions across different sources, georeferencing household surveys, collecting common "predictive" variables in surveys and other data sources for effective integration and obtaining unique identifiers for record linkage.[8]

11. Data interoperability is also covered by the collaborative on administrative data. Task team 3 of the collaborative covers the technical and information technology aspects related to interoperability, while task team 2 focuses on developing concrete and practical guidance to help increase the sharing of data by administrative data holders with national statistical offices.

12. Semantic web technologies provide an opportunity to make open data more interoperable, reusable and efficiently searchable, thereby adding substantial value to open data initiatives. It works by allowing open data sets to be described in a standardized, machine-readable way on the Internet, enhancing the integration and discovery of existing open data sets. It provides a powerful mechanism for data integration, allowing users to find and combine related data and metadata across domains in a meaningful manner. The Division, in collaboration with other international organizations, is promoting the increased availability of international statistical classifications in linked open data format, with a view to enabling the automation of cross-referencing between different classifications and data sets and the reusability and integration of statistical data across domains. Moreover, the Division is promoting the publication of statistical data in that format to enable users to leverage artificial intelligence and data science methods in order to obtain novel insights about the deep temporal, geospatial and logical interlinkages between statistical datasets.

13. The adoption of creative commons licences is gaining traction among some intergovernmental organizations, including the European Commission and the World

[6] Adapted from Liz Steele, and Tom Orrell, *The frontiers of data interoperability for sustainable development* (Development Initiatives. London, 2017). Available at www.publishwhatyoufund.org/app/uploads/2017/11/JUDS_Report_Web_061117.pdf.

[7] Available at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_54/documents/BG-3c-Position_paper-E.pdf.

[8] More discussions about survey interoperability by design are available at https://unstats.un.org/iswghs/Blogs.

Bank, as they enhance legal interoperability and enable the reuse of open data. However, while such licences present a unified international framework, their non-customizable nature may require international statistical organizations to implement additional measures to align the licences with their specific legal needs and obligations. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is actively engaged with the Publications Board to address the issue of open access and the use of the creative commons licences for its database products.

Use of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal data and metadata

14. An important example of the successful implementation of open data, interoperability and data documentation is the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) standard for the exchange and dissemination of statistical data and metadata for the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Working Group on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange for Sustainable Development Goal Indicators of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators has developed and maintains a data structure definition[9] and a metadata structure definition[10] for the global Goal data and metadata. These allow the automated exchange of global Goal data and the dissemination of the data by means of an SDMX application programming interface.[11] The Goal data structures are widely used for data exchange and dissemination; the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia has established SDMX-based data exchange of Goal indicators with 17 countries of its region, and remaining countries are expected to join in the near future. In addition, the Division converted all existing global Goal metadata sets into machine-readable format using a new harmonized metadata template based on the metadata structure definition. This made it possible to create a Goal metadata database[12] and to make the metadata available through an SDMX application programming interface.[13] The availability of machine-readable metadata through such an interface has enabled the machine-assisted translation of the Goal metadata into other languages, an achievement that was pioneered in a project of the World Bank, together with other partners.[14]

Secure access to microdata

15. A concept that is slightly different yet closely linked to open data is the dissemination of microdata. In its paper on positioning household surveys for the next decade, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys strongly recommends providing secure access to confidential survey microdata in order to promote further use and research. Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Open Data Watch, the Working Group conducted a stocktaking exercise on the status of survey microdata dissemination at the national and international levels and published a set of reports in 2023. In the reports, the Working Group found that access to data at the level of individual records from censuses and household surveys posed significant challenges to the implementation of open data, including maintaining a balance between the first Fundamental Principle of Official

[9] The latest data structure definition is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/sdmx-working-group.

[10] Available at https://registry.sdmx.org/metadata/metadatastructure.html.

[11] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/sdmx-working-group.

[12] Available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/SDMXMetadataPage.

[13] Guidelines on the use of the application programming interface are available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/SDMX_SDG_METADATA_API_MANUAL.pdf.

[14] The Sustainable Development Goal Metadata Translation Project, which is supported by the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, collaborated with the Statistics Division to develop methods for converting global Goal indicator metadata into machine-readable format for the purpose of periodic translation. See https://worldbank.github.io/sdg-metadata.

Statistics, in which the “citizens’ entitlement to public information” is recognized, and the sixth, according to which “individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential”.[15]

16. In its reports, the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys found that uncertainty about the effectiveness of methods of disclosure control and the legal responsibilities of statistical offices had inhibited the dissemination of valuable microdata. Even when microdata were made available through methods that protected the confidentiality of respondents, their use was often limited by restrictions on the redistribution or commercial use of data. To encourage the safe and open dissemination of microdata, the task force recommended the adoption of consistent guidelines concerning legal frameworks, data security, disclosure control, and access and dissemination methods. In the reports, the Working Group noted that open-source tools for the dissemination of microdata existed but that many countries would require technical and financial support to implement sustainable dissemination programmes. While international organizations and donors could support countries directly, they could also develop and model good practices through the dissemination of their own microdata.

17. In addition, the privacy-enhancing technologies task team of the Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics is advancing various initiatives to enable secure access to microdata under the custodianship of national statistical offices. Those efforts were aimed at integrating cutting-edge privacy technologies such as anonymization and secure enclaves into a “structured transparency” model in which researchers access and analyse microdata through the application programming interface of a secure domain server without direct data exposure, ensuring privacy and data integrity. The scalability of the model will allow for cross-institutional analyses, in which multiple data sets can be queried upon institutional approval, fostering a broader understanding of complex research questions.

Citizen-generated data and the open data principles

18. At its fifty-fourth session, in 2023, the Statistical Commission requested the development of a conceptual framework on citizen-generated data and the establishment of a collaborative on citizen data (decision 54/102). The contribution of citizens to data throughout the value chain is increasingly recognized as critical to overcoming many of existing data challenges and increasing data impact. In the context of open data, the engagement of citizens helps to advance fairness, inclusiveness, openness, accountability and transparency, all prerequisites for the full implementation of open data principles. The development of the citizen-generated data framework is ongoing. A first draft was presented at the Expert Group Meeting held in Copenhagen from 27 to 29 September 2023.[16] The implementation of the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data will be guided by principles extracted and adapted from existing principles, such as the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, taking into account the human rights-based approach to data. Such principles include, for instance, openness, accountability and transparency, and ensuring data confidentiality.[17]

Data stewardship and open data

19. As agreed by the Statistical Commission at its fifty-third session, the Working Group on Data Stewardship incorporated elements related to the advancement of open

[15] See General Assembly resolution 68/261.

[16] Annex 1 to the draft report on the expert group meeting, available at https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/citizenData/events/egm-conceptual-framework-cgd-sep2023/CGD-EGM-20230928-Report.pdf.

[17] More information about the work on citizen-generated data can be found in E/CN.3/2024/19.

data into its work programme (decision 53/126). The Working Group has considered several aspects of open data practices and principles and how they relate to a stronger data steward role of national statistical offices. In particular, as part of their role as data stewards, the offices can promote equity and inclusion along the data value chain by understanding user expectations and needs to increase trust in (and the value, use and impact of) data for the public good, establish a transparent data request process and clear procedures for microdata access and publication, build the capacity of external users for using and understanding open data and address the concerns of statistics producers in the implementation of the open-by-default model.

20. A global consultation on the role of national statistical offices as data stewards was conducted from July to September 2023 and included a number of important aspects related to the implementation of open data principles. Some 73 per cent of respondents indicated that there was a body or agency in their country responsible for ensuring that data assets and statistics produced across the national statistical system were readily findable and accessible to different users. Moreover, 56 per cent of respondents indicated that the responsibilities of the national statistical office related to data findability and accessibility had expanded in the past two years. This demonstrates the important role that national statistical offices play in ensuring that data are open, findable and accessible globally. The increase in responsibility was particularly pronounced in the Asia and Pacific region, where 70 per cent of respondents indicated an increase in the responsibility of the national statistical offices to ensure the findability and accessibility of their data. These results indicate that open data will remain an important element of the framework for data stewardship to be developed by the Working Group on Data Stewardship. Co-leads of the workstreams of the Working Group include the national statistics offices of Argentina, Colombia and Poland, Open Data Watch, the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics under the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the World Privacy Forum.

Voluntary national review and open data

21. Almost all States Members of the United Nations have presented their efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through voluntary national reviews. In addition, for monitoring at the subnational and local government levels, voluntary local reviews have been produced. While improvements have been made over the past seven years on the use of data for the voluntary national and local reviews, not all the information reported in voluntary national and local reviews is available on government sites or in open formats. A research project is being carried out, led by the Open Data Charter and Open Data Watch, on the different models of data governance that influence the publication of Sustainable Development Goal monitoring data from the perspective of open data in 11 countries. These data governance models and the openness of data will be compared against the current practice of reporting data in voluntary national reviews for Goals 3, 5 and 13.

Open data in critical sectors

22. Reports from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women),[18] Open Data Watch,[19] Data2X[20] and the

[18] Available at https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2023/09/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2023.

[19] Available at https://gdc.opendatawatch.com/report2023.

[20] Available at https://data2x.org/resource-center/mapping-gender-data-gaps.

World Bank[21] confirm that gender data are less available, less complete and less open than other types of data. Even as countries continue to make progress in other thematic areas, gender data systems still lag behind. Additional support is needed to identify priority data sets, address methodological challenges preventing the data from being published with disaggregation by sex and ensure that data are published with additional levels of disaggregation to reflect their intersectional nature. In November 2023, Open Data Watch launched the Gender Data Compass,[22] a tool that could form the basis for providing such support. Building upon the successful experience in supporting countries through the Open Data Inventory,[23] the Compass provides targeted support on gender data.

23. The production of climate change data is another area that presents serious challenges for national statistical systems owing to the cross-cutting nature of the data, both sectorally (in terms of population impacts and infrastructure) and technically (in terms of disaster impact accounting, geospatial data and rapid response mobile phone surveys). Therefore, taking a climate change data ecosystem approach[24] is important to coordinate the complex networks of stakeholders that produce and disseminate climate change data. In this regard, an assessment tool, including a template for open data on climate change adaptation and resilience, has been developed by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the Center for Open Data Enterprise and Open Data Watch, in collaboration with Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) in Senegal. The assessment tool will be further tested with more countries in order to support the development of best practices for open climate data.

Championing open data

24. The Division has worked closely with partners, such as Open Data Watch, to ensure that open data remain integral to other data and statistics initiatives. This was achieved through presentations and sessions at the United Nations World Data Forum, the World Statistics Congress and the International Association of Official Statistics Conference of 2023. Similarly, the concept of open data was introduced to the scientific and research community through a presentation at the Data for Policy conference of 2022 and the development and dissemination of an open data resource guide. Through contributions in those forums, the concept of open data was used as a starting point for important discussions around data ethics and trust.

25. Open-source data dissemination tools are increasingly a key enabler of open data initiatives in statistical organizations. For example, the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community plays a crucial role in making open data accessible, by bringing together a large community of experts to collaborate on the development of .Stat Suite, a full open source solution that provides an SDMX-native data dissemination platform. This approach allows for the exchange of experiences and knowledge and for cross-fertilization among statistical organizations, enabling them to move at their own pace while benefiting from the collective strength and creativity of the community.

[21] Available at https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/003135b8-84de-4d5c-a681-444c2efb1917.

[22] See https://gdc.opendatawatch.com.

[23] See https://odin.opendatawatch.com.

[24] See www.paris21.org/project/climate-change-data.

Open data and the implementation of national quality assurance frameworks

26. There are many similarities between the statistical quality principles of the United Nations national quality assurance framework for official statistics[25] and the criteria for open data used in the International Open Data Charter, such as timeliness and comprehensiveness, accessibility and usability, and comparability and interoperability. In fact, principles of the Charter have been taken into account when the list of best practices (elements to be assured) of the National Quality Assurance Framework has been developed to reflect best practices for the dissemination of statistics. Hence, the use and implementation of the Framework support the implementation of open data practices. This alignment extends to other widely recognized international quality assurance frameworks, which generally conform to one another. Therefore, those responsible for official statistics typically endeavour to adhere to the principles outlined in the Charter.

III. Capacity-building efforts

27. The Division and its partners have carried out various capacity-building activities in areas related to open data. For example, through the Data For Now initiative, support has been provided to countries for data integration, for which improving the data interoperability of the statistical and information technology infrastructure has been an integral element. Countries and national statistical offices that have benefited from the initiative include Colombia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the State of Palestine.

28. A total of 19 countries[26] in Africa and Latin America have benefited from tailored training on open data covering (a) data coverage and accessibility, (b) data availability gaps in social, economic and environmental statistics, (c) data openness and (d) how published data can be used to create impact in a country. The training was provided by Open Data Watch, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The training materials were compiled on the basis of national practices, national staff capacity and the short-, medium- and long-term objectives that countries would like to achieve.

29. Many national statistics offices have noted that a lack of coordination within the national statistical system is a key reason that open data principles cannot be implemented across the system. A number of countries have developed initiatives to help address these issues, notably the United Arab Emirates, which developed a competitive programme called the Open Data Race that provides incentives to ministries to contribute data sets to their open data portal. Other countries, such as Ghana, have expressed interest in similar activities to boost the engagement of statistics producers other than national statistics offices in open data initiatives. Although these programmes should ultimately be led by the offices, initial training on the basic elements of open data by partners such as Open Data Watch proved helpful in the case of the United Arab Emirates for providing additional legitimacy to the programme and a solid foundation of open data principles in alignment with international standards.

[25] See *United Nations National Quality Assurance Frameworks Manual for Official Statistics* (United Nations publication, 2019), chap. 3 and annex.

[26] Countries in Africa: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago.

30. Engagement with national stakeholders through various initiatives, such as the Data for Now initiative, the collaborative on administrative data and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys, has revealed a strong demand for strengthening national open data capacities. The Division, under the Data for Now initiative and jointly with partners, is therefore in the process of developing a more targeted capacity development and training plan around open data through which it will explore open data engagement across the data value chain, building upon existing guidance materials. Initial work will be focused on a few pilot countries to ensure that it meets the needs, and the plan is expected to be expanded over time to benefit more countries.

IV. Proposed work programmes

UNdata modernization

31. The Division will continue the UNdata modernization project to work with regional and international organizations within the United Nations system on establishing a unified entry point for the open dissemination of statistical data compiled by the organizations.

32. The Division will deploy .Stat Suite as a dimensional, cross-domain, open data repository for official statistics to enable the effective dissemination of official statistics from across the United Nations system, leveraging the use of SDMX standards, and will formulate a strategy to enhance the accessibility of .Stat as a service, exploring the potential use of the infrastructure provided by the United Nations Global Platform.

33. The Division will engage actively with the Statistical Information System Collaboration Community. The goal here is to strengthen the capacity of the statistical community to manage data life cycles efficiently, utilizing the functionalities of .Stat Core.

Implementation of the open data principles

34. The Division will continue its collaboration with partners to improve national capacity regarding various elements related to open data. The idea is to initially assess demands with a number of pilot countries and, on that basis, develop a comprehensive open data training plan that covers all stages of the data value chain in order to benefit more countries.

35. The Division, jointly with the members of the Steering Committee of the collaborative on citizen data, will develop guidelines for the implementation of the finalized Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data in countries and offer technical support when possible. This effort is aimed at supporting countries in advancing the use of citizen data to help fill data gaps, to give greater agency to citizens for better data governance, management and protection and to improve data openness, fairness and impact.

V. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission

36. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To call upon all members of the global statistical community to actively participate in the modernization of the UNdata platform and to use it as a complementary mechanism for the open dissemination of official statistics;**

(b) **To endorse the proposed work programme as covered in paragraphs 31 and 32 of the present report on continued efforts towards the modernization of the UNdata platform and implementation of open data principles.**