

Defining Data Stewardship: A Collaborative Global Discourse

A United Nations Statistical Commission Side Event

Hosted by UN Working Group on Data Stewardship

Tuesday, 27 February 2024 | 13:15 – 14:30PM

In-person (Conference Room C, UNHQ conference centre)

Data are critical resources in our quest for inclusive and sustainable development. However, data do not manage themselves. This creates a need for data stewards across the national statistical system (NSS). The broader concept of data stewardship is not new in the world of data and statistics. In many countries, national statistical offices (NSOs) are already responsible for maintaining trust in and the integrity of data (in addition to official statistics) – activities that are often considered to be part of data stewardship. Without a common definition and framework to understand the role of a data steward, however, NSOs cannot share challenges and develop solutions collaboratively. This underscores a need for a global definition of data stewardship that would facilitate easier exchange of knowledge and best practices among NSOs and discussions of emerging challenges and solutions around the topic of data stewardship.

To help develop guidance for NSOs on their approach to data stewardship, the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission established the Data Stewardship Working Group (DSWG) in 2021. An important contribution of this group is a global consultation with NSOs across the globe to develop an inclusive, actionable, and context-sensitive understanding of data stewardship within the context of official statistics.

Hosted by the Working Group on Data Stewardship, this event will bring together representatives from NSOs to share the findings from the recently completed global consultation. This event will set the scene and highlight global and regional trends in the understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a data steward. Questions to be explored in the session include:

- How is the role of a data steward developing within different countries and regions?
- What specific emerging areas related to data stewardship require heightened attention and research?
- What future role do National Statistical Offices have as data stewards?
- What are some measures or good practices of successful implementation of data stewardship?

Speakers:

- Dominik Rozkrut, President, Statistics Poland and Shaida Badiee, ODW as co-moderators
- Piedad Urdinola Contreras, Director General, DANE Colombia
- Georges-Simon Ulrich, Director General, Swiss Federal Statistical Office
- Miosotis Rivas Peña, National Director, Oficina Nacional de Estadística-República Dominicana
- Samuel Annim, Chief Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service

Ian Mark Rutherford, Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division

Agenda (75 mins)

Time	Action	Speaker
5 mins	Welcoming Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shaida Badiee and Dominik Rozkrut
8 mins	Overall results of global consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ian Mark Rutherford
30 mins	Moderated panel discussion reacting to the overall results and proposed checklist of responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shaida Badiee (moderator)• Dominik Rozkrut (moderator)• Georges-Simon Ulrich• Miosotis Rivas Peña• Samuel Annim
25 mins	Q&A	All participants
7 mins	Concluding remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Piedad Urdinola Contreras