

Integrating Citizen Data into Official Statistics: From Vision to Implementation

Early Reflections, Experiences, and Emerging Impact

Date/time: 2 March 2026, 6:15-7:30pm

Location: Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice (320 E. 43rd St, New York, NY 10017, USA)

Register: [here](#)

Citizen data has gained increasing attention as national statistical offices in countries seek to become more inclusive, responsive, and resilient in addressing evolving data needs. Citizen data, produced with meaningful engagement of citizens throughout the data value chain, offers important opportunities to complement official statistics by filling data gaps, enhancing granularity, and amplifying voices that are often underrepresented in traditional data sources such as censuses, surveys and administrative data.

In recent years, this agenda has been advanced through the work of the **Collaborative on Citizen Data**, including the endorsement of the Copenhagen Framework on Citizen Data at the 56th session of the UN Statistical Commission. The Framework provides shared principles and practical guidance to support countries in engaging with citizen data in ways that are methodologically sound, ethically grounded, and aligned with practices within national statistical systems.

One year after the endorsement of the Copenhagen Framework, attention has shifted from vision-setting to implementation. Countries are beginning to experiment with and institutionalize different approaches to engaging with citizen data, through partnerships, methodological adaptations, and governance arrangements, while development partners are adjusting their support to respond to these emerging practices. At the same time, there is a growing need to reflect on what is changing in practice, what early signals of impact can be observed, and what can be strengthened going forward to support sustainable integration.

This UNSC side event provides a timely platform to take stock of early experiences, reflect on emerging impacts, and foster shared learning among countries, partners, and other stakeholders.

The side event aims to:

1. Highlight country experiences in moving from conceptual discussions on citizen data to concrete implementation within official statistical systems.
2. Reflect on early changes and emerging impacts associated with the application of the Copenhagen Framework, including institutional, methodological, and partnership-related developments.
3. Facilitate peer learning by sharing practical lessons, challenges, and enabling factors from country experiences.
4. Identify areas that can be further strengthened, including support needs, coordination mechanisms, and approaches to scaling and sustaining implementation.
5. Generate continued interest and engagement in the work of the Collaborative on Citizen Data and its future programme of work.