UNSC 2025 Side event: **Unlocking the Potential of Mobile Phone Data for Official Statistics: A Practical Guidance for National Statistical Offices**

In-person

Location: Ford Foundation, 320 E 43rd St, New York, NY 10017, USA

Date: March 4

Time: 18h15 – 19h30

Event description:

Mobile network data holds immense potential to revolutionize official statistics by providing granular, timely, and cost-effective insights. Traditional data collection methods, such as household surveys conducted by National Statistical Offices (NSOs), are resource-intensive and time-consuming. Recognizing this, many NSOs prioritize mobile phone data over other emerging data sources. However, despite its transformative potential, NSOs frequently encounter persistent barriers to accessing and utilizing data from Mobile Network Operators (MNOs). Many projects take years to launch, facing common regulatory, technical, and institutional challenges across national contexts.

The event will highlight the broader applications of Mobile Phone Data (MPD) in various statistical domains, including tourism, transport, migration, population dynamics, disaster management, and the information society. Organized by the **UN-CEBD Task Team on Mobile Phone Data,** and led by the ITU, World Bank, Flowminder and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, this event will emphasize the leadership role of NSOs in MPD initiatives, showcasing strategies for engaging MNOs while ensuring privacy, security, and public trust.

Speakers will introduce the *MPD Maturity Assessment Framework* and *Theory of Change*, equipping NSOs with tools to evaluate their current capacities and implement targeted interventions to enhance MPD use. Additionally, the event will introduce a new practical guide offering a step-by-step approach to accessing privately-held mobile phone data. This publication, produced by Positium for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, provides a how-to guide for NSOs, emphasizing the early stages of engagement with MNOs, navigating regulatory landscapes, and building trust through responsible data governance.

It will also feature insights from the *Global Data Facility (GDF)-funded World Bank/ITU project, Putting Mobile Phone Data to Work for Policy,* which supports 18 countries in leveraging MPD for policymaking. Selected NSO representatives from these countries will share their experiences and planned activities, on how they plan to use MPD to fill critical data gaps, improve timeliness and granularity, and strengthen their position as data leaders.

The event will feature an interactive interview relay panel alongside hands-on group exercises designed to familiarize NSOs with the tools introduced during the event.

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided for attendees.

Registration: Interested participants should register at least 24 hours in advance to join the event at the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdQ-gtK4VGeMDYWR48iQ_qW-CQxXRktONsdq81LKVUCe-Ag4A/viewform.

Speakers:

Moderator: Ms. Janet McLaren, GPSDD

18:15 – 18:20	Welcome - Janet McLaren
18:20 – 18:25	Ms. Esperanza Magpantay - Senior Statistician, ITU
18:25 – 18:30	Mr. Erki Positium - Positium
18:30 – 18:33	Mr. Marcio Pochmann - President IBGE, Brazil
18:34 – 18:37	Mr. Nyakassi Sanyang - Gambia Bureau of Statistics, Statistician General
18:38 – 18:41	Mr. Tarek Tkitek - Ingénieur Sécurité Sénior, Institut National de la Statistique, Tunisia
18:42 – 18:50	Ms. Cathy Riley, Flowminder
18:50 – 19:00	Interactive activity – Cathy Riley
19:00 – 19:10	Q&A
19:10 - 19:15	Mr. Trevor Monroe - World Bank
19:15 - 19:17	Closing - Janet McLaren