



**Esri USER CONFERENCE 2020**  
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Video Statement  
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Dear colleagues,

To manage the COVID-19 crisis we need data. To manage the inevitable serious socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis we need data. To manage the 2030 long term Sustainable Development Agenda we need data.

Not just any data! We need good data; high quality data; data that the decision makers can trust; and we need global data, data we can aggregate and compare among countries – so we can learn lessons together. And when I say data, I do not only mean official statistics and traditional numbers. I mean statistics plus geospatial information plus big data.

And that's what the United Nations Statistics Division, that I have the privilege to lead, is all about. But we can certainly not do this alone – we need partners. Partners like Esri and Jack Dangermond, who have the vision and the generosity to invest together with us, both in physical as well as in human capital around the world. To jointly build resilient and sustainable national information systems.

So it's my great pleasure to speak, today, to you as an audience of data and information experts and to tell you what we have already done, and to invite you to join our journey:

We have helped National Statistical Offices to build **Open SDG data hubs** that make data available to all types of users in machine-readable, geo-spatially enabled formats, to test hypotheses or make predictions, or to build interactive dashboards, maps and visualizations. Furthermore, in a pioneering public-private partnership with Esri we have globally launched the **Federated Information System for the SDGs**, which allows countries in unprecedented ways the dissemination and use of integrated statistical and geospatial data, leveraging web - GIS technologies that facilitate data sharing, interoperability and collaboration to report on the SDGs at the local, national, regional and global levels. And in the current crisis, we have strengthened our partnership with Esri even further, creating a global network of **COVID-19 data hubs** making data on the spread of the virus and its economic and social impacts readily available. And we have developed, in partnership with the World Bank, the

**Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, or IGIF**, as a strategic to operational guide to assist countries in integrating and strengthening their national geospatial information management capabilities.

Please join us on this exciting journey to bridge the digital divide and give ALL countries the data architectures they need. Let's TOGETHER unleash the power of data – to improve everybody's life.