

Session 7: Non-traditional data sources and innovative methods to gather better evidence and « leave no one behind »

Title: A federated system of SDGs data hubs and the use of geospatial data to monitor gender equality

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The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, issued on 15 January 2017, recognized the need to facilitate the application of modern technologies and new data sources to mainstream statistical activities to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as tracking progress of the SDGs. It called for the identification and removal of barriers to the use of new data sources, including registries and administrative data, *geospatial information systems*, and other innovative data sources. To this end, the Action Plan promotes the integration of modern geospatial information management systems within mainstream statistical production programmes, highlighting synergies between the two systems; and stresses the need to build confidence, trust and capacity through coordinated measures, legal reforms, and better funding, as well as through the development of principles and guidelines, to support the integration of data from traditional and non-traditional data sources. Further, coming out of the second World Data Forum, The Dubai Declaration states that we must “Ensure that quality, relevant, timely, open and disaggregated data “by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” are made available and accessible to all users.”

Esri began working with the United Nations Statistics Division in a joint research exercise in 2017, to test the concept of a federated system of open SDG Data Hubs as a practical means for enabling technologies and capabilities to strengthen the ability of the national and global statistical systems to manage and share data and good practices for the SDGs, to allow countries to strive for better data interoperability and integration, to enhance relationships between national and global data, and to measure, monitor and report on the SDGs in a geographic context.

The Federated Information System for the SDGs is now live, and, in this session, we will show how this type of system can be used to collaborate, monitor and inform of the progress on goals, including gender inequality.

The use of geospatial analysis to better understand data and to reveal patterns and trends has been conducted for decades. Geospatial analysis, sometimes referred to as just spatial analysis, is an approach to applying statistical analysis and other analytic techniques to data which has a geographical or spatial component. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provide a variety of capabilities designed to capture, store, analyze, manage, and present all types of geographical and statistical data including those with a location component such as gender statistics.

The purpose of the presentation is to introduce the Federated Information System for the SDGs, to present on the potential of this platform for gender data analysis, visualization and collaboration, and to show how it could be used to innovate and improve efforts to better understand gender indicators.