

Reconciling the right to privacy and the need for statistical information – Side Event

Necessity and Proportionality

Organizers: Statistics Canada and United Nations Statistics Division

Currently Scheduled for Tuesday, March 3 from 1:15 2:30 pm.

The 2030 Agenda has brought to the forefront the need for more data to be able to report on the Sustainable Development Goals. The Data For Now initiative which seeks to increase the use of robust methods and tools to improve the timeliness, coverage and quality of SDG data, as well as the work of the Global Working Group on Big Data are two United Nations led initiatives that are examining and promoting the use of non-traditional data. However, to date these initiatives have spent little time examining various privacy issues related to these types of data.

Indeed, as National Statistical Offices look to incorporate non-traditional data sources (such as Big Data, Earth Observation, Citizen generated data, etc.) into the National Statistical System to address data gaps, respond to declining survey response rates, and report on new and emerging initiatives, much of the discussion has focussed upon how to obtaining these data and access their fit for use. However, there is a further issue that NSOs will need to address which is related to privacy. Despite NSOs ensuring the confidentiality of respondent information, concerns regarding, privacy, the right to know and the increasing reach of NSOs have been noted as a cause for concern in some countries.

This side event would bring together NSOs that have incorporated Big Data into the national statistical system to discuss how they address issues related to necessity and proportionality – in layperson terms “the need to know and sensitivity of the information” where sensitivity can refer to the type of information of the data or the sensitivity of the public with respect to the data being shared with the NSO.

Moderator and introduction- Anil Arora – Chief Statistician of Canada

Speakers

UNSD Director – Stefan Schweinfest

Chief Statistician –TBC

Director General – Eurostat (Mariana Kotzeva) - Confirmed

Chief Statistician Ireland (Padraig Dalton) - Confirmed

Privacy Commissioner of Canada – Daniel Therrien - Confirmed