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## Statistical Commission

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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the  
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

## **Report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### **Note by the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2021/224 and past practices, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report provides a summary of the recent activities of the High-level Group related to the third United Nations World Data Forum, held from 3 to 6 October 2021 in Bern, and details of the outcome statement adopted by the Forum, entitled “Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals”; the launch of the World Bank Global Data Facility and the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data; the global strategic surveys of national statistical offices to monitor the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data; and plans for the next two United Nations World Data Forums, to be held in Hangzhou, China, in April 2023 and Medellín, Colombia, in November 2024.

The Commission will also have before it a background document on the review of the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, which involves a global survey of national statistical offices.

Action to be taken by the Commission is set out in paragraph 27 of the report.

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\* E/CN.3/2022/1.



## I. Introduction

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established by the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session. It is composed of representatives of 22 national statistical offices and operates under the auspices of the Commission. In its decision 46/101 (see [E/2015/24](#)), the Commission tasked the High-level Group with providing strategic leadership for the implementation process relating to the Sustainable Development Goals as it concerned statistical monitoring and reporting, and with fostering statistical capacity-building, partnership and coordination. The current Co-Chairs are the President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Ola Awad, and the Director General of the Institute of Statistics of Albania, Elsa Dhuli.

2. In 2021, a rotation of members took place in each region, as stipulated in the terms of reference of the High-level Group, with 10 new members starting their term on 1 July 2021. The process was managed by the five regional statistical commissions, assisted by the respective Statistics Divisions of those regional commissions. Members who rotated out were allowed to attend meetings of the High-level Group until the end of the third United Nations World Data Forum to ensure stability and maintain institutional knowledge. The list of current members of the High-level Group and the summaries of the four meetings held in 2021 are available on the Group's website (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/>).

## II. Revision of the terms of reference

3. Members of the High-level Group represent their respective regions and are expected to regularly consult within them to reflect broader perspectives in the work of the Group. To strengthen the strategic nature of the High-level Group and its efficient working generally, the Group proposes some important changes to its terms of reference, including: (a) defining the leadership level for each member country so that the member countries can effectively participate in strategic discussions and decision-making; (b) introducing a mandatory participation rate to remain a member of the Group to ensure the consistent involvement of members and full regional representation at all meetings; and (c) maintaining a standing list of “issue partners”, as non-member and observer participants are known, to be invited to the open segment of each meeting. The amended terms of reference are set out in annex I to the present report.

4. The initial standing list of issue partners, who have regularly attended open segments of the meetings in 2020 and 2021, will consist of senior representatives on data and statistics from the five regional commissions, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, the World Bank, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics and Open Data Watch. An updated concept note on the participation of issue partners in the work of the High-level Group will be issued to reflect these amendments to the terms of reference once approved by the Statistical Commission.

### **III. United Nations World Data Forum**

#### **A. Background**

5. The United Nations World Data Forum is organized by the High-level Group, in accordance with Statistical Commission decisions 46/101 (see [E/2015/24](#)) and 48/102 (see [E/2017/24](#)), with substantive support from the Forum programme committee, under the guidance of the Commission and in close consultation with Member States, international partners and other stakeholders. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat supports the organization of the Forum in its role as secretariat of the High-level Group, the programme committee and the Commission. The first United Nations World Data Forum was hosted by the Government of South Africa, represented by Statistics South Africa, in Cape Town from 15 to 18 January 2017, and the second Forum by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, in Dubai from 22 to 24 October 2018. A virtual Forum was held from 19 to 21 October 2020.

#### **B. Third United Nations World Data Forum**

6. On 16 July 2020, it was announced that the third Forum would take place in Bern from 18 to 21 October 2020. It was postponed to 3 to 6 October 2021, with a final announcement made on 9 July 2021 to proceed with the Forum on those dates as a hybrid event. The third Forum opened on 3 October with a pre-recorded message from the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and an in-person address by the Swiss Federal Councillor for Home Affairs, Alain Berset, and continued over the next three days with seven high-level plenary sessions and almost 70 live-streamed parallel sessions encompassing the six thematic areas of the Forum, in addition to a special theme chosen by the host on data accountability.

7. At the close of the third Forum, 700 participants attended in person and over 7,000 remotely, with more than 180 countries represented across both audiences. Over 300 organizations were involved, either as speakers or session organizers, from various data communities, including academia, civil society, the private sector, national statistical offices and other government agencies. The hybrid format allowed the Forum to continue to attract an expanded and diverse audience in terms of location, age and data community affiliation, as was the case with the virtual Forum held in 2020. The importance of coming together was celebrated both at the venue in Bern and through the online event platform, where there was a vibrant community space with individual session chats and Q&As.

8. Following the virtual Forum in 2020, almost all the members of the programme committee agreed to continue on the committee and develop the programme for the third Forum. There were around 160 legacy proposals at the time, the result of the shortlisting exercise conducted with the 500 proposals originally received in the open call in February 2020 and presented during the virtual Forum. In January 2021, focal points for the legacy proposals were asked to resubmit their proposals. By May 2021, the committee and the High-level Group had decided on the resubmitted legacy proposals to select for the programme but also requested the coverage of additional topics related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) data experience. Consequently, a call for special topic proposals was launched in June 2021, and in July 2021 an additional 10 proposals were selected to complete the programme out of around 40 received.

9. In parallel to that call for special topic proposals, a call for data stories was launched to obtain short videos and other types of storytelling highlighting the importance of data related to three of the six thematic areas: innovations and synergies across data ecosystems, leaving no one behind, and understanding the world through data. The most appropriate data stories were selected to appear in the high-level plenaries on those thematic areas during the third Forum. Over 100 data stories were received and 9 were selected to be featured in the relevant high-level plenaries. The secretariat continues to incorporate the many other high-quality data stories received into ongoing communications on the Forum.

10. Much work was done to hold the Forum in a safe, secure and sustainable manner and mitigate the ongoing risks related to COVID-19, while allowing for a wide and diverse participation. In particular, the host's introduction of a sustainability concept for the Forum was a significant innovation to ensure this. The Forum built on the success and experience of the virtual Forum, broadcasting all sessions through an online event platform. The hybrid format meant that sessions in the programme were conducted both virtually and in person, with speakers participating either at the venue or online. To cater to participants who did not travel to Bern but were willing to organize a local gathering of their data community, a call for local meetups was launched between mid-July and mid-September, which resulted in 28 local meetups being proposed.

11. In addition, much effort was made on the communications and promotion of the Forum, including an international opening press conference, a national closing press conference, an interview corner at the venue, a podcast, blogs, a Sustainable Development Goals visualization contest held by the host, daily reporting and photography through the Earth Negotiations Bulletin of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, a series of press releases and alerts, and social media posts on Twitter.<sup>1</sup>

12. Some 70 per cent of the participants reported in their feedback that the third Forum was better than expected, and around 90 per cent rated the Forum in the top two categories of a five-point scale for organization, structure, usefulness of the information and knowledge of the speakers.

### **C. Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals**

13. The Forum concluded with an outcome document entitled “Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals” (see annex II). The outcome document presents the data community with a call to action to develop data capacity, establish partnerships, produce data to leave no one behind, ensure that data are presented in a timely, open and impartial manner and build trust, and with appeals to make commitments to achieve these actions. The outcome document defines the global data ecosystem needed to tackle the wider issues of using data and statistics for people, planet, prosperity and peace, which will lead to the review and revision of the global action plan established in Cape Town, during the first Forum, and add further support to the concept of an innovative financial mechanism described in the Dubai Declaration, adopted at the second Forum.

14. The outcome document was prepared by a subgroup of the High-level Group composed of Albania, Angola, Mexico, the Philippines, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the State of Palestine, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the secretariat. The subgroup

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<sup>1</sup> For further details, see <https://undataforum.org/media> and <https://roadtobern.swiss>.

began its work in December 2019. It had progressed to an advanced draft by its third meeting, in June 2020, when it set that work aside to draft the outcome statement for the unanticipated virtual Forum. In April 2021, the subgroup returned to the draft to finalize it, and it was subsequently agreed by the High-level Group and prepared for public consultation between 9 August and 13 September 2021, during which over 30 responses were collected.

15. The final version of the Bern Compact reflected changes to the language recommended during the public consultation. To increase attention to the critical importance of data in the COVID-19 pandemic response and to building back better to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the High-level Group will seek opportunities to share the outcome document with policymakers, including at high-level forums, and with intergovernmental bodies.

#### **D. Selection of hosts and preparations for the fourth and fifth United Nations World Data Forums**

16. Following the disruption to the Forum's timetable due to COVID-19 and the changing format requirements needed to run the Forum, the High-level Group agreed at its twenty-second meeting to restart the process to select the next host; it was decided that the hosts for the fourth and fifth Forums would be selected through that process. The selection of the two hosts at the same time made it easier to organize two Forums in a shorter time frame than anticipated and meant that a path could be plotted to return the Forum to its intended even-year biennial cycle.

17. On 21 June 2021, a direct call was communicated to all permanent missions to the United Nations and shared with chief statisticians for detailed bids for either or both host positions, with a deadline for submission by the end of August. In addition to the introductory letter, a set of host criteria was shared in the communication to be used by members of the High-level Group to assess the bids received by the deadline. By 31 August 2021, the High-level Group had received one bid to host the fourth Forum and three bids to host the fifth Forum. At a special virtual meeting convened on 14 September 2021, members heard presentations on the bids and engaged in a Q&A session with prospective hosts. At the conclusion of the special meeting, the 16 members present decided by secret ballot that the fourth Forum would be hosted by China and the fifth Forum by Colombia.

18. The dates and location for the next two Forums are provisionally set as follows: the fourth Forum in the week of 24 April 2023 in Hangzhou, and the fifth Forum in the week of 18 November 2024 in Medellín. The programme for the next two Forums will be developed according to the following timeline:

##### **Fourth Forum, April 2023**

Call for proposals – June 2022

Call for data stories (youth competition) – October 2022

Provisional programme – December 2022

##### **Fifth Forum, November 2024**

Call for proposals – December 2023

Call for data stories (youth competition) – April 2024

Provisional programme – June 2024

#### **IV. Launch of the World Bank Global Data Facility and the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data**

19. At the third Forum, the launch of two new complementary solutions to respond to the Dubai Declaration for an innovative funding mechanism to implement the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data was announced: the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data and the World Bank Global Data Facility.

20. The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data is a new free online platform that provides access to data on over 15,000 projects and allows aid recipients, donors and the public at large to understand data financing flows, identify funding gaps and connect with new communities of experts. The Clearinghouse is aimed at closing the stark data financing gap that prevents progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. It was developed by the Bern Network on Financing Data for Development, a multi-stakeholder alliance created in 2019 by the Government of Switzerland to promote more and better funding for development data.

21. The Global Data Facility is the new World Bank-hosted fund to support data and statistics priorities at the global, regional, national and community levels. It was designed in collaboration with the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the High-level Group and country counterparts and centres of excellence around the world. The Facility will support investments in both the fundamentals and the frontiers of data and statistics, including support to modernize data systems and tap into a range of new data sources for better decision-making, improved efficiency and strengthened data integrity at scale. The Facility is designed to leverage significant additional financing to enable long-term support and durable data and statistics transformations. It will also leverage the Bern Network Clearinghouse to serve as a global coordination mechanism for a spectrum of partners, practitioners and country clients to join forces in support of the global data revolution.

#### **V. Survey of national statistical offices in the time of COVID-19 on the implementation review and update of the Cape Town Global Action Plan**

22. Since May 2020, the World Bank Development Data Group and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in coordination with the five regional commissions, have conducted a series of global online surveys with the objective of monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on statistical operations and the evolving needs of national statistical offices, and to identify needs for financial and technical support. Earlier survey rounds addressed office closures and the disruptions to data collection caused by the pandemic (May 2020), the extent to which restrictions and disruptions had receded or become more widespread (July 2020) and how the national statistical offices adapted to the new reality by implementing new surveys, developing new protocols for face-to-face data collection, investing in the modernization of their information technology infrastructure and building new partnerships (October 2020). The latest survey round, conducted between April and May 2021, focused on technology challenges, funding, and costs of statistical operations. It also covered difficulties related to collecting data on specific population groups. The results of each round, based on the responses provided by more than 100 national statistical offices around the world, are made available at the aggregated level on the Statistics Division COVID-19 response and

on the World Bank COVID-19 data websites.<sup>2</sup> Data from the survey are also being made available to countries and partners at a more disaggregated level.

## **A. Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review**

23. Following the guidance from the High-level Group on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, the scope of the COVID-19 survey was expanded to include aspects related to the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the related financing needs. The Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century joined the Statistics Division and the World Bank in this effort. Between 6 August and 15 September 2021, over 100 national statistical offices completed the Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review questionnaire based on the six strategic areas defined in the Global Action Plan for sustainable development data. Building on past rounds of the survey of national statistical offices during COVID-19 and other surveys conducted during the same period, the global survey of national statistical offices will inform the action of policymakers and international partners to better support official statistics in the implementation and financing of the current Global Action Plan and to help to develop future global action plans.

24. The questionnaire contained two pillars: the first pillar was on capacity development, covering questions on coordination, innovation, basic statistical activities and programmes, dissemination, and partnerships, and the second pillar was on financing needs. Only countries associated with the International Development Association were asked to complete the second pillar. Data from the first pillar confirmed resource bottlenecks, priority areas for capacity development, opportunities to improve coordination, and the importance of improving infrastructure and training. Data from the second pillar formed a key input to the Bern Network Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data. In addition, a detailed study was undertaken in four pilot countries, namely the Gambia, Malawi, the Niger and Rwanda, to understand the decision-making processes behind financing of statistics and data. The background document contains more details on the survey and its results.

## **B. Revision of the Cape Town Global Action Plan**

25. The High-level Group has embarked on a process to update the Cape Town Global Action Plan in 2023 and 2024 and to launch the revised plan to coincide with the next two United Nations World Data Forums. The update will begin with the proposal of a revised framework for the global action plan to be reviewed at the fifty-fourth session of the Statistical Commission and launched at the fourth Forum; this will be followed by the revised global action plan, to be reviewed at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission and launched at the fifth Forum.

## **VI. Workplan for 2022**

26. The High-level Group agreed on a workplan for 2022, which is annexed to the present report (see annex III).

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<sup>2</sup> See: <https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/statistical-programmes/covid19-nso-survey/> and [www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/survey-of-national-statistical-offices-nso-during-covid-19](http://www.worldbank.org/en/research/brief/survey-of-national-statistical-offices-nso-during-covid-19).

## **VII. Action to be taken by the Statistical Commission**

27. **The Commission is invited:**

(a) **To take note of the present report presenting the work of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;**

(b) **To approve the amended terms of reference as set out in annex I;**

(c) **To endorse the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals as set out in annex II;**

(d) **To approve the timeline and process for the review and revision of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;**

(e) **To review and approve the proposed workplan of the High-level Group for 2022 as set out in annex III.**



## Annex I

### **Terms of reference of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

(Amended version as at 11 November 2021)

#### **I. Objectives**

1. The High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will establish a global action plan for sustainable development data and in this function will:

(a) Provide guidance on the content and organization of the United Nations World Data Forum and lead the efforts of the global statistical community to reach out to and cooperate with relevant stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector;

(b) Provide strategic leadership for the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process as it concerns statistical monitoring and reporting within the framework of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(c) Promote national ownership of, and foster capacity-building, partnership and coordination for, the follow-up and review system of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including to ensure consistency between national and global monitoring and reporting;

(d) Recommend priority areas to target funding for statistical capacity-building and advocate for resource mobilization, management and monitoring;

(e) Review and make recommendations as appropriate and in cooperation with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators to facilitate the modernization and harmonization of data infrastructures and identify ways to leverage the resources and creativity of the private sector;

(f) Advise on how to harness the opportunities provided by the data revolution to support the Sustainable Development Goal implementation process, following up on the recommendations in the report entitled “A world that counts: mobilizing the data revolution for sustainable development” of the Secretary-General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, and taking into account the levels of development of the countries;

(g) Promote engagement between the statistical community and other stakeholders working on the implementation and monitoring of the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

#### **II. Membership**

2. The High-level Group will comprise 22 member representatives of national statistical offices. Members will be nominated through existing regional mechanisms<sup>1</sup> for an initial period of two years, after which some are expected to be rotated on the

<sup>1</sup> Statistical Commission for Africa, Conference of European Statisticians, Statistical Conference of the Americas, Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and Statistical Committee of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

basis of the following criteria: two members will be replaced from each region where there are four or five members, and one will be replaced where there are three or fewer members from the regions.<sup>2</sup> It is preferable that members of the High-level Group not serve concurrently as members of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group. The members of the High-level Group will elect two Co-Chairs. One or both of the Co-Chairs are also expected to rotate every two years. However, when they step down they are invited to serve for an additional term of two years as members.

3. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will act as the secretariat.

### III. Organization and conduct of work

4. In undertaking its work, the High-level Group will consult closely with the Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group in relation to statistical capacity-building for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal indicators. It will also engage with existing joint initiatives for statistical capacity-building and technical assistance, such as those undertaken by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century and the memorandum of understanding of the development banks with the United Nations on cooperation on statistical activities and other coordination and cooperation agreements in order to avoid any duplication of work and to extend efficiencies as they are identified.

5. A standing list of issue partners, as non-member and observer participants are known, will be maintained as the invitation list for the open segment of the Group's meetings. The High-level Group will also seek inputs from non-member countries through their respective regional mechanisms.

6. Regular meetings will take place four times per year, twice in a hybrid format and twice in a fully virtual format:

(a) All regular meetings will have a closed segment for members only and an open segment to include issue partners;

(b) The two hybrid meetings will take place at the sidelines of the session of the Statistical Commission, each year in March, and the United Nations World Data Forum, in the years when it takes place. In years when the Forum does not take place, the format of the second hybrid meeting shall be decided by the preference of members and needs of the agenda;

(c) Special meetings may be convened to discuss special issues and will usually be conducted in a closed session.

7. The strategic nature of the Group requires the leadership level for each member country to be at the Chief Statistician (or equivalent) of the national statistical office, with the following conditions:

(a) The Chief Statistician can designate other high-level colleagues having appropriate capacities from the national statistical office to attend meetings on the Chief Statistician's behalf in the event of a temporary absence or on a permanent basis as appropriate. However, strategic decisions defined in advance in the meeting agenda will require the physical or written representation of the Chief Statistician;

(b) Regular attendance at meetings is encouraged, and non-participation by a member country in three or more meetings a year will indicate that the member is no

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<sup>2</sup> Currently, there are five members from Africa, two from Western Asia, four from Asia, one from the Pacific, two from the Caribbean, three from Latin America, one from Eastern Europe and four from Europe and North America.

longer active and will be changed at the end of the annual meeting cycle through its regional mechanism.

#### **IV. Expected duration**

8. The High-level Group will operate under the auspices of the Statistical Commission and will report to it annually, seeking its guidance.

9. The mandate and functioning of the High-level Group will be reviewed by the Statistical Commission as needed.

#### **V. Annual workplan**

10. In line with the mandate and further guidance given by the Statistical Commission, the High-level Group will plan its activities and deliverables according to an annual workplan presented for approval each year to the Commission.

## Annex II\*

### **Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Announced during the UN World Data Forum 2021 in Bern at the closing session on Wednesday, 6 October 2021**

**Prepared by the HLG-PCCB following an open consultation planned for between 9th August and 13th September 2021**

#### **I. Preamble**

1. We, the participants gathered here in Bern, Switzerland, for the United Nations World Data Forum 2021 (the Forum), representing different data and statistical communities, government institutions, policy makers, planners and decisions takers, academia and professional associations, donor and philanthropic community, the private sector, the media and civil society, acknowledge the progress made in the last five years to establish the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (the CTGAP), launched at the first Forum in Cape Town and the Dubai declaration, launched at the second Forum in Dubai, on how to finance and implement the CTGAP.
2. Appreciate that achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and sustainable regional, national and local development require fit-for-purpose data with each data ecosystem stakeholder playing their part, whilst working in harmony towards a common goal: A World with Data We Trust.
3. Acknowledge further that data and statistics need to be fully utilised in global, regional, national and local value chains to inform and deliver in a sustainable way on the services and resources people need.
4. Recognise that quality, timely, relevant, open and disaggregated data are indispensable for effective evidence-based decision making to lead us towards a sustainable path for development and an inclusive society.
5. Increasingly aware that data are critical in response to natural and man-made disasters, in all forms and regardless of their global or local reach, both to mitigate their effects and plan the recovery to build back better.

**We appeal to the international community and national governments for all communities to work together in the data ecosystem to ensure:**

- Policy makers, planners and decisions takers in Government invest in the national data ecosystem to enable high-quality, timely, open, reliable and disaggregated data for evidence-based decision making and for every individual to be represented;
- National Statistical Systems produce high-quality, timely, open, reliable and disaggregate data, including by integrating a variety of innovative data sources, in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
- All data producers safeguard data privacy and confidentiality, and balance this with data use and sharing;

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\* The present annex is being issued without formal editing.

- Civil society and individuals bring more data to the attention of the public hereby holding authorities to account and at the same time improving data quality through this exposure;
- The private sector shares more data and brings it into the public space for it to be accessible and used in a responsible manner, in full respect of privacy and confidentiality;
- The geospatial community works with other data producers to maximize the value of geocoded data and information;
- Academic and professional associations apply their independent advice and expertise to further illuminate available data, provide further insights and feedback;
- The media impartially reports on publicly available data and promote better understanding across the entire public and combat disinformation;
- The general public cooperates with data collection exercises being conducted by National Statistical Systems by providing accurate and useable information knowing their data are protected and free from misuse;
- The donor and philanthropic community supports how people, nations and localities are informed by data with the provision of technical, financial, technological and capacity development assistance aligned to national and local priorities in coordination with other development partners, and to ensure full access is given to the national statistical system of any data collected under any development assistance programme.
- The United Nations system and other international, regional and sub-regional organisations encourages common data practices through the development and promotion of international standards, provide support aligned to national and local priorities, encourage and facilitate cooperation and capacity development across the data ecosystem and promote data as a public good.
- We all work together to provide a rapid response in times of uncertainty when timely data are needed the most.

## II. Call for action

6. For accelerated action on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan, our shared vision is to do the following:

(TA1) Develop data capacity, where we strengthen national institutional capacity, continue to modernise national data systems to generate public data that are fit for purpose, open, interoperable and nationally coordinated, and empower policy-makers, planners and decision-takers to understand these data and use them effectively;

(TA2) Establish data partnerships, where we continue to engage in public-public and public-private cooperation for the use of administrative records and new and innovative data sources by removing barriers to these sources, while ensuring full respect for privacy and confidentiality;

(TA3) Cultivate collective efforts on data to leave no one behind, where we continue to develop disaggregation in data to mainstream gender equality, integrate geospatial and statistical information, and define standards and tools to disaggregate data by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, and other characteristics;

(TA4) Understand the world with data, where we continue to promote data literacy and empower the general public to use data effectively and assist them to identify misinformation and abuse;

(TA5) Build trust in data, where we protect the privacy and confidentiality of individual and business data while maintaining transparency and accessibility of data that is of public interest through law, regulation and common practices;

(TA6) Increase investments in data to address the huge data gap in informing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and measuring its progress, develop and promote the use of all data sources in accessible formats, including administrative-based data through the use of modern technology, to close the existing world digital divide.

### **III. Call for commitments [road to the fourth UNWDF]**

7. In pursuing these common actions, we stress the need for further commitments as follows:

(TA1) To develop data capacity, we need more effective investment from Governments, the private sector and civil society in institutional strengthening and data systems, supported where necessary by the donor and philanthropic community;

(TA2) To establish data partnerships, we need national statistical systems working together with the entire data ecosystem to work as one community, and foster synergies and innovative practices with new data sources;

(TA3) To produce data to leave no one behind, we need national statistical systems to collaborate with the entire data ecosystem to work on easily used and replicated standards; innovative tools and citizen-driven data along with official data to fill data gaps on the status and needs of people by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, and other characteristics;

(TA4) To understand the world with data, we need Governments, the private sector and the media to present data in a timely, open and impartial manner where any data with bias is clearly reported;

(TA5) To build trust in data, we need the entire data ecosystem to establish good governance systems and practices to safeguard privacy and confidentiality rights of individuals and businesses but also maintain transparency and accessibility to data of public interest.

### **IV. Conclusion**

8. We strive to implement the Cape Town Global Action Plan, the Dubai Declaration and the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the SDGs, and to continue to make progress on actions and commitments, which require us to recognise each part we play in the data ecosystem is unique and irreplaceable but that together we are greater than the sum of our parts.

9. We promise to advance the Cape Town Global Action Plan and Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the SDGs through good governance and a mutual understanding of the benefits and challenges of our shared data ecosystem, and will proceed with a common voice to advocate for data and its place in public affairs; locally, nationally, sub-regionally, regionally and globally.

10. We commit to review progress on the implementation of the Bern Data Compact at the upcoming sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), the

United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the UN Global Compact Government Group, and other relevant bodies.

11. We will meet at future United Nations World Data Forums planned in early 2023 and late 2024 to renew our commitment to an open, innovative and practical partnership.

## Annex III

### Workplan: January–December 2022

#### 1. Preparations for the United Nations World Data Forum: April 2023, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

- (a) Create terms of reference for the programme committee and select the new committee (by April 2022);
- (b) Review and revision of the thematic areas for the call for proposals announcement (by June 2022);
- (c) Proposals for keynote speakers, professional moderators and arrangements for the closing session (by September 2022);
- (d) Review and approve the final programme (by September 2022);
- (e) Establishment of a new subgroup to prepare the outcome document (by December 2022).

##### *Deliverables:*

- Programme committee terms of reference
- Fill the programme committee roster
- Call for proposals announcement
- Final programme
- Outcome document to be presented in Hangzhou, China

#### 2. Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review for the revision of the global action plan

- (a) Complete the review of/new recommendations (by April 2022);
- (b) Establishment of a new subgroup to prepare a new framework (by June 2022).

##### *Deliverables:*

- Background paper on the results from the survey of national statistical offices during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the Cape Town Global Action Plan implementation review
- New framework for the global action plan

#### 3. Meetings

- (a) Twenty-fifth meeting: 27 February 2022, Statistical Commission, virtual/hybrid (to be confirmed);
- (b) Twenty-sixth meeting: 22 June 2022, virtual;
- (c) Twenty-seventh meeting: September 2022 (to be confirmed), virtual/hybrid (to be confirmed);
- (d) Twenty-eighth meeting: 15 December 2022, virtual.