

## United Nations Statistical Commission Side Event

### “The Power of Open Data: Moving from Concept to Action”

**Time and Date:** 10 February 9AM ET;  
**Zoom Registration Ink:** <https://bit.ly/OpenDataUNSC>

#### Co-conveners

Statistics New Zealand; Statistics Sweden; Australian Bureau of Statistics; and Open Data Watch

#### Background and Objectives

The demand for open data has raised the profile of the national statistical office and brought with it a new set of challenges to explore and overcome. To respond to this growing interest and demand, at its fiftieth session in 2019, the U.N. Statistical Commission established [a Working Group on Open Data](#) to support the development of guidance for the assessment and practical application of open data in the context of official statistics.

Since 2019, the Working Group has been researching critical areas to ensure data collected and managed by national statistical offices can reach their full potential and benefit society as well as offer pathways forward to move from conceptualization of Open Data to implementation and action. These areas include the “Open Data by Default” principle, Interoperability, and Local-Level Data.

This session provides an opportunity to report on the work completed by the Working Group on Open Data to date, focusing specifically on sharing best practices at the country-level of implementing open data by default and disseminating local-level open data while safeguarding confidentiality and privacy.

Specific questions to be explored in the session include:

- What activities and efforts are national statistical offices taking on to encourage and help create an “open data culture” within their country?
- What remains the biggest challenge facing national statistical offices in their efforts to implement “open by default” policies?
- How are countries balancing openness and privacy, both within their broader open data framework and within their local-level statistics publication efforts?
- What more is needed to mainstream open data into national plans, data governance processes, and results-monitoring?

#### Program (90 mins)

Time	Action	Speaker
5 mins	Welcome and introduction	Eleisha Hawkins, General Manager of Data System Capability, Statistics New Zealand
7 mins	Scene-setting on state of open data by moderator	Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch

Part 1: Open Data by Default		
8 mins	Development partner/international financial institution perspective on promoting and encouraging the implementation of open data in its agenda	José Antonio Mejía Guerra, Modernization of the State Lead Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank
8 mins	Country presentation showcasing a strong example of navigating Open Data by Default.  Topic of presentation may include publication and dissemination tactics, information requests, technical staff capacity, users' capacity, etc.	Dominik Rozkrut, President, Statistics Poland
8 mins	Country presentation showcasing a strong example of navigating Open Data by Default.  Topic of presentation may include coordination with national legal frameworks, cross-governmental support for open data by default principle, data licensing/copyright, etc.	Satee Boodoo, Senior Statistician, Central Statistics Office, Trinidad and Tobago (TBC)
Part 2: Local-level Open Data		
10 mins	Country presentation highlighting the challenges of working with local-level statistics as Open Data and the pathways to overcoming them; what additional areas need attention	Marie Haldorson, Head of the Methodology and Architecture Governance Unit, Statistics Sweden
10 mins	Country presentation highlighting the benefits of a user-centric approach to publish local-level statistics with purpose	Gemma Van Halderen, General Manager, Population, Labour and Location Insights Division, Australian Bureau of Statistics
Part 3: Discussion and Conclusion		
25 mins	Q&A	All participants
5 mins	Concluding remarks and way forward	Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, United Nations Statistics Division