

Moving From Data Production to Impact: A Discussion on the Role of the NSO in Facilitating Greater Data Use

Official Side Event: 53rd United Nations Statistical Commission

Date and Time: February 11, 2022 from 9:00 AM (EST) – 10:15 AM (EST)

Registration Link: [Zoom webinar](#)

Co-Conveners: SDSN TReNDS, Open Data Watch, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

If there has been a silver lining from the COVID-19 pandemic, it has highlighted the importance of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and the effective use of official statistics, as well as demonstrated that all decision-makers across government and society require data that are useful for decision-making. Yet, despite the [nearly 1.1 billion gigabytes of data](#) being generated globally each day and the volumes of potentially useful information increasing exponentially over recent years, much of these data continue to go unused, passing into “[data graveyards](#).” For resource-constrained data producers of official statistics, this often results in not enough data being produced to track development outcomes, as data producers do not see the necessary returns on investing in data. Fortunately, recent conversations have led the global statistical community to reframe their thinking around data production to emphasize the importance of *using* data more effectively, recognizing the centrality of tools including Open Data Watch and Data2X’s [Data Value Chain](#) that adds *uptake* (where data are connected to users) and *impact* (where data are used to understand a problem or make a decision) as “higher-value” stages along with the long-standing production components of collection and publication.

This event, co-hosted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network’s Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (SDSN TReNDS), Open Data Watch (ODW), and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) will introduce and source audience feedback on a new ‘Avoiding Data Graveyards’ project that proposes a transformation process for effective data use to help producers of official statistics maximize data uptake and impact. The process focuses on three key areas affecting data use: (1) capacity to govern data (organizational strategies, laws, and regulations); (2) capacity to meet user needs (responding to data demands); and (3) capacity to use data (data literacy). The session will also highlight data use challenges from NSO leadership, showcase successful examples of how countries have improved the impact and uptake of their data during the pandemic, and share lessons learned.

Objectives of the Event Include:

- Spotlight data use challenges and solutions from the perspective of NSOs and how the international community can better support countries on data use efforts to improve uptake and impact of their data, particularly in light of the current pandemic.
- Introduce and generate interest in the ‘Avoiding Data Graveyards’ project and a framework for improving data use of official statistics among the wider statistical community.
- Garner feedback from the statistical community on TReNDS’ and ODW’s proposed transformation process for data use.

Event Format

The event will take place via the virtual conferencing platform, Zoom, and panelists will participate via video and audio. It will be moderated by SDSN TReNDS’ Director, Grant Cameron, include a discussion of the framework for improving data use of official statistics and solicitation of audience feedback, feature panelist presentations and discussion with thought leaders on improving data use and impact, as well as an audience Q & A.

Agenda (75 mins, Times are in EST)

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Introduction by moderator and audience poll questions	Grant Cameron, Director, SDSN TReNDS
9:05 am – 9:15 am	Introducing ‘Avoiding Data Graveyards’ and a framework for improving data use of official statistics	Shaïda Badiëe, Managing Director, and Lorenz Noe, Research Manager, Open Data Watch
9:15 am – 9:17 am	Audience poll questions on framework, including in chat and brief reflection on the answers by moderator	Grant Cameron, Director, SDSN TReNDS
Panelist Presentations & Discussion		
9:17 am – 9:27 am	Panelist discussion of challenges and successes behind initiatives to improve feedback mechanism between NSO and outside organizations and users, via example of Jamaica working with research groups.	Carol Coy, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica
9:27 am – 9:37 am	Panelist discussion of the state of international support for countries as they seek to be more flexible and able to take in input from users, especially in light of COVID-19 pandemic.	Francesca Perucci, Assistant Director, United Nations Statistics Division
9:37 am – 9:47am	Panelist discussion of broad ecosystem of data use and evaluating who is currently being left behind.	Claudia Wells, Director of Data Use, Development Initiatives
Audience Q & A and Conclusion		
9:47 am – 10:10 am	Audience Q & A with panelists moderated by moderator	All participants
10:10 am – 10:15 am	Concluding remarks	Grant Cameron, Director, SDSN TReNDS