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KYOTO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, JAPAN

DATA GOVERNANCE AND TRUST

Topic: “Leave no-one behind: The importance of data in development”

Date: Sunday 8 October 2023 | Time: 18:00-19:00 UTC (UTC +9)| Venue: WS 10 - Room I

Organisers / Facilitators:

1. Wisdom Donkor, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation (AODIRF)
2. Dr. Lee W. McKnight, Associate Professor, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, USA
3. Dr. Danielle T Smith, Professor, College of Arts & Sciences, Syracuse University
4. Yusuf Abdul-Qadir, Adjunct Faculty, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University
5. Kwaku Antwi, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation
6. Jane Asantewaa Appiah-Okyere, Doctoral Candidate, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University
7. Zanyiwe Asare, Digitally Legal, South Africa

Session Description

The global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which came into effect on 1st January 2016, shape global sustainable development policy through 2030. In addition to adopting the 17 goals and 169 targets in March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on an indicator framework to track the SDGs. To fulfil the commitment to “Leave No One Behind” on which Agenda 2030 is based, the SDGs require a nuanced approach to assessing progress at global, regional, national and sub-national levels. This approach will require robust data production and tracking systems to be built in every country so that achievements at the national and local levels can be assessed and disseminated into the wider global framework. These national mechanisms must be effective and integrated, should allow for accurate measurement, and also be used to inform decisions about resource allocation and policy implementation in pursuit of the goals themselves.

A plethora of data initiatives have been developed since, with extensive support from the donor community. A recent assessment of the data revolution by the EU, GDPR and IFAD attests that more data are being produced and in cost-effective ways. However, these data have remained in research domains and are not fully used by decision-makers. This is the last mile to be bridged.

This session will be organised around 3 themes, each with several objectives:

Theme 1: Address data gaps

- Present the current situation to highlight data gaps.
- Discuss opportunities to strengthen data regimes.
- Discuss opportunities to further develop open data systems and platforms to enable harmonization, comparability, and data quality.
- Present possibilities for using new data/ technology to address identified data gaps and engage new actors and partners.
- Determine how alignment with national and regional agendas will impact data collection, indicator production, and reporting.



Theme 2: Encourage data use

- Have an open dialogue with key users on how data produced can better meet their needs.
- Identify ways to harness the opportunities of the momentum around data for development agendas to strengthen the sharing, accessibility and presentation of open data.
- Raise the profile of data production and use with key stakeholders, including policy-makers, to encourage the use of improved data for evidence-based decision-making and accountability.

Theme 3: Strengthen the data ecosystem

- Solidify the multi-stakeholder approach to achieving and measuring development agendas, and create new data communities.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major funding gaps.
- Identify and discuss approaches to technological innovation and major capacity gaps.
- Provide opportunities for country-to-country learning.
- Ensure high-level political and policy-maker buy-in for the Roadmap process.
- Identify key issues for the policy and enabling environment for the data ecosystem.

The objective of this session is to inspire and motivate all types of data users and decision-makers to increase their efforts to use data to inform decisions on policies, programmes, strategies, investments, and the design and implementation of programmes. The session's success stories of data use will give others inspiration and ideas to try cutting-edge methods to increase data use. Information about hurdles encountered and tried-and-true solutions will be invaluable for those encountering similar challenges and will assist people in getting over obstacles.

Links with the SDG targets

To properly implement and monitor progress on the SDGs, decision-makers need data and statistics that are accurate, timely, appropriately disaggregated, applicable, available, and easy to use. The amount and calibre of data have gradually improved with time. At all decision-making levels, data literacy must be increased, and statistical proficiency must be further developed. To achieve these goals, the data producers and users from different data ecosystems will need to collaborate. The creation and utilisation of data and statistics will also require the adoption of innovative techniques, to address the many challenges of sustainable development.

Expected outcomes

- The identification of significant data gaps, connectivity gaps, and technological gaps, as well as the opportunity for new approaches, data sources, and technologies to solve them.
- Develop sector-specific and cross-cutting data communities while having a thorough understanding of the data ecosystem in Africa and elsewhere.
- Determine the most important concerns regarding finance, resources, and capacity to be utilised as inputs for a roundtable with development partners and follow-up actions.
- Determination of prospects for improving and coordinating the Open Data programme with the SDGs and the future.
- Determine the issues, commitments, and priorities that will support the Data Roadmap for Sustainable Development moving forward.



- Identify the most critical gaps hindering the adoption and deployment of community networks and ensure that data is available to the community at all times.

To successfully host this session, four speakers will be invited to discuss their experiences in closing data gaps and advancing the use of data and evidence to guide decisions on national policies, institutional strategies, investments, and the creation and delivery of programmes. Stories of achievement, difficulties encountered, and tried-and-true solutions will be discussed. The moderator will set the stage and ask each panellist a question. Next, resource persons and audience members will participate in the discussion.

Draft Agenda / Speakers

1. Welcome and Introduction (Moderator)
2. Opening remark: Dr. Danielle Taana Smith, Syracuse University
3. **Discussions**
 - a. Component 1: Addressing data gaps, encouraging data use, and encouraging and strengthening data ecosystems.
 - b. Component 2: Leveraging technology and Community Networks and ensuring data gets to everyone.

4. **Moderators / Speakers**

Moderator: Yusuf S Abdul-Qadir, Syracuse University

Online Moderator: Lahari Chowtoori, Syracuse University

Rapporteurs: Jane Appiah-Okyere, Syracuse University, Lindsey Ama Benewaah Bonsu, University of Ghana, Afi Faith Africa Youth IGF / Former UN MAG Member and Sara Naa Aryee, Ghana Youth IGF

Speakers

- a. Victor Ohuruogu, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), International organisation
 - b. Kwaku Antwi, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation (AODIRF)
 - c. Dr. Lee W. McKnight, Syracuse University
 - d. Hon. Samuel Nartey George, Member of Parliament, Ghana
 - e. Dr. Uzma Alam, Science for Africa Foundation
5. Q & A
 6. Highlight and closing remarks, Moderator

SESSION INFORMATION: <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-day-0-event-196-leave-no-one-behind-the-importance-of-data-in-development>