UNLOCKING THE POWER OF DATA INITIATIVE

The Geneva Data Community

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GENEVA

The Geneva data community: Cooperating to deliver on the Summit of the Future

An "Unlocking the Power of Data Initiative" exchange
Hosted by GRID-Geneva

2 May 2024, 13:30 – 17:30
International Environment House I, Chemin des Anémones 11-13, 1219 Châtelaine

1. What is happening?

Following up on its first meeting on 10 October 2023, this meeting provides an opportunity for the **Geneva data community** to exchange on how to best collaborate for delivering on the UN Summit of the Future for data-related topics. This includes discussing how the commitments agreed at the Summit are monitored. Moreover, the meeting will allow to follow-up on discussions around data governance and the opportunities of strengthening interoperability with a common data platform.

2. Setting the scene

As mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/1, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators was tasked with the development and implementation of the global indicator framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The global indicator framework developed by the Expert Group was adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 71/313 on the work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda. For the first time, the SDG indicator system provides a solid and comprehensive international statistical framework for joint planning, reporting on progress, and for mutual accountability

The 2030 Agenda is universal and calls for action by all countries. Goal 17 is specifically about revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development to ensure no one is left behind. Over the centuries, International Geneva has been the scene of numerous negotiations and agreements since the end of the Second World War and today is home to the most important worldwide partners, permanent missions, and many international organizations. Many of these organizations are working with data and statistics, but there is a lack of clarity regarding who is doing what. Joining forces is important to look beyond the halfway mark of the 2030 Agenda and to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

[The Unlocking the Power of Data Initiative](#) aims to bridge the gap between the data and statistical community and a diversity of stakeholders to advance data ecosystems and provide the information needed for a fact-based worldview.
Unlocking the Power of Data Initiative' work is focused under six workstreams (WS) such as;
1. WS 1: "[Data Literacy](#)";
2. WS 2: "[Financing Data](#)";
3. WS 3: "[Data Management](#)";
4. WS 4: "[Data Science](#)";
5. WS 5: "[Population Projections and Climate Change](#)";
6. WS 6: "[Health Data](#)".

Partnerships are necessary to build more robust data ecosystems that provide support for evidence-based decision-making and make it possible to respond adequately to crises. The integration of the private sector, policy makers, academia and civil society in the data dialogue is key to broadening data literacy and a fact-based worldview. Bringing together people from various fields will allow the provision of new inputs and ideas into the discussions and achieve fast progress in data and statistical fields. Synergies, innovative practices, alternative methods and data sources will be explored to strengthen the data ecosystem and provide new information for the 2030 Agenda.

Within the context of the United Nations, there is a broader role of data and its application to sustainable development. The Secretary-General has put forward a proposal to ensure a UN fit for a new era, by the inclusion of the evolutions in five areas: data, analytics and communications; innovation and digital transformation; strategic foresight; behavioural science; and performance and results orientation, resulting in a "UN 2.0".

3. Exchange on 10 October 2023

On 10 October, the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) brought together different stakeholder to see if there is a need to relate the data community in Geneva. This exchange was organized as the follow-up after the first Unlocking the Power of Data Initiative event on 26 January 2023. The objective of the exchange in October 2023 was to kick start a dialogue platform among agencies, international organizations, private sector, data holders and producers mainly based in Geneva. The goal was to address the lack of clarity regarding available data sets and organizations working with them and to encourage collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders to facilitate more effective data management and analysis. The discussion on 10 October in Geneva was open and useful. It showed that there is interest in such an exchange.

The topic of data governance is a big issue in countries as well as many international organizations. Many international organizations, NGOs, private sector, etc. are working on the topic of data and statistics. There are similar challenges and interest. But important in all these discussions is not to forget that this should have an added value for the local and national level. Data is already important today and also after 2030. There are open points on how data can help on the one hand to measure progress but also to implement the Targets of the 2030 Agenda.

4. Draft agenda: 2 May 2024 (13:30–17:30)

Time	Topic
13:30–13:35	**Welcoming remarks:** Benjamin Rothen, Ambassador, Head of International and National Affairs, Swiss Federal Statistical Office Pascal Peduzzi, Director, GRID-Geneva
13:35 - 15:00	**Block A: The Summit of the Future**
13:35–13:50	**Input: Swiss Mission Geneva and Federal Statistical Office** Overview of the current discussions at the UN
13:50–14:20	**Discussion: Isabel de Sola Criado, Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology** The Global Digital Compact
14:20–15:00	**Discussion: Anu Peltola, Director, Statistics Service, UNCTAD** Unity around our shared principles and common goals is both crucial and urgent. How can the data community in Geneva better cooperate to deliver on the Summit of the Future?
15:00–15:30	*Tea Break*
15:30–17:00	**Block B: Data Platform and interoperability**
15:30–15:45	**Input: Benjamin Rothen, Ambassador, Head of International and National Affairs, Swiss Federal Statistical Office** How is Switzerland organized and how does data management look like? What is the current situation with a common Data Platform in Geneva?
15:45–16:30	**Discussion**
16:30–17:00	**Summary and next steps**
17:00–17:30	*Drinks offered by GRID-Geneva*