

United Nations Statistical Commission 54th Session - Friday Seminar
Part II

Towards a framework to harness data by citizens, for citizens and about citizens

15:00 – 18:00, 24 February 2023

Venue: United Nations Headquarters

Background

Citizens' contribution to data, broadly defined as the engagement of citizens in multiple processes in the data value chain, is increasingly recognized as critical to helping overcome many data challenges of our times. In particular, in the context of the 2030 Agenda's principle to ensure that nobody is left behind, citizen data helps fill critical data gaps for groups suffering from data marginalization and increase the extent to which their experiences are reflected in national statistics. In addition to filling data gaps, some citizen data initiatives further advance important values such as fairness, inclusiveness, openness and transparency in statistics.

Citizens' contribution to data could happen at different levels – global, regional, national, or local. The engagement of citizens can be organized by different stakeholders - scientists, community leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs), or individual citizens. Their engagement can contribute to various stages of the data value chain and serve different objectives and contribute to data and policy in many different ways.

The official statistical community also increasingly recognizes the importance of non-state actors in contributing to the inclusiveness of official statistics. For data collection such as censuses and surveys, national statistical offices (NSOs) often partner with CSOs or representatives of marginalized population groups to ensure the inclusiveness of the data and methodology.

Unleashing the full potential of citizens for data, however, faces many challenges. These, for example, include the lack of trust between the state and non-state actors, data quality, sustainability and statistical capacity of CSOs, etc. In this context, the United Nations Statistics Division organized [an Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing data by citizens for public policy and SDG monitoring: a conceptual framework](#) in November 2022. The meeting discussed different ways that citizens can contribute to data, as well as challenges and opportunities and mechanisms to harness citizens' contribution to fill data gaps and advance fairness, inclusiveness, openness and transparency in statistics. The meeting was attended by representatives from National Statistics Offices (NSOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), academia and regional and international organisations. The meeting agreed that the development of a framework would be an important next step to help conceptualize the different ways citizens can contribute to data and support the formulation of action points for the community to move forward. The meeting also agreed to establish a Collaborative as a platform for collaboration and exchange of experiences and to advance the work in this area.

Programme

Part II of the Friday Seminar provides an opportunity to expand the discussion initiated at the abovementioned Expert Group Meeting, review its conclusions and offer some additional points for consideration at future sessions of the UN Statistical Commission. In particular, the following will be covered: (1) current practices of citizens' contributions to data and their complexities and pluralities; (2) the role of NSOs in advancing civil society's engagement in data production and use; and (3) aligning non-state data quality with official statistics quality standard and using a quality framework to ensure citizen data are fit-for-purpose.

Time	Topic
15:00 – 15:15	Welcome and opening
15:15 – 16:30	<p>Harnessing data by citizens and for citizens: sharing experiences</p> <p>Moderator: Francesca Perucci, UNSD</p> <p>The session will showcase the experience of NSOs and CSOs on working with citizen generated data and gather ideas on the way forward.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Graciela Marquez, President of INEGI, Mexico • Mr. Samuel Annim, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service • Mr. Dennis Mapa, National Statistician, Philippines Statistics Authority • Ms. Jenna Slotin, Senior Director of Policy, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data <p>Discussion</p>
16:30 – 17:45	<p>Towards a framework on citizens' contribution to data and policymaking</p> <p>Moderator: Papa Seck, UN Women</p> <p>The panel will brainstorm on key elements and steps to move towards a framework on citizens' contribution to data and policymaking.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Monica Pratesi, Director, Department of Statistical Production, ISTAT • Ms. Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM Representative at the United Nations, CBM Global Disability Inclusion • Mr. Macdonald Obudho, Director General, National Bureau of Statistics, Kenya • Mr. Gero Carletto, Manager, Development Data Group, World Bank and co-Chair of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on Household Surveys <p>Discussion</p>
17:45 – 18:00	<p>Discussant and conclusions</p> <p>Ms. Cara Williams, Statistics Canada and co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs</p>