TA3

High-level plenary – Thematic Area 3:
Building trust, protection and ethics
in data

14 November 2024
09:00 - 10:15 AM

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Developing the principles of stewardship within the data ecosystem to balance the full value of data use with the protection of privacy and data rights

Moderator: Cristina Velez, Dean, School of Business, EAFIT University, Medellín, Colombia

Scene setting: Shaida Badiee, Managing Director of Open Data Watch and Co-Chair of WDF Programme Committee

Speakers
- **Mr. Roeland Beerten**, Chief Statistician, National Bank of Belgium
- **H.E. Yesenia Olaya Requene**, Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Colombia
- **Mr. Dominik Rozkrut**, President, Statistics Poland
- **Ms. Natalia Carfi**, Executive Director, Open Data Charter (ODC)
- **Mr. Stefaan Verhulst**, Co-Founder and Chief Research and Development Officer, the Governance Lab (GovLab)
- **Ms. Priscilla Idele**, Chief, Data & Analytics Branch, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Background

Trust – building and maintaining trust in data and ensuring the protection of privacy and ethical use of data – is at the foundation of a data ecosystem that generates an ever-expanding store of quantitative and qualitative information. Ethical and professional principles applied to all data holdings along the data value chain are the building blocks with which the foundation of trust is built.

Societies demand open data access so that all stakeholders can conduct their own analysis. At the same time, individuals and organizations are more reluctant to provide information due to their lack of confidence in the protection and confidentiality of their data. Therefore, an important ethical obligation is to protect the data collected, in order to build trust. This will help to obtain more reliable data on which to base the decision-making process.

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The principles of stewardship within the data ecosystem have been expanded through work of the Statistical Commission, but more work needs to be done. The development and practical use of legal frameworks and regulations can unlock the full benefits of data. The Global Digital Compact recently adopted at the UN describes important features of the advances in digital and artificial intelligence and implication on governance of the data ecosystem.

Cybersecurity goes beyond just the private sector, as national statistics offices have a responsibility to protect their databases, perhaps even more so given that they deal with data from individuals and organizations generally obtained for free but paid through taxes by those respondents.

Key objectives of the plenary session:

- **Ethical data:** apply as a principle throughout the data lifecycle.
- **Confidentiality and protection:** cybersecurity, privacy and confidentiality methods as enablers of trust.
- **Trust:** apply and reimagine the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to strengthen trust.

Under Thematic Area 3, the Forum has 4 parallel sessions addressing various aspects of Building trust, protection and ethics in data *(See annex below). These sessions will discuss new challenges that the statistical community must address to offer to the public fair, inclusive data in an ethical and safe way.*

This thematic area emphasizes building an enabling environment for trust, protection, and ethics in data use—an essential component of the broader data ecosystem. This is an important consideration as technology rapidly develops. While many commitments touch on the goals central to thematic area 3, most commitments relevant to this area are incidental to other commitments. For example, commitments aimed at enhancing intersectionality in development data highlight the importance of data privacy, while citizen-generated data initiatives similarly stress ethical considerations. Other notable commitments include initiatives like data governance fit for children and the development of fair and transparent AI systems, both of which prioritize ethical data use and protection.

Debate propositions
1. The responsibility for determining the principles of ethical data use lie with the national statistical system.
2. Once trust is lost, it is hard to rebuild.
3. The ownership of data should be governed by existing laws and regulations of intellectual property.

FORMAT:Two teams will debate three questions.

Annex: Parallel session under Thematic Area 3

ID	Title	Primary organizer
TA3.2	New challenges for NSOs. The only way out is through!	Swiss FSO/ Stats Poland
TA3.3	Co-creating data action in the digital age: learnings from global community activists on how to create fairer, more inclusive and accountable data practices	GPSDD
TA3.4	Global South Perspectives on Building Trust, Protection and Ethics in data collected With and About Young People	UNICEF
TA3.6	The future role of the UN Statistical Commission	Swiss FSO