Medellin Framework for action on data for sustainable development

A realigned, streamlined and priority orientated framework for advocacy on data and statistics for sustainable development.

At the passing of the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the data and statistics community convened at the fifth UN World Data Forum in 2024 wish to set forth a realigned vision for the Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP). The CTGAP launched at the first Forum was designed to guide statistical and data capacity development efforts needed to measure progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The Medellin Framework for action on data for sustainable development builds on this foundation and inspired by the three Forums held since[1], establishes a streamlined set of priorities for statistical and data capacity-development to be implemented by an open-ended group of stakeholders of the data ecosystem.

Introduction

1. We, present in Medellín, Colombia, and across the world come to mark the 2024 United Nations World Data Forum, representing a diverse stakeholder group of governments, academia and professional bodies, civil society, the private sector, donor and philanthropic bodies, international and regional agencies, the statistical and geospatial community and the media.

2. The Cape Town Global Action Plan was launched at the first UN World Data Forum in January 2017 and welcomed by the UN General Assembly in its resolution on the **work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/71/313)** as a framework for discussion, planning, implementation, and evaluation of statistical capacity-development pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. *Reflecting* at the passing of the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Summit of the Future held between the 23rd and 24th of September 2024, led to the approval of the **Pact of the Future [A/RES/]** that sought to forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future. The Pact of the Future featured as Annexes the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration for Future Generations.

4. *Noting* that within the Pact of the Future, data is presented as one of the assets to advance in the implementation of action 41 "we will transform global governance and reinvigorate the multilateral system to tackle the challenges, and seize the opportunities, of today and tomorrow."; "(b) Prepared for the future, building capabilities and harnessing technology and data to anticipate risks, seize opportunities, act early and manage uncertainty."

5. *Noting* that within the **Declaration on Future Generations,** data is a public asset needed to inform the policy-making process by understanding likely impacts of decisions made in this process.

6. *Reflecting* on the actions and commitments included in the **Global Digital Compact,** while data itself is included in a cross-cutting manner, special attention should be given to Objective 4

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[1] See UN webpages of previous Forums in 2023 (China), 2021 (Switzerland), 2020 (virtual) and 2018 (United Arab Emirates).

"Advancing responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches". Within that objective, commitments are drawn in five areas: data privacy and security, data exchanges and standards, data for sustainable development, cross border data flows and interoperable data governance. The priorities, actions and commitments included within this outcome document will be aligned with the Global Digital Compact, seeking to strengthen the positioning of the Forum.

7. *Recognizing* advancing the role of data and statistics requires a whole of society approach to spur innovation, use, trust and partnership from stakeholders in both global and local data ecosystems.

Guiding Principles

- **Completeness of Scope:** The Plan recognizes and acknowledges the plurality of stakeholders of the data ecosystem and provides a platform to engage with them in a common understanding of the areas and priorities set forward in the Plan until 2030. The actions and commitments aligned to the plan will be updated in the subsequent Forums.

- **Accountability and Ownership:** The implementation of the Plan shall be followed up within the framework of the UN Statistical Commission as in the subsequent Forums, monitoring the status of the actions and commitments. Thus, the National Statistical Offices shall have a prominent role in sharing their progress within the framework of the Plan.

- **Cooperation:** The Plan recognizes the crucial role of cooperation among countries, regional organizations, international organizations and other stakeholders, as well as the coordination and cooperation efforts within countries to advance in the capacity building efforts required to enhance the role of data and statistics in favor of sustainable development, and thus seek to provide a unified framework which can showcase the plurality, diversity and overall value of these efforts.

Introducing the Medellin Framework for action on data for sustainable development

Area 1: Innovation and modernization for better and more inclusive data and statistics
Priority 1.1: **Innovation**
Promote innovation within the wider data ecosystem through the integration and use of different and other data sources coming from different producers and places.

Priority 1.2: **Inclusion**
Adapt the data ecosystem according to the 'users' evolving needs, providing timely, granular and relevant data to leave no one behind.

Priority 1.3: **Use and re-use**
Improve data use and reuse, bringing together different stakeholders of the wider data ecosystem to respond to data needs deriving from current global challenges.

Area 2: Use and value of data and statistics for better decision making

Priority 2.1: **Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) data**
Make data and statistics easily findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable.

Priority 2.2: **Communication strategies**
Enhance communication strategies on data and statistics, contributing to the positioning of their value for better informed decision-making.

Priority 2.3: **Data and statistical literacy**
Promote data and statistical literacy, empowering users and producers to use data in their everyday lives and comprehend the world around them.

Area 3: Institutional leadership in the building of trust, protection and ethics of data and statistics

Priority 3.1: Ethical data
Apply ethics as a principle throughout the data lifecycle and in the participation by all data stakeholders

Priority 3.2: Confidentiality and protection
Promote cybersecurity, privacy and confidentiality methods to ensure collective benefit, *authority to control*, responsibility as enablers of trust in data and statistics.

Priority 3.3: Trust
Find new and effective ways to apply and reimagine the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to strengthen trust in data and statistics.

Area 4: Partnership to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts to develop data and statistical capacity

Priority 4.1: **Coordination**
Improve coordination and cooperation mechanisms within the data ecosystem in order to assure optimal conditions for data development.

Priority 4.2: **Sustainable investment**
Promote sustainable investment in data and statistical capacities, leveraging public-private partnerships.

Priority 4.3: **Resilience**
Create more resilient national data ecosystems to maintain critical data and statistical services through disruptions and future disasters

Conclusion

The implementation of this Plan shall address the broad priorities of the data and statistics community identified in response to the 2030 Agenda. It is essential that such priorities be addressed to support global, regional and national development, including global SDG indicators. However, the guidance described in the Plan shall not be restricted to capacity building for SDG indicators alone. Rather, the goal shall be to strengthen the national data and statistical systems so that they can be most responsive to data and statistical needs to achieve the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Annex I: Mapping to the original global action plan

The Cape Town Global Action Plan (CTGAP) launched in January 2017 was organized according to 6 strategic areas, 14 objectives and 66 key actions. The Hangzhou Declaration launched at the 4th UN World Data Forum (UNWDF) took the first step to recommending a new streamlined set of strategic areas, grouping some of the original strategic areas. This document takes this process further by aligning the Strategic Areas with the Thematic Areas of the Forum itself, which can contribute to a more streamlined understanding of the Forum and its outcomes. The table below introduces the relation between frameworks:

CTGAP	Strategic Area (SA) name *source: Hangzhou declaration*	Medellin Framework	Thematic Area (TA) *source: UNWDF 2024*	New AREAS *source: as of 8 March 2024*
2, 3	Innovation and modernization of national statistical and data systems, with particular focus on addressing the monitoring needs of the 2030 Agenda	1	Innovation for better and more inclusive data	Innovation and modernization for better and more inclusive data and statistics
4	Dissemination and use of sustainable development data	2	Maximizing the use and value of data for better decision making	Use and value of data and statistics for better decision making
		3	Building trust, protection and ethics in data	Institutional leadership in the building of trust, protection and ethics of data and statistics
1	Coordination and strategic leadership on data for sustainable development	4	Effective partnerships for better data and a more equitable data ecosystem	Partnerships to mobilize resources and coordinate efforts to develop data and statistical capacity
5, 6	Mobilize resources, establish multi-stakeholder partnerships and coordinate efforts to develop statistical capacity			

Annex II: Key terminology

The realigned plan is based on identifying priorities to follow until the end of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The priorities will be associated with clear actions (see separate action file) and commitments that are identified with committed stakeholders sourced with ways to measure progress, impact and recognize linkages between different initiatives, agendas and frameworks. These actions and commitments will be published through an online platform, which will facilitate its review and update process which will occur in each subsequent Forum, as well as within the formal reporting mechanisms of the UN Statistical Commission reviewed and renewed at each subsequent Forum.

Area	Priority	Action	Commitment
The areas featured within the realigned Medellin Framework for action on data for sustainable development seek to categorize key statistical and data capacity building needs.	Priorities are the areas data and statistics spheres considered most important or urgent at a given moment. They are the objectives or activities that need to be addressed before others due to their relative importance, helping to establish the order in the task list and make decisions about what to do first and what to ignore or postpone.	Actions are the specific steps taken to complete a task, planned and executed based on established priorities. They are also the concrete stages undertaken on the path to completing a project or solving a problem, so each priority may require a series of actions to be completed.	Commitments are the obligations or responsibilities that a person or group assumes towards the actions aimed at the priorities.
Example: Innovation and modernization for better and more inclusive data and statistics	Example: Promote innovation within the wider data ecosystem through the integration and use of different and other data sources coming from different producers and places .	Example: Facilitate agreements for collaboration among data producers and encourage the sharing of datasets across sectors and regions.	Example: Towards Better and More Efficient Gender Data Support to LMICs: A New Gender Data Collaborative