



Global Partnership
for Effective Development Co-operation

BERN PRINCIPLES

ON EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND THE USE OF DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Building on the four *principles of effective development co-operation*, the *Bern Principles* aim to guide effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development. They do so by offering strategic actions to stakeholders of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation - partner countries, bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society or the private sector.

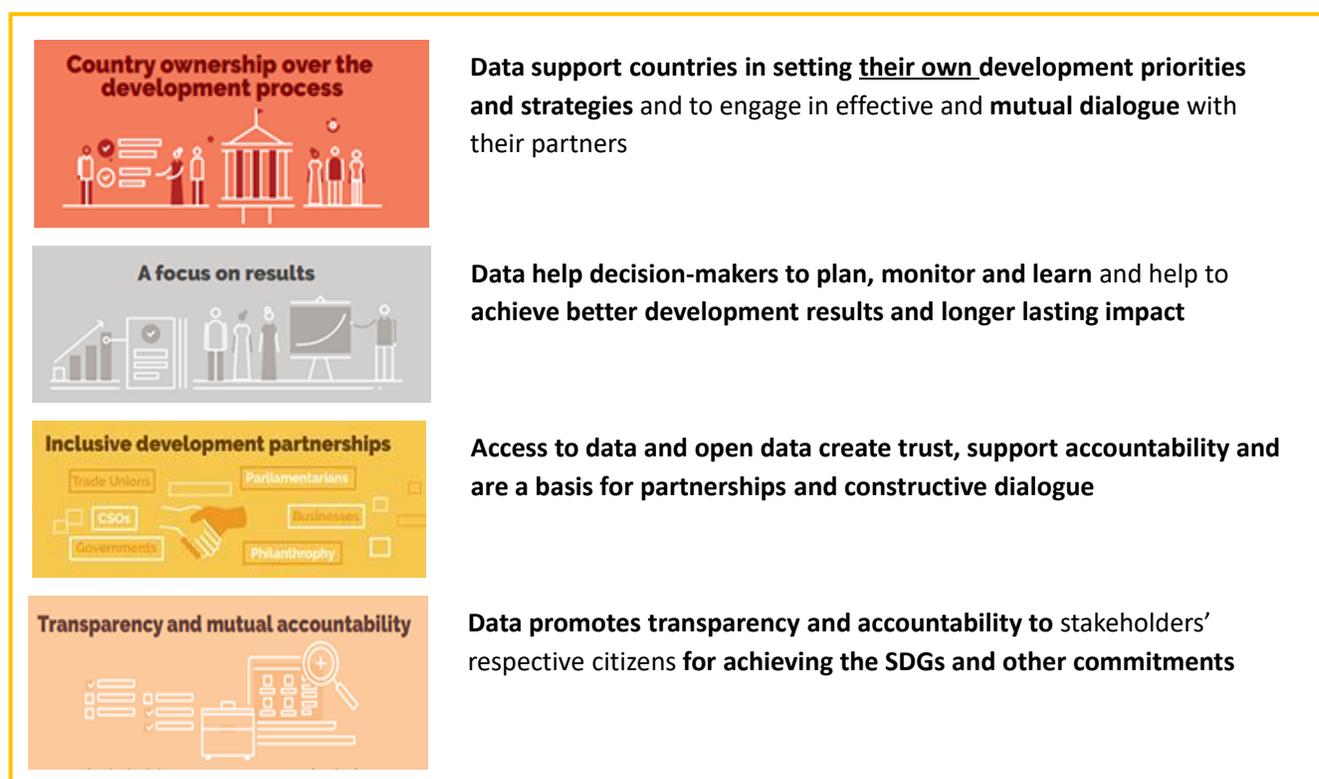
The *Bern Principles* recognise the critical role played by the national statistical system at country-level to design and oversee the effects of public policies. They also take stock of the dynamics at work in national statistical systems, including linkages to the wider and fast-changing data ecosystem in the context of digitalization.

STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND DATA ARE AT THE HEART OF EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Timely, complete and reliable data are essential for designing public policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and *Leave no one behind*. Development data and statistics are important not only to review the implementation status of the 2030 Agenda, but also to inform the policies of country governments, to help set up priorities in the development plans, provide public services effectively and be accountable to citizens.

The four **principles for effective development co-operation** are intrinsically linked to the availability of accessible and high quality data at country level and a functioning national statistical system.

Figure A: Data and statistical systems are an important instrument for effective development co-operation



High quality statistical systems are central to effective development cooperation and therefore require support and investments. This support should be *effective*. The Global Partnership of Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), a multi-stakeholder alliance of development actors, is well placed to support this goal. **With the Bern Principles, the GPEDC aims to address the challenges related to supporting statistical systems and promote the effective use of data for development.**

As the GPEDC convenes its 3rd High-Level Meeting in 2022, the *Bern Principles* will enable GPEDC stakeholders to follow-up on their commitments taken in Nairobi (2016) and **trigger action to improve effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development in partner countries**. Actions must be initiated and led within governments, but development partners, private sector and local civil-society groups also have a major role to play.

SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND DATA - THE EFFECTIVENESS CHALLENGES

Many developing countries continue to lack a national statistical system that is fit for purpose for effective and inclusive policymaking. According to the last GPEDC monitoring exercise, only one third (35%) of developing countries report having the necessary data to track progress on implementation of their national development strategy. Foundational and administrative data systems, as routine registration of births and deaths and the production of vital statistics, are often incomplete, census data and key surveys are infrequent or outdated.

Around 63 % of low- income and lower middle-income countries are in great need of additional financing for statistics and data to face challenges of the COVID-19 crisis (PARIS21, PRESS report 2020)

Statistical offices often lack core funding and political support. A relatively **weak demand for data by policymakers** in partner countries contributes to **low domestic funding**. International funding to statistics has stagnated since 2014 and is around 680 US million per year, less than half of what is needed to meet current demands.

African governments should allocate more domestic funding to their National Statistical Office and statistical systems to smooth spending, maintain teams, and ensure independence (Data for African Development Working Group)ⁱ

The fragmented nature of international support and the lack of co-ordination and alignment weaken the impact of investments even further. There are more, and more diverse, development partners that support data and statistics than before. However, data and statistics are increasingly delivered as side elements of broader programmes, and not through dedicated projects. This is detrimental to alignment and coordination. Joint approaches at country-level, such as budget support or multi-donor trust funds, have become less common. Development partners also have done less to support administrative data systems.

In Ethiopia, for example, we found that development partners were using 40 different indicators to measure SDG 7.1.1. on access to electricity. This made their data unharmonized, preventing further cooperation and left the Ethiopian government without a clear picture of how many households had access to electricity across the country (OECD/DAC)ⁱⁱ

Due to weak statistical systems, many developing countries rely on surveys conducted by UN agencies and international organizations for administrative data. UN agencies and international organizations, as custodian agencies for SDGs, are responsible for compiling and verifying data at country level and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, for SDG reporting. They have a responsibility to strengthen national monitoring and reporting capacity, but often lack time and resources to do so. Though they have also committed to **coordinate and harmonize surveys in order not to overburden the national system**, little progress has been made so far.

As a result, the SDG framework could potentially undermine investments in local data systems. In low and middle income countries the SDG methodology is usually closely tied to surveys. **There is no automatically built-in incentive for governments or development partners to prioritize investments in local systems for the collection of administrative data.**

THE STATISTICAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MUST JOIN HANDS IN SUPPORT OF STATISTICAL CAPACITY

National statistical systems are essential country systems for public policy-making by development actors. However the statistical and development community often find themselves in parallel universes. **It is important that the instruments and processes for coordination, harmonization and alignment of the statistical and development community are mutually known and used for effective and long-term support.**

Development Communities' Realities

Governments lead national **development planning**, sector strategies and other national policies. **The national development plan** sets out national priorities and links to the SDGs. The **country results framework defines the baseline and target indicators** of the national development plan.

Governments have set up national **development fora, including sector coordination groups**, where the development partners meet with their government counterparts to discuss progress of national, sectoral and sub-national plans and ensure alignment and coordination. Development fora guarantee the **inclusiveness, transparency and accountability** of the planning process.

Bilateral development partners, in addition to working within the partner countries' National Development Plan, also have their own development cooperation goals for which they are accountable to Parliament.

Aid information management systems are a way to track support of partners into the national development plan.

The **four principles of effective development cooperation** provide common goals for all actors of national development planning. The GPEDC monitoring exercise tracks progress of their implementation.

Statistical Communities' Realities

The national statistical system is guided by the **United Nations Fundamental Principles on Official Statistics** to ensure the production of appropriate, replicable and reliable data that adhere to professional and scientific standards.

National legislation defines the responsibilities of the National Statistical Office, governance structure and coordinating bodies and authority over the national statistical system. Where the National Statistical Office sits in government varies from country to country. In many countries they are semi-autonomous agencies with a degree of objectivity free of political influence. At country level the National Statistical Office, line ministries and other national institutions **collect, process and disseminate official statistics** on behalf of the national government. With digitalization the number of actors is likely to increase.

Most countriesⁱⁱⁱ have a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** to identify the actions needed to increase the capacity of the national statistical system and ascertain the required long-term financial, human and technical resources. It is a means to **securing domestic resources as well as for mobilising development partners' support.** The NSDS' progress is discussed within national coordinating structures for statistics

Bridging the gap

Development actors would benefit from a national statistical system that meets their data demands. Effective support to building a strong national statistical system requires close collaboration between the statistical and development communities. To bridge between the statistical and the development community and to be conscious of, and use each other's, instruments and processes can help to boost effective support. It also opens

opportunities for innovation. Various sources of evidence can support that effort (see box and [Tools and Evidence below](#)).

The Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data is a platform to help countries, donors and development agencies identify funding opportunities, bring projects to scale, advocate for support to data and statistics and connect to new partners. It is the first platform offering a holistic overview over both, the financial support to statistics and data as well as the financing needs in partner countries. To reach this goal, the platform provides user-focused, transparent and accessible information about aid flows, partners, projects and results, which build on timely, accurate and in-depth data.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation monitoring exercise tracks elements related to the quality and use of national statistical systems by partner countries and development partners. The GPEDC is currently undertaking [a reform of the monitoring exercise](#) to improve how the exercise measures the effectiveness of development co-operation in a changing development landscape and to enable more extensive use of the evidence the exercise generates, to spur behavior change, both at country and global levels. GPEDC stakeholders wish to emphasize data and statistical systems in the revised monitoring framework as a foundation of country ownership, transparency, and mutual accountability between development actors. The revised monitoring exercise should also track the use of national statistical systems to help better identify and target the most marginalized and vulnerable people –to *Leave no one behind*.

PRINCIPLES ON EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND THE USE OF DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

The *Bern Principles* aim to guide actors' support to strengthen national statistical systems and the use of data for development. The four mutually reinforcing principles build on a series of stakeholder consultations. They will be endorsed at the 23rd Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (July 2022).



The *Bern Principles for effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development*:

- Build upon and complement the Busan Principles for effective development co-operation (2011) as well as the commitments of the GPEDC Nairobi Outcome Document (2016), the Cape Town Global Action Agenda for Sustainable Development Data (2016) and other international initiatives and commitments.
- Address key challenges and opportunities presented by partner countries in development co-operation around the data ecosystem
- Recognise the heterogeneity and diversity of data producers and users
- Are geared towards supporting national and global sustainable development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to helping those furthest behind.

The *Bern Principles* provide a common framework to facilitate dialogue and trigger strategic actions by partner country governments, their development partners, the private sector and civil society, **taking into account the specific roles, opportunities and incentives of the different partners involved**, for stronger country-level statistical systems and data use.

The following sections first provide the rationale for the *Bern Principles* and then present strategic actions to work towards their operationalization.

PRINCIPLE 1: ALIGN SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL CAPACITY WITH COUNTRIES' LONG-TERM NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Developing statistical capacity is a long-term process that is as much about incentives and governance as it is about skills and procedures. National statistical systems often face trade-offs between the demands for data today and the long-term development of sustainable capacity to produce more relevant, granular and timely data in the future.

Reducing dependency on household surveys and building up a robust national statistical system, based on foundational and administrative data, is a long term goal for the government and all development actors. A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics is a means to secure domestic resources and long-term investment by development partners.

Actions for partner countries

Partner country governments **build and invest in a sustainable, equitable and integrated national statistical system** that reflects national policy priorities, enables the monitoring of the national development plan and SDGs, and helps improve service delivery.

Partner country governments adopt a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)** to secure domestic resources, mobilise and strengthen the alignment of development partners' support.

Partner countries have a **legal basis and governance framework in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, providing a clear institutional mandate to the National Statistical Office (NSO) to ensure the coordination between data producing agencies and new data actors in the extended data ecosystem.

Actions for development partners

Development partners **invest in national statistical systems and its core institutional capacities and align their support** to national statistical priorities and strategies.

Development partners engaged in sectoral programmes **invest a relevant share of resources to help to close sector-related data** gaps based on a **common agreement** on data priorities and needs in line with the SDG indicators.

Development partners funding surveys coordinate their data collection efforts to avoid duplications. They collaborate to map existing data sources, such as household surveys and administrative surveys, make duplications visible and take actions to avoid it in future. They work with NSOs and government departments to **strengthen long-term national statistical capacities to collect SDG data.**

PRINCIPLE 2: STRENGTHEN DATA UPTAKE AND USE FOR BETTER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL ACTORS

Data can lead to better lives in different ways. Governments can use data to improve programmes, policies, and the targeting of scarce resources to marginalised people and areas. The private sector can use data for investment decisions that stimulate local economic activity and international trade in services. CSOs and individuals, empowered by data, can make better decisions and hold governments accountable. Greater uptake and use of quantitative and qualitative data can trigger a virtuous cycle towards a “culture of data use”.

There is very little data use for development in many countries, low demand and little recognition of the importance of data and the need to invest in its production and use.

To change this, **data must be relevant for data users, easy to access, unambiguous, sufficiently granular and trusted**. Data uptake and use also requires investments in data literacy and skills of all user groups.

Actions for partner countries

Partner countries accelerate and deepen efforts **to make use of data to inform their policy decisions**. They use data in their national strategies, sectoral and sub-national plans as a basis **for programming, monitoring and accountability**.

Partner countries invest in **data literacy and provide access to data** to data users and decision-makers at all levels, within and beyond the government.

Partner countries **strengthen trust in data** by taking measures on data protection for individuals and social groups through safeguards that **protect from harm and data misuse** – in line with existing [international standards](#).

Actions for development partners

Development partners **commit to use the country’s national statistical system to report on their development interventions**. In cases in which they cannot avoid collecting their own data, they take steps to ensure that their data collection efforts are coordinated, sustainable; connect with the national statistical system; and make their data available.

Development partners **support data use and capacity for data use throughout the national statistical system as well as among civil society organizations to promote evidence-based dialogue on development co-operation**.

PRINCIPLE 3: STRENGTHEN AN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

In line with the pledge of [Agenda 2030](#) and of the [Nairobi commitments](#) on effectiveness, disaggregated data that is of high quality, accessible, timely and reliable, help understand, track and address the specific needs of those left behind. The *Leave no one behind* (LNOB) agenda is an opportunity for policy dialogues between country stakeholders and development partners on the **inclusion of LNOB objectives in national development strategies**. This requires **data that are relevant for the most vulnerable and marginalised** to provide context-specific information on needs and concerns, so as to improve their livelihoods. The key question is: **how to collect disaggregated data?**

Typically household surveys are used to gather demographic and socioeconomic data. They have a number of disadvantages: surveys usually cannot provide sufficiently disaggregated data to local government, and they under-represent those most marginalized (e.g. disjointed households, people living in slums or in areas posing security risks). There is growing consensus among all development actors that while surveys remain useful, governments should give priority to organizing administrative data within government institutions, and with stakeholders, to begin to provide disaggregated and timely data.

Actions for partner countries

Partner countries integrate **LNOB objectives into their national development strategies** and monitor progress with adequate disaggregated data.

Partner countries develop administrative systems to provide **sufficiently inclusive and disaggregated data of use** to local decision-makers.

Partner countries encourage **innovations in citizen-led data gathering and reporting** by women's groups, youth and other partners in civil society^{iv} and support NSOs to quality check these types of data.

Actions for development partners

Development partners **support capacities to produce inclusive and disaggregated data systems** and give priority to strengthen administrative data systems - such as civil registration - that reaches the whole population.

Development partners **support the capacity of civil society organizations representing the most vulnerable or marginalized groups** to participate in design, collection and use of relevant data to their context.

Actions for civil society

Civil society organizations build their capacities to support representatives of the most vulnerable or marginalized groups to **participate in the design, planning, collection and use of data**.

PRINCIPLE 4: BUILD INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE DATA COLLABORATIONS

Governments, subnational and regional bodies, development partners, citizens and local communities, civil society organizations, universities, researchers, the media and the private sector, all have a role in the development of strong data ecosystems. The different actors need to work together to reduce fragmentation and incentivize alignments. **NSOs have an important role in leading and strengthening data collaborations** to ensure data quality and easy access, to incentivise alignment, reduce fragmentation and to leverage support in data as a common public good.

Data collaborations among actors offer significant opportunities such as cost effectiveness, timeliness, granularity and complementarity. Collaborations can take different forms - from formal partnerships to joint actions, data sharing and connecting data systems. Data collaborations also help realise opportunities provided by technological change, which is radically changing the way in which actors produce, share, use and manage data.

Collaborative Actions

Government and development partners use **existing development coordination fora (including at sector-level)** to address data gaps and to mobilise, coordinate and align support to the national statistical system.

Data partners coordinate data requirements - between government agencies (including NSOs) and between government and development partners - to avoid overloading administrative data collectors and ensure the definition of clear indicators as the basis for data collection.

Strategies on digitalization connect with the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics to ensure that new technological opportunities lead to more and better data and avoid fragmentation. Challenges and risks, such as data confidentiality, are addressed.

Government and development partners **endorse open data standards** that make data more accessible and understandable and that promote focused and effective interventions.

Data collaborations between central and local governments strengthen local statistical systems and promote the use of local official and administrative data and geographically disaggregated data as a basis for service delivery and planning.

Availability of accurate and timely data is also critical with the average duration of humanitarian crises increasing to nine years.^v This calls for **enhanced engagement between humanitarian and development actors** to support and complement national coordination mechanisms and increase long-term investments in the institutional capacities of local and national actors to collect and use data.^{vi}

KEY TERMS

Citizen-Generated Data: Data produced by non state actors, particularly individuals or civil society organizations, under the active consent of the data providing subjects. Primary purpose of citizen-generated data is to contribute to monitoring of public policy and demand or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities.

Custodian agencies: United Nations bodies (and in some cases, other international organizations) responsible for compiling and verifying country data and metadata, and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

Data ecosystem: The community of interacting entities and the policy environment in which new data users and producers operate, creates an extended data ecosystem of many new actors (*Paris21, 2017*); The entire network of data collectors, data producers, data analysts and other data users that directly or indirectly collect, process, disseminate, analyse and/or otherwise consume data and associated services within a specified country or region (UNSD).

Development co-operation: Development co-operation can be defined as an activity that 1) aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities; 2) is not driven by profit; 3) discriminates in favour of developing countries; and 4) is based on co-operative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership (Alonso & Glennie, 2015). Thinking about development co-operation has evolved considerably over the years – from primarily financial aid to a much broader palette of development co-operation approaches and instruments, including non-concessional finance, South-South and triangular co-operation, climate finance, co-operation among governments on non-aid policies, and co-operation with and among non-governmental actors, such as businesses and civil society.

Development data: This paper is about development data – all data that are instrumental in understanding development challenges and opportunities and in achieving development outcomes and impact, can help strengthen development effectiveness, accelerate achievement of results, and bolster accountability. Development data include official data and statistics produced by government but also data produced by other actors. However, while there is a growing diversity of data producers, governments generate the vast majority of information on development inputs, outputs, and outcomes in their countries (Custer & Sethi, 2017). Line ministries and local governments produce administrative records related to the services they provide (e.g. school, hospitals), the people who access public services (students, patients), and the benefits they deliver (e.g. enrolment and immunization rates). National statistical offices conduct censuses and surveys, including sector-specific data collection. Government data are also the most frequently used domestic source of information across different stakeholder groups, including governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector (Masaki, Custer, Eskenazi, Stern, & Latourell, 2017).

Development partners are the range of national and international organizations that partner with countries that receive development co-operation to realise national sustainable development priorities and the SDGs. These include governments that provide different types of development co-operation, multilateral organizations such as United Nations' agencies and programmes, international financial institutions, bilateral development finance institutions, parliamentary organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and philanthropic organizations.

Integrated National Data System (INDS): A way of countries realizing the potential of data for development, using the principles of the social contract as a blueprint. The INDS framework allows a country to share data between national participants safely while maximizing the benefit equitably (*WDR 2021*).

Marginalized or vulnerable communities: Communities who are systematically discriminated against based on descent or occupation or are marginalized due to income, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status within a country or context.

National Statistical Office (NSO) is the leading statistical agency within a national statistical system.

National Statistical System (NSS): The ensemble of statistical organizations, including the NSO and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national government. The NSO and the NSS are part of a wider data ecosystem, the entirety of factors that condition the supply and use of development data and statistics in a specific country, including the institutional framework, technical capacity of producers, data and statistical literacy of users, and other resources.

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS): NSDS are strategic plans developed by countries to strengthen the statistical capacity of the NSS. They show what and how statistics will be collected and published and identifies the financial, human and technical resources that will be available to the NSS.

Non-Official Data: Data that does not represent statistics certified or published as official

Official Data: Data generated and/or validated by official statistical agencies (including government agencies/bodies and international organizations). Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.

Partner countries: All countries that receive development co-operation.

TOOLS AND EVIDENCE

Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan/>

Clearinghouse for Financing Development Data: <https://smartdatafinance.org/>

Development Initiatives, 2021. The data side of leaving no one behind: Lessons from landscaping.

<https://www.devinit.org/resources/data-side-leaving-no-one-behind/>

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Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation – GPEDC Monitoring Exercise

<https://www.effectivecooperation.org/landing-page/leveraging-monitoring-action>

OECD (2021), *Development Co-operation Report 2021: Shaping a Just Digital Transformation*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/ce08832f-en>.

OECD (2021). Simon Lange and Ida McDonnell. "Effectiveness issues in Development Co-operation for Data and Statistics, <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/content/effectiveness-issues-development-co-operation-data-and-statistics>

PARIS21 - NSDS Guidelines (updated): <https://new.nsdsguidelines.paris21.org/en/homepage>

PARIS21 - Statistical Capacity Monitor: <https://statisticalcapacitymonitor.org/>

PARIS21 - Capacity Development CD4.0: <https://paris21.org/capacity-development-40>

United Nations (2014), [Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics](#)

United Nations (1990), [Guidelines for the Regulation of Computerized Personal Data Files](#)

World Bank (2021), World Development Report "Data for Better Lives".

APPENDIX: INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The below summarizes international commitments to strengthen national statistical systems and the use of data for development:

1) Major international milestones to strengthen data and statistical capacity and systems in partner countries

- The Rome Declaration on Harmonization (2003) to improve harmonization of donor systems and coordination amongst development partners, including to improve information-sharing and avoid duplication of efforts.
- The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (2004) which gave prominence to a number of initiatives, including PARIS21's support for national strategies for the development statistics.
- The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (2011) pledged to implement a global Action Plan to enhance capacity for statistics - the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.
- The Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of 2016. Commitments made at the Nairobi High-Level Meeting inform the current work programme of the Global Partnership. Data feature prominently in the Nairobi Outcome Document, especially as a means to strengthen a focus on results (i.e. to measure and monitor progress) and a means to promote transparency and accountability. Both development partners and partner countries pledge to strengthen national statistical systems throughout the data cycle from creation to use, storage and deletion (see the detailed commitments below).
- The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (HLG-PCCB and UNSC, 2017) called for a global pact or alliance that recognizes that the funding of national statistical systems' modernization efforts is essential to the full implementation of Agenda 2030.
- The "Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals" adopted at the UN World Data Forum 2020 called on the international community and national governments to ensure that all communities work together in the data ecosystem to secure many aspects related to the 2030 Agenda.

2) Data, statistics and indicators in the Nairobi Outcome Document (GPEDC 2nd High-Level Meeting, Nairobi, 2016):

In the summary

Data and statistics are mentioned in the summary in the context of strengthening a focus on results, and transparency and accountability:

10. *To strengthen the focus on results, we will:*

- further develop, support and use country-level results frameworks; progressively adapt results frameworks to reflect the targets and indicators of the SDGs; and make data on results publicly available; and*
- further develop, support and use national statistical systems, and generate disaggregated data to report on progress.*

12. *To strengthen transparency and accountability to each other, we will:*

- Improve publication of open data on development co-operation, and support the use of this data by all stakeholders; [...]*
- Improve the capacity of local authorities and parliaments to provide transparent information to citizens on the use of resources; [...]*

In the context of ownership of development priorities by partner countries receiving support (Principle 1)

Data are only mentioned once in commitments under the first effectiveness principle, ownership of development priorities by partner countries.

Partner countries receiving support commit to:

- h. encourage innovations in citizen-led data gathering and reporting by women's groups, youth and other partners in civil society.*

In contrast to, say, financial management systems and processes, partner countries are not explicitly committing to accelerate progress in use of national data and statistical systems.

In the context of focus on results (Principle 2)

Under the second effectiveness principle, focus on results, all signatories recognise the importance of data to measure progress in development co-operation. Partner countries commit to strengthen their results frameworks, linking them with SDG-related targets and indicators and identifying “meaningful and measurable indicators and realistic and robust targets [...]”. Development partners providing support commit to strengthening data and statistical systems.

52. We recognise that high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, income, disability, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geography and other characteristics relevant in national contexts will be needed to help in the measurement of progress in development co-operation. We affirm our commitment to help develop partner country capacities in this regard. This will improve national monitoring exercises and public debates in partner countries receiving support.

54. Partner countries receiving support commit to:

- a. adapt their national results frameworks to strengthen linkages with national development priorities and SDG-related targets and indicators;*
- b. strengthen their results frameworks, including through identifying meaningful and measurable indicators and realistic and robust targets; and improving national monitoring and evaluation systems; and*
- c. ensure that national results frameworks have appropriate disaggregation and are used to drive performance, improve development outcomes, facilitate multi-stakeholder participation and ensure no-one is left behind.*

55. Development partners providing support commit to:

- a. use country-led results frameworks and associated national systems for statistics and for monitoring and evaluation in planning, delivering and monitoring development interventions as a matter of urgency; [...]*
- c. support the strengthening of statistical capacity and monitoring and evaluation systems of partner countries receiving support, with the aim of enhancing data collection and analysis, including data disaggregated by age, sex and location for use in policy-making, planning, budgeting and reporting on implementation of 2030 Agenda:*

In the context of transparency and accountability (Principle 4)

All signatories recognise the functional role of data to promote transparency and accountability, endorsing open data standards and measures to make data accessible and interoperable. Partner countries commit to step up their efforts to strengthen their capacity to produce data and to put in place elements of appropriate governance frameworks (e.g. the “independence of national statistical capacities” is mentioned). Development partners in turn commit to making their data open, to support increased awareness and use of data, to strengthen support to increase data use, and, again, to help their partners countries build national statistical capacity.

74. We note that primary use of national data is to inform inclusive national conversations, to track performance, to prioritise and to promote accountability. The Global Partnership therefore commits to strengthening country-level systems throughout the data cycle from creation to use, storage and deletion. The data produced from national-level processes is the building block for review at regional and global levels. We will support efforts to make data standards interoperable, allowing data from different sources to be more easily compared and used.

75. We also endorse open data standards and platforms that make data more accessible, understandable, and that promote focused and effective interventions. We encourage increased involvement of all stakeholders including data communities and the media to enhance data use at all levels. [...]

76. Partner countries receiving support commit to:

- c. *intensify efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities and their independence and to support initiatives aimed at collecting and disseminating data in more effective and accessible ways; [...]*
- f. *accelerate and deepen efforts to collect, analyse disseminate, harmonise and make full use of data disaggregated by demography (including sex, age and disability status) and geography to inform policy decision and guide investments that can ensure that public expenditures are targeted appropriately, including to equally benefit both women and men and to leave no-one behind; [...]*

77. Development partners providing support commit to:

- a. *update institutional architecture, policies and information management systems, as needed, to make development co-operation more transparent, meeting the information needs of partner countries receiving support, citizens, and other Global Partnership stakeholders, and relying on open data international standards such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the statistical standards of the OECD-DAC systems;*
- b. *close data gaps by capacity building through appropriate financial and technical support to improve national statistical capacity to systematically collect, analyse, disseminate and use data disaggregated by sex and age;*
- c. *work together to improve the availability, accuracy and use of open data on development co-operation at the country level;*
- d. *support increased awareness and use of data in planning, delivering and monitoring development and humanitarian initiatives, especially at the country level, to drive effectiveness, engage stakeholders and citizens and improve development outcomes;*
- e. *strive to publish data on all ongoing activities, as regularly as possible, including detailed forward-looking data as well as data on results and evaluations, wherever available; and*
- f. *strengthen support to increase data use, including through the development of data visualization and analysis tools, and assist partners that receive support to do likewise.*

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- ⁱⁱ OECD, 2019. Sustainable Results in Development: Using the SDGs for Shared Results and Impact. Available at: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/sustainable-results-in-development_368cf8b4-en
- ⁱⁱⁱ 93%. OECD, 2021. Data for Development Profiles: Official Development Assistance for Data and Statistical Systems
- ^{iv} Nairobi document. Principle 1. #42
- ^v The average length is 9 years. OCHA, 2018. US\$21.9 billion needed in 2019 as average length of humanitarian crises climbs. Available at: <https://www.unocha.org/story/us219-billion-needed-2019-average-length-humanitarian-crises-climbs>
- ^{vi} Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need. https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/grand_bargain_final_22_may_final2_0.pdf