

## Summary of Feedback

### Online consultation on the *Bern Call to Action* (former *Bern Principles*) on Effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development

26 April - 20 May 2022

This online consultation collected comments from a diverse set of representatives of development partners, partner countries and civil society organisations.<sup>1</sup> Stakeholders supported the *Bern Call to Action* and underlined its contribution in providing guidance to support national statistical systems and data for development more effectively in the context of the challenges linked to the proliferation of data sources and actors, digitalization and shifting priorities in development co-operation funding; and to better outline the contributions in that process of different data partners, in particular CSOs and representatives of those left behind.

Stakeholders overall supported the idea that **the *Bern Principles* should be renamed *Bern Call to Action* to better reflect their contextual relevance and action-driven rationale**. Stakeholders also underlined that the *Call for Action* should:

- Refer more clearly to existing evidence, including the GPEDC issues paper on [Effectiveness Issues in Development Co-operation for Data and Statistics](#) which supports the *Call to Action*.
- Draw more extensively on, and point to, good practices and lessons learnt in the realm of data for development (e.g. use of centralised funds for statistics in partner countries).
- Adopt a nuanced view on the role SDG frameworks may play in enhancing data alignment and harmonisation at country-level; and their contribution to long-term investments in national capacities to collect and use data.
- Promote a systems view in which data are considered as an essential infrastructure that is integral to achieving other development goals (e.g by inviting development partners to develop corporate data strategies for development).
- Adopt a nuanced view on the respective contributions of surveys and administrative data to strengthen national statistical systems and the use of data for development; and clarify that partner countries are responsible for choosing the extent to which they draw on each data source.
- Stress, in the context of digitalization, the importance of the *quality* of the data collected and used at national level, to ensure that data can be harnessed effectively for decision-making.
- Articulate more clearly requirements for truly accessible data (which follows open data standards) with the need for protection/safeguards against data misuse and harm.
- Underline that data collection processes need to be “truly inclusive”. This requires data governance mechanisms that allow those affected by data to participate, in particular those most in need and at risk of being marginalised.
- Stress the importance of non-traditional sources of data to complement and/or further streamline national and administrative data sources; and of supporting CSOs’ capacities in generating that evidence.

---

<sup>1</sup> We thank in particular the Governments of Senegal and Germany, as well as Open Data Watch, Development Initiatives, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness, LNOB Partnership (International Civil Society Centre), Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, and the OECD’s Development Co-operation Directorate for their contributions.