



Department
for International
Development



A World that Counts:

*Mobilising the Data Revolution
for Sustainable Development*



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BACKGROUND

Creation of the group

- Establishment of an **Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG)**
 - Announced on 29th August
 - *Part of SG's efforts to prepare the **Synthesis Report** requested by Member States*
 - *Ahead of intergovernmental negotiations leading to adoption of post-2015 development agenda*
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The mandate

- A **strategic framework** and advice on what the “data revolution for development” means in practice
 - Suggest **measures** to close data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities
 - Assess new **opportunities** linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new data providers
 - Provide a report by 31 October with recommendations
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THE IEAG REPORT

What is the data revolution

- **The data revolution is already happening:**
 - New technologies leading to **exponential increase in volume and types of data available**
 - **Much greater demand for data from all sides**
 - Governments, companies, researchers and citizen groups are in a ferment of **experimentation, innovation and adaptation**
 - **A huge opportunity**
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Why act? Invisibility

- **There are too many gaps in what is counted, making some people and some issues almost invisible:**
 - Too many countries **still** have **poor data for MDGs**
 - Data arrives **too late**
 - Too many issues are still **barely covered** by existing data
 - Entire groups of **people, regions and key issues** remain **invisible**
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Why act? Inequality

- **The data revolution is very unequally distributed between countries and people (gaps in who can count)**
 - People, organisations and governments are **excluded because of lack of resources, knowledge, capacity or opportunity.**
 - There are huge and growing inequalities in **access** to data and information and in the **ability to use** it.
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Why act? Risks

- Risks to privacy
 - Risks to human rights
 - Risks of poor quality data
 - Risks of breakdown of trust
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The opportunity of the SDGs

- New goals will cover **wider range of issues** than MDGs
 - **Monitoring will require substantial additional investment** to develop reliable, high-quality data
 - On a range of **new subjects**
 - Ensuring that **no groups are excluded**
 - With an unprecedented level of **detail**
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VISION and RECOMMENDATIONS



The vision for data

- The world we need is **a world of data that is transformed** in the following ways:
 - Data for **everyone**
 - Data for **now**
 - Data for the **future**
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The vision for governments

- Investments in data from domestic resources and external financing
 - Independence of statistical offices to be guarantors of quality and public interest
 - Regulatory frameworks to protect privacy and data rights
 - Public data is open by default
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The vision for international institutions

- Forum for stakeholders to set common standards to maintain quality and ethics in changing world of data
 - Capacity development and resource flows for developing countries
 - Coordination and leadership for effective action
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IEAG recommendations

- Develop a global consensus on principles and standards
 - Share technology and innovations for the common good
 - New resources for capacity development
 - Leadership for coordination and mobilisation
 - Exploit some quick wins on SDG data
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Never again should it be possible to say “we didn’t know”

No one should be invisible

***This is the world we want:
a world that counts.***
