A World that Counts:

Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development
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
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
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
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
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.
Why act? Risks

– Risks to privacy
– Risks to human rights
– Risks of poor quality data
– Risks of breakdown of trust
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
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**
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
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
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
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.