Open Government Data for Sustainable Development

Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).
Content

- Better data for tracking sustainable development progress
- A data revolution
- Sustainable Development and OGD
Better data for tracking sustainable development progress

The Sustainable Development Goals, agreed by world leaders in 2015, encouraged investments in data for enhanced transparency and accountability and for supporting national governments and international organizations to track progress on agreed indicators.
A data revolution

“A true data revolution would draw on existing and new sources of data to fully integrate statistics into decision making, promote open access to, and use of, data and ensure increased support for statistical systems.”

“Open data can help ensure that knowledge is shared, creating a world of informed and empowered citizens, capable of holding decision-makers accountable for their actions.”
-A world that counts: Mobilising the data revolution for sustainable development, available here

1. Explore ways of revising the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to include relevant and appropriate aspects of open data initiatives
2. Clarify and support the role of the national statistical systems in open data initiatives, consistent with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
3. Encourage national statistical offices to embrace the open data initiative and ensure stakeholders of the national statistical system as part of part of the process.
-Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data, pages 4-5, available here
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries;
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.
In many countries, assistance from the international community may be instrumental to evolve towards OGD and improve the statistical system and availability of data.

National statistical systems play a central role in the measurement of progress on the SDGs at the global level through collecting and providing data and metadata for 232 global SDG indicators that were agreed upon at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2017.
Sustainable Development and OGD

International Aid Transparency Initiative:

“Within the context of the renewal of the international development agenda and the setting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a rare phenomenon has occurred – a multi-stakeholder consensus across public policy and open data communities has emerged – recognizing a need not just for more and better data generation but for the creation of better information to drive policy-making and accountability efforts in future”

Sustainable Development and OGD cont’d

Attaining coherent outcomes on multidimensional aspects of development requires governments to continuously monitor, in an inclusive manner, the impact of public policies. OGD can offer valuable opportunities to collaboratively do so.

By contributing to creating better information for sustainable development, OGD can be a resource and supporting element for the 2030 Agenda. The next two slides examine, in particular, relevant targets under SDG 16 and SDG 17.
Sustainable Development Goal 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
Sustainable Development Goal 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

- 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
Thank you!

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OGD project and OGDCE Guidelines
publicadministration.un.org/en/ogd

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