Big data for sustainable development

GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND NETWORKS

Compiled by

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

Guidance Note on Big Data for SDGs

http://www.undg.org

This document sets out general guidance on data privacy, data protection and data ethics for the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) concerning the use of big data, collected in real time by private sector entities as part of their business offerings, and shared with UNDG members for the purposes of strengthening operational implementation of their programmes to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The Guidance Note is designed to:

- Establish common principles across UNDG to support the operational use of big data for achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Serve as a risk-management tool taking into account fundamental human rights; and
- Set principles for obtaining, retention, use and quality control for data from the private sector.

The guidance described in this document acknowledges and is based on the UN Guidelines for the Regulation of Computerized Personal Data Files, adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 45/95, and takes into account both existing international instruments and relevant regulations, rules and policies of UNDG member organizations concerning data privacy and data protection. This Guidance Note is based on standards that have withstood the test of time, reflecting the strength of their core values.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

http://www.data4sdgs.org

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is an open, multi-stakeholder network working to harness the data revolution for sustainable development. The Data4SDGs Highway helps access valuable data to support the SDGs and transform these into effective applications and visualizations to further enable action and decision making. The Global Partnership has also identified 12 key "plays" drawn from successful practices from the private sector and government that, if followed together, will help developers build better digital services in support of the SDGs.

Global Pulse

https://www.unglobalpulse.org

Global Pulse is a flagship innovation initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General on big data. Its vision is a future in which big data is harnessed safely and responsibly as a public good. Its mission is to accelerate discovery, development and scaled adoption of big data innovation for sustainable development and humanitarian action.

The initiative was established based on a recognition that digital data offers the opportunity to gain a better understanding of changes in human well-being, and to get real-time feedback on how well policy responses are working. To this end, Global Pulse is working to promote awareness of the opportunities Big Data presents for sustainable development and humanitarian action, forge public-private data sharing partnerships, generate high-impact analytical tools and approaches through its network of Pulse Labs, and drive broad adoption of useful innovations across the UN System. Global Pulse functions as a network of innovation labs where research on Big Data for Development is conceived and coordinated. Global Pulse partners with experts from UN agencies, governments, academia, and the private sector to research, develop, and mainstream approaches for applying real-time digital data to 21st century development challenges.

Environment Live

http://environmentlive.unep.org

Environment Live provides the UN Member States open access to information and knowledge on the environment

at the global, regional and national levels. It supports Environmental Policy through Foresight, Outlooks and Assessments and providing Capacity Building for countries to achieve the Goals of Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development. Environment Live provides up-to-date information for citizen-science, communities of practice and impact stories and case-studies on the environment and people.

Environment Live is a dynamic on-line platform for sharing contextualized data and knowledge to keep the environment under review. Environment Live principles promote open access to national data and knowledge connecting to open data portals, harvesting data from country websites and making it accessible and available. More than 3455 data flows from 193 countries are available in Environment Live and the platform is continuously updated. Environment Live offers countries multiple benefits e.g. increasing visibility of a country's progress and enhancing transparency facilitating interdisciplinary research and integrated research environmental assessments; advancing knowledge and enriching information-sharing.

SDG Data Science Lab

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Statistical Research Institute, Statistics Korea co-organized a Forum on Innovative Data Approaches to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from 31 May to 2 June in Incheon to explore the latest innovative data methods and find ways to use big data to monitor the SDGs. The Forum discussed the elements of a regional platform for sharing and scaling up innovations in big data and analytics in ESCAP. Dubbed "SDG Data Science Lab," the platform will be accessible to teams and individual researchers in governments, academia, the private sector, international and other organizations who wish

to share and experiment with different types of big data in a safeguarded online environment. The platform also provides a valuable tool for ESCAP to support capacity building in government agencies and for other stakeholders interested in big data in the Asia-Pacific region.

Data-Pop Alliance

http://datapopalliance.org

Data-Pop Alliance is a global coalition on Big Data and development created by the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, MIT Media Lab, and Overseas Development Institute that brings together researchers, experts, practitioners, and activists to promote a people-centered Big Data revolution through collaborative research, capacity building, and community engagement.

Big Data for Social Good

https://www.gsma.com/betterfuture/bd4sg/

To respond effectively and efficiently to the spread of infectious diseases, pollution, earthquakes and other disasters, governments and NGOs need to know where the impacted people are, in which direction they are moving and how the environment is changing. Mobile operators can help provide that information, while respecting individuals' privacy and safeguarding personal data. Through the Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA), mobile operators are establishing a common framework and ecosystem approach that can support strategic planning, decision-making and support preparedness and response to help people recover from a disaster, contain an epidemic and contend with environmental pollution. Backed by 19 operators accounting for over two billion connections in over 100 countries, the GSMA's Big Data for Social Good initiative is developing a consistent approach and processes mobile operators can use to share insights with public agencies and NGOs, while building an ecosystem to support timely planning and response.

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 is the annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals. The Report provides an overview of the world's implementation efforts to date, highlighting areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken to ensure no one is left behind. This year's report finds that while progress has been made over the past decade across all areas of development, the pace of progress has been insufficient and advancements have been uneven to fully meet the implementation of the SDGs. The report is based on latest available data on selected indicators of the global SDG indicator framework, prepared by UN DESA with inputs from a large number of international and regional organizations.

For more information, access:

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2017/