

## Independent Experts Advisory Group (IEAG) on

### “Data Revolution for Development”

The experience of the MDGs shows that making the promises does not necessarily create the information needed to monitor them. This time, while diplomats in New York debate the nature of new goals for human and environmental progress, they are also focussed on the information that will be needed to ensure that the information is there to implement and monitor new goals.

At the same time, a new world of data is opening up – data that is more accessible, more timely, more accurate and more useful. This group is tasked with recommending how this new world of data can best be allied to existing systems and how they can be made to work together by governments, the private sector and civil society to improve decision making, accountability, and ultimately improve lives.

**This is why the** UN Secretary General has established the IEAG to provide inputs to inform system-wide thinking on data and monitoring for new global goals on sustainable development. The TOR specify that the group shall:

- Craft a strategic framework and advise the Secretary-General on what the “data revolution for development” would mean in practice, how it can be funded and what institutional and governance implications it would possibly entail. Specifically, the IEAG will suggest measures to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities. In addition, the Group would assess the new opportunities linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new public and private data providers to support and complement the conventional national countries statistical systems to support the sustainable development agenda as well as to strengthen accountability at the global, regional and national level.
- Provide a report by 31 October 2014, in order to inform the Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report on Post-2015, expected later in 2014. This study will provide recommendations on:
  - a) A definition of *data revolution* and illustration of what data revolution would concretely mean at the national, regional and international level;
  - b) The status of all ongoing initiatives on the *data revolution* for post-2015 and how they can best be connected to achieve maximum synergies;
  - c) The means of implementation and funding to fill critical gaps in the production, dissemination and use of statistics, including by reinforcing national capacities in all of these areas and introducing innovation in the use of ICT’s;
  - d) Opportunities to take advantage of big data, taking into due consideration the need to protect the privacy of individuals, ensure sustainability of data sharing by the private sector, strengthen the ecosystem to create an enabling environment for innovation, and support broad public sector adoption of new data sources, technologies and approaches;
  - e) A proposed strategy for scaling up successful approaches to increasing the availability and accessibility of data; and
  - f) Possible outreach and advocacy activities to maintain the high visibility of the recommendations of the group and to facilitate their implementation.

In this context, the meeting represents an opportunity to receive inputs from international organisations on their programs on data revolution-related projects, as well as their views on how data for post-2015 development strategy should be produced, relationships between national and international organisations, risks and opportunities, challenges, etc.