19 – 23 March

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Conference A
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Committee Staff

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Agenda

I. Harnessing Data for Sustainable Development
II. The Role of the Private Sector in Promoting Sustainable Development
III. Gender Mainstreaming in Early Recovery Situations

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

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<td>UNDP/1/1</td>
<td>Capacity building through improving education</td>
<td>Adopted without a vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP/1/2</td>
<td>Improving data infrastructure, open data, and e-governance</td>
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Summary Report

The United Nations Development Programme held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

1. Harnessing Data for Sustainable Development
2. The Role of the Private Sector in Promoting Sustainable Development
3. Gender Mainstreaming in Early Recovery Situations

The session was attended by representatives of 23 Member States and zero Observers.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda as I, II, III, beginning discussion on the topic of “Harnessing Data for Sustainable Development.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of five proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including the promotion and the development of e-governance systems, the utilization of Open Data strategies to improve international data collection, improving data infrastructure, and education for capacity building through triangular cooperation. The atmosphere of the committee was highly cooperative, and by the end of the committee session four working papers merged, resulting into two working papers.

On Wednesday, two draft resolutions were approved by the Dais, one of which had a friendly amendment. The committee adopted two resolutions following voting procedure, both of which received unanimous support by the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including triangular cooperation to promote infrastructure, open data, and capacity building through improving education. The committee was dedicated to the communicative and collaborative spirit of the conference and was therefore able to garner widespread support for their draft resolutions.

Teamwork, diplomacy, and critical thinking were integral to the tone of the group as they worked to find comprehensive and appropriate resolutions on the topic. With time remaining after voting procedure, the group moved fervidly into discussion and collaboration on the second topic, “The Role of the Private Sector in Sustainable Development.”
The United Nations Development Program,

Taking into consideration the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on poverty reduction, SDG 10 on inequality, SDG 16 on stronger institutions, and SDG 17 on fostering strong partnerships,

Referring to General Assembly resolution 44/147 of 1989, recognizing the right to state sovereignty,

Recognizing the need to design policies while taking into account gender mainstreaming, as emphasized by the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA),

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/729 of 30 June 2014 and GA resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013, which calls upon Member States to raise dialogue and support financing for development initiatives,

Recognizing the importance of tailoring the data revolution to fit the needs and the context of each country, by taking into account each particular history, culture, and task of national statistics offices and systems, and by understanding country contexts,

Acknowledging the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the pooling of resources, such as privately funded concession schools that provide federally funded per-pupil grants to disadvantaged youths,

Guided by the UN World Data Forum for intensifying cooperation and coordination between actors such as information technology, data scientists, and users, and civil society stakeholders,

Referring to the expertise of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on statistics, which promotes national coordination between government and statistical agencies to facilitate information sharing,

Considering the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which emphasizes the importance of creating, strengthening, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for the promotion and achievement of sustainable development,

Recognizing the work and achievements done by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) in order to improve the training in, and use of, statistics by its Member States,

Underscoring the necessity of coordination between public and private sectors, as practiced in the United Nations Global Pulse Initiative through research and innovation labs, and International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) General Data Dissemination Standards (GDDS) and Special Data Dissemination Standards, both of which establish a national focal point as a central repository of statistics,

Recognizing the limitations in funding with regards to research partnerships with the scientific community and the private sector for high-risk private research projects, such as the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), which is a gateway for partnership building between private sector, NGO’s and the UN system,

Recalling the ideas of the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness and Public-Private Partnerships (CICPPP), which advocate for PPPs in identifying and testing of best practice by drawing on the expertise of international experts,

1. **Recommends** Member States to engage their respective secondary and post-secondary educational institutions in the data revolution by:
a. Developing curricula based on country-specific needs by consulting each Member State and identifying local issues through dialogue;

b. Developing education programs with the aim of training statisticians, data managers, and data modeled after the framework of the SIAP training, which aims to improve the use of statistics for evidence-based decision-making, and to produce and disseminate quality statistics for sustainable societies by:
   i. Enlisting of experts in the field of data harnessing, through NGOs or university professors on statistics, by Member States or private sectors in need of technical expertise with selection processes depending on individual needs of each Member State;
   ii. Countries voluntarily nominating their country host the program, depending on the needs and the context of each country;

c. Offering the tools necessary, such as software or information technology equipment, to be provided by the Member States or the private sector in order to strengthen the capacities of national statistical offices when designing and implementing data revolution-related projects;

d. Strengthening leadership skills through workshops and training, with the aim to transform statistical offices from information providers to knowledge builders that design and implement innovation-oriented projects;

e. Undertaking educational programs that improve statistical literacy and basic numeracy in the population through:
   i. Primary and secondary education, notably by encouraging the use of IT such as tablets or computers in the educational environment in order to be exposed to the use of data;
   ii. Educational and informative media programs, including on TV, on the radio or newspapers;
   iii. Collaboration with the private sector, notably through PPPs, in order to ensure every Member State can provide their educational systems and media with IT environment, as they will be the support of these programs;
   iv. Designing policies and programs around the specific needs of women;

2. Welcomes national coordination initiatives such as the National Coordination on the Implementation of SDG Initiative, which aims to avoid duplication of efforts and that strive to maximize resource allocation and efficiency through:

   a. Strengthening technical skills and capacities of national statistical offices notably in the fields of Population and Social Statistics, Gender Statistics, Agriculture Statistics, Environment Statistics and such related topics;

   b. Leveraging the expertise of the UNESCAP on statistics by creating an international forum that will be held on an annual basis in each of the UNDP geographic groups, which invites regional experts and stakeholders to promote best shared practices;

3. Encourages Member States to invest in promoting their human capital and transferrable skills development that are crucial for employment, by:

   a. Diversifying the education curricula to meet local concerns through stakeholder and Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis;

   b. Working in collaboration with necessary UN sub-branches, such as the UN Statistics Divisions (UNSD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to acquire data processing knowledge;

   c. Engaging in international forums, such as the UN World Data Forum, which promote cooperation between information managers, data scientists and users, and civil society stakeholders;

4. Appeals to Member States to model after the UN Global Pulse Initiative and IMF’s GDDS and SDDS with relation to creating a centralized national focal point by:
a. Statistical offices voluntarily self-nominating and chosen by the legislative branch to ensure efficiency in inspecting the usage of domestic resources by various data harnessing entities and coordinate data communication between such entities and the regional central government;

b. Re-evaluating such already existing data auditing institutions to observe standards in data harnessing and accessibility of the IMF's SDDs, including:
   i. Harnessing and disseminating data punctually with established periodicity and timeliness to the national focal point website for easy access, flexibility of which depends on members states’ needs and access to resources with pre-released disseminating calendars;
   ii. Ensure documentation of data harnessing methodology, including statistical practices, detailed check-ups, reconciliations of related data, and other harnessing and disseminating components from various national data harnessing agencies;
   iii. Standardizing electronic monitoring and reporting practices; nominating their most appropriate institution to be the national focal point that serve to ensure efficient for the data revolution as was done for IMF’s SDPS and GDDS processes;

5. Encourages Member States to contribute and promote the efforts of the AAAA initiative for financing for development, which sets out a comprehensive policy agenda that supports Members States in an effort to finance technological, scientific and data innovations to achieve the SDGs;

6. Endorses the main objectives of CICPPP to provide policy advice, capacity building and training to voluntary Member States in an effort to enhance creation, implementation of national sustainable development strategies and policies by:
   a. Sharing knowledge of PPPs expertise by each Member State through best practice sharing;
   b. Underlining the crucial role of awareness raising campaigns and education programs to affect in order to support PPPs in fostering and managing data collection;
   c. Exchanging expertise on innovation and harnessing technology, such as done in the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).
The United Nations Development Programme,

Acknowledging that tracking sustainable development progress is only possible when all Member States have the ability and the capacity to collect quality data,

Aware of the success triangular cooperation has had when used by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA), and the World Health Organization (WHO),

Recalling the note of the Secretary-General to the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation 17/3 of 2012 in which a framework of operational guidelines on United Nations (UN) support to South-South and triangular cooperation was laid out,

Aware of the expertise and purview of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the indicators for sustainable development progress developed by the Inter-Agency and Experts Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGI),

Aware of UNDP’s "Supporting the Transition to a Green Economy in the Republic of Belarus" and the mobile application developed within that, and recognizing the potential for the initiative to be generalized to data harnessing,

Approving the work done by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data in strengthening data ecosystems, harmonizing data specifications and mobilizing collective action towards harnessing data for the Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the implementation of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency’s study in 2014 on Big Data and its importance nationally on disclosing and understanding its data infrastructure,

Underlining the importance for Member States to generate information regarding their data sectors, to determine a plan to set their national goals, focuses, and directions and fill the gap between developing and developed countries,

Expressing its appreciation toward civil society and private actors in collaborating with government in collecting data,

Aware of the growing necessity of addressing the special and different needs in the realm of data collection, usage, and storing dependent on each level of knowledge of every group, regardless of developing or developed countries,

Having examined the importance of a national action plan on digital infrastructure to bridge the digital divide,

Recognizing the success of Japan’s investment on quality infrastructure casebook and Partnership for Quality Infrastructure to harness Big Data for sustainable development,

Recognizing the lack of experts and infrastructures in developing countries acknowledged in the UNDP’s report, Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Drawing attention to the Open Data for Development Program, which can assist Member States in establishing an action plan for executing national open data initiatives,

Keeping in mind the already existing national data collection of Member States, such as the model offered by the United States of America government’s open data, or the Kingdom of Belgium’s open data,
50 Emphasizing the Open Government Declaration, which states that there has been an increase in demand for
transparency, accountability and efficiency in accordance with the Open Government Partnership seeking to harness
technologies to create accessible online platforms for providing quality data for citizens,

51 Recognizing the work done by the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building for
statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable
Development Data developing standards for statistical data capacity building,

52 Referring to the work of the UNDP in using the advances of technological platforms and innovations such as the
Indian e-governance system for sustainable development, as concluded by the study *E-Governance in India: Its
Impacts on Relations Among Citizens, Politicians and Public Servants* by the National University of Singapore,
demonstrating that e-governance is an effective measure for strengthening institutions, transparency and a measure
against corruption,

53 Referring to the results of the United Nations e-government survey 2016, which emphasizes the manifold
performance of developed and developing countries in implementation of e-government services for providing
digitalized public services and empowering its citizens in decision-making processes,

54 Acknowledging the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and especially the need of the
realization of SDG 16, which calls for peace, justice and strong institutions,

55 Underlining the successes of the first World Data Forum (WDF), which is already concerned with matters regarding
the collection and harnessing of data,

56 Conscious of the inclusive approach of the UN World Data Forum of bringing all participating countries and actors
together to include the different approaches to harnessing data,

57 Appreciating the work of the United Nations Statistic Division (UNSD), which set the groundwork for ethical
principles for data use as stated in the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics,

58 Further Recalling General Assembly (GA) resolution 64/211 of 2009 on creating a global culture of cybersecurity
and national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures,

1. Recommends Member States to join the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data;

2. Invites the UNSD to utilize Security Council Resolution 17/2, facilitating triangular cooperation between
Member States in developing the capacity of LDCs to collect accurate and disaggregated data, with consultation
from the IAEG-SDGI on best practices;

3. Encourages Member States to develop a mobile application that would build the public awareness of SDGs and
the potentials of data harnessing in their pursuit by:

   a. Targeting various audiences internationally such as the general public, NGO sectors, public authorities,
      and mass media;

   b. Disseminating information regarding Member States SDG initiatives;

   c. Transmitting data regarding their populations understanding of said initiatives back to the
governments;

4. Recommends that all Member States lay out or work on an inclusive national strategy on internet access goals to
build infrastructure that facilitates the transparent collection and access of valid and reliable data by:
a. Continuing to encourage the mobilization of funds from the national development funds, regional banks and international banks and organizations through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF) and in partnership with the private sector and the civil society organizations (CSOs);

b. Bridging the data gap by using vacant frequencies and Very High Frequency (VHF) bands through VHF and radio equipment, which serve as a mean to communicate data and broadcast radio, television and mobile services to reach rural and remote areas;

c. Providing infrastructures for the utilization of earth observation satellites;

d. Installing Public Infrastructure Monitoring Systems such as sensors, accelerometers and strain gauges in order to detect anomaly and overload in public infrastructure;

5. **Encourages** all Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and public-private partnerships (PPPs) that focus on data collection in their work to collaborate more closely with countries which are in the process of building their digital infrastructure through:

   a. Regional and international networks by forming regional and global consortia with a mission to enhance access to information and knowledge;

   b. Sharing best practices for the benefit of local engineering communities;

   c. The use of the expertise of the private sector for the partnership of sustainable infrastructure development and maintenance;

   d. Through the use of the expertise of the private sector;

6. **Advises** Member States to recommend the private sector and NGOs at a national level to:

   a. Protect their data from insider and advanced persistent threats (APTs), frequently from the credentials with the most significant access in order to achieve enterprise level data protection, regardless of data type and environment by offering containerized and small footprint computing resources in regional facilities and deployed tactical edge environments;

   b. Maintain granular access to data at rest as well as data in the field;

   c. Reduce costs, most often by unifying data security under a single platform (centralized/decentralized control) and allowing data to be secured to converged storage into a multi-tenancy environment;

7. **Invites** all Member States, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

   a. Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in this field;

   b. Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level through support and promotion of the Code of Conduct for Information Security, for instance;

8. **Encourages** Member States and invested actors to enhance regional cooperation and pursue cooperation on ICT-enabled crimes within the framework of the Asia Pacific meeting and coordination mechanism by:

   a. Stepping up policy exchange and law enforcement cooperation with other countries on cyber crimes and cyber terrorism by increased support and advocacy for initiatives such as International
Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Geneva Plan of Action that have actively raised awareness and increased dialogue on cybersecurity issues;
b. Exploring institutionalized dialogue and communication on cyber terrorism, establishing bilateral police cooperation mechanisms with other countries, improving judicial assistance mechanism and promoting technology and experience sharing on fighting cyber crimes;

9. Suggests the creation of the Capacity Assessment Review (CAR) to be implemented by the Member States as an internal study of their national data infrastructure’s strength and weaknesses which:
   a. Would be entirely voluntary for Member States and would be conducted over the progress of one year, and repeated every five years;
   b. With the support from the UNDP, individual governments would be responsible for conducting the study internally to ensure the transparency and legitimacy of the information collected:
      i. Government agents to gather information regarding the statistical capacity of their data infrastructures;
      ii. C.A.R. is to be performed using a standardized methodology, ensuring that results are consistent, allowing for effective comparative review;
      iii. Researchers verify, overview, and disaggregate the information into the 17 categories of the SDGs, for the purposes of conceptualizing and determining data that falls into each focus;
      iv. The findings are explained in detail through a standardized designed report and published by national governments for the international community’s reference and use;
   c. Would be modeled after a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis to evaluate the four elements of each country by using the SDG indicators as a basis of measurement, and assigning criteria to assess levels of capacity in regards to the SDG goals;

10. Invites the World Bank, European Union Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, as well as other regional and international bodies with vested interests in statistical capacity building to contribute to a United Nations Data Mission Trust Fund, which:
   a. Will be administered by the UNDP under the view of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office;
   b. Will be accessible to all Member States who wish to participate in C.A.R.;
   c. Will dispense funds based on Member States financial abilities, as determined within the application process, distributed after agreement from Member States to use the standardized methodology developed for C.A.R.;
   d. Will only be used to cover the costs of implementing C.A.R., and UN Data missions following the summit to:
      i. Provide experts on data harnessing in order to help countries in need developing their abilities to extract and use date in a sustainable manner through UN Data Mission;
      ii. Adopt a more comprehensive approach on data sharing in developing countries, thus the expert will provide knowledge on how to collect data and how to use it as a follow up of the internal survey;
      iii. Provide recommendations on which policies to adopt depending on the issue that the data collected highlights;

11. Recommends an extended approach for educating and training in harnessing data within the framework of the UN World Data Forum consisting of:
   a. Teaching the participating countries according to their specific problem areas in data harnessing as earlier revealed by the results of the CAR to ensure that everybody’s individual needs get addressed within their respective groups;
b. Providing a tailored UN Data Forum workshop program conditional on the specific problem areas as revealed by the CAR on data each country faces;

c. Bringing all participating countries together on UN World Data Forum workshops themed for example as “New Approaches to Capacity Development for Better Data” and “A Global Action Plan for Data,” offered by the UN World Data Forum workshop program on a voluntary basis, taking into account the individual preferences of each country as earlier revealed by the results of the CAR, offering opportunities to:
   i. Participate in the broadly offered UN World Data Forum workshop program;
   ii. Network beyond north-north and south-south cooperation (SSC) and with previously registered and participating private actors of the UN World Data forum such managers, statisticians, data analysts, scholars, NGO representatives;
   iii. Share knowledge and techniques on harnessing data as an outcome of the attendance of the workshops between participating countries and private actors as set out above;

12. Expressing its appreciation toward civil society and private actors in collaborating with government in collecting data by:

   a. Adopting the recommendations of the UNSD and the IAEG-SDG on data sharing in developing countries, thus the expert will provide knowledge on how to collect data and how to use it as a follow up of the internal survey;

   b. Providing recommendations on which policies to adopt depending on the issue that the data collected highlights;

13. Encourages Member States to adopt the concept of “Open by Default”, which includes:

   a. The active release of public data by governments;
      i. By releasing by default data sets;
      ii. By making data available for secondary use and allowing unrestricted use and processing;
      iii. By ensuring an easy access to these datasets, notably by making these datasets available on a unique data catalog website gathering data released by each ministry and agency;

   b. The release of data in machine-readable formats;

   c. The promotion of the use of public data for commercial and non-commercial purposes, in order to promote data innovative use and unleash their economic potential;

14. Encourages Member States to ensure international access to data between countries by:

   a. Ensuring openness of data by;
      i. Opposing data localization restrictions for the access to, and use of, data;
      ii. Ensuring no excess management and regulation;
      iii. Bearing in mind that open sharing of national security data can pose a threat to international security, protection of private data and national sovereignty should be encouraged;

   b. Ensuring interoperability of data, which will be achieved through the implementation of common standards such as the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

15. Encourages Member States to adopt the Open Government Partnership’s National Action Plan, which provides the building blocks to creating an open government data portal across national, regional and local governments in order for citizens and regional governments:

   a. To have the ability to research for data across all levels of government through a centralized portal in the form of a website;
b. To have compatible and comprehensive information across all levels of government;

c. To enhance the capability of government transparency and accountability;

d. To share relevant scientific, technological and geographical innovations on a regional and local level by, following the model presented by the European Research Area to remove barriers between regional partners to enhance knowledge sharing;

16. Further recommends all Member States to hold seminars in their designated states on the open government data portal which will:

   a. Educate the general public, local private sector and CSOs on the application of the portal;

   b. Be held prior to the launch of the open government data portal;

17. Endorses Member States to use the Global Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CVRS) Scaling Up Plan 2015-2024 in order to efficiently organize and harmonize data sharing, which seeks to establish international CRVS standards by:

   a. Modeling regulations to promote effectiveness for the collection, management and methods to use data;

   b. Establishing an open source module for birth and deaths certificates to assist health facilities to processes more efficiently;

   c. Establishing international standards to simplify birth and death registration, determine causes of death, standards of technology for data management;

   d. Making use of existing global structures to ensure an accountability framework;

   e. Promoting the participation of the private sector and civil society organizations to contribute to the establishment of these systems;

   f. Promoting the collaboration of high-income countries with effective civil registration systems to provide client-oriented services and vital statistics to low and middle income countries;

18. Endorses the establishment of an e-governance program, called E-Governance for Development (EGD), that uses a software with the same capabilities of the tool developed by India and makes it accessible for less developed countries by:

   a. Applying this software fostering the relationship between governments and citizens by:

      i. Erasing intermediaries and subsequently aiming for the prevention of negligence and corruption by government officials or law enforcement officers;

      ii. Simplifying civil processes like visa, passport, national ID and driver’s license applications, change of place of residence and modification of personal information;

   b. Collecting specific data about census numbers, which are then forwarded to the UNSD, where the gained data is anonymized and analyzed;

   c. Limiting the access to the software to Member States which agree on respecting the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
d. Having the UNDP identify problem areas through the processed data of the UNSD for closing the data gap in less developed countries;

e. Encouraging the WDF to add a point on the Agenda of the next Forum to discuss all points concerning the e-governance systems to ensure transparency, discuss the distribution of the software, according to the condition of agreeing on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistic, clarifying the details of how and by whom the software is implemented into the government structures and addressing different socio-economic and infrastructural circumstances concerning countries in order to adjust to their requirements;

f. Urging participating States to use educational and empowering programs for citizens to properly understand e-governance possibilities and uses, as well as digitalized feedback for the improvement of the above mentioned software, improving their approach on such technologies and fostering their decision-making towards the government;

g. Being supported by the funding window of Democratic Governance for Peace and Development of the UNDP and to make it available until the second WDF in 2018 in order to discuss it there;

19. Encourages Member States and relevant regional and international organizations who have successfully developed programs and policies to fight cyber crime to share their best practices with other Member States to aid them in their efforts for international cybersecurity by sharing such data with the Secretary General for collection and dissemination of information.