PARIS21

Strengthening Capacity in Developing Countries: It's time to get it right!

Saturday 26 September 2015, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
The Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E 45ᵗʰ St, New York

Context

This is a vital moment for global development. The agreed upon Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reflect a shared and integrated set of global priorities, calling for inclusive growth and leaving no-one behind. Meeting the goals and measuring progress toward them present an unprecedented challenge to the data ecosystem. The goals will require responsive statistical systems with the capacity to track the development progress of countries across a much broader spectrum of development outcomes and processes.

Despite some progress over the last 15 years, and despite the increasing attention and recognition, the question on how to best build national capacity in terms of data production, dissemination and use remains largely unanswered in many countries. The problem is that recent support to capacity development did not address all levels of the statistical system – human, technical, financial and organizational, and as a result, many developing countries struggle even today to provide the most basic data.

The pressure is on to remedy the current situation. The SDGs will put an unprecedented demand on developing countries to produce more and better data for monitoring, reporting and policy and decision making at national and sub-national levels. It is clear that business as usual will no longer work, and new ideas and practices will be necessary to make progress. The data revolution is underway, marked by an explosion in the volume, variety and velocity of data and number of new tools. Countries need to take advantage of both, and adopt innovative approaches to build stronger and more responsive systems.

Fortunately, there are already many successful experiences to learn from and build on – but also examples of what have not worked so well. It is important to take stock of best practices and foster knowledge sharing, while ensuring that all data communities work together in support of national capacity through innovation and modernisation – because building real capacity requires bold and innovative approaches.

Objectives:
- Take stock of what has been successful over the last 15 years in terms statistical capacity building and identify gaps and main challenges;
- Showcase positive examples and innovations for countries to strengthen capacity building;

- Distil concrete steps forward on how countries can build national capacities, and how the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data can help do so.

Structure of the event:

This event will be divided into two sessions with an aim of addressing how to strengthen capacity in developing countries around two themes:

1. Revisiting Capacity Building
2. Innovation and Modernisation

Each session will have approximately 5 high-level panellists and a moderator, who will participate in moderated discussions. The format will be a "Davos style" panel, with each panellist answering targeted questions by the moderator, drawing upon knowledge and expertise from their relevant sectors, followed by discussion in the panel and with the audience

Agenda:

Time	Title	Speaker
9:00 – 9:15	**Welcome and Introduction**	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21
		John Pullinger, Chief Statistician, United Kingdom, and Chair of the UN Statistical Commission
9:15 – 9:55	**Davos Style Panel # 1: Revisiting Capacity Building** • Building capacity in the SDG era; what does this mean in practice? • What lessons and best practices can we learn from countries that have been successful in building capacity? • What new co-operation and financing mechanisms could be deployed to build and strengthen capacity (financial, south-south cooperation)? • What existing practices should be replicated to better align donor and country financing strategies for statistics?	***Moderator:*** Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21 ***Panellists:*** David Hallam, Director and UK Envoy for the Post-2015 Development Goals, DFID Minister Arsenio Balisacan, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines N.N., Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canada Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch Stefan Schweinfest, Director, United Nations Statistics Division
9:55 – 10:15	**Open discussion and questions for panellists**	
10:15 – 10:20	**Summary of 1st session**	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21
10:20 – 10:45	**Coffee Break**	

Time	Title	Speaker

10:45 – 11:30	**Davos Style Panel # 2: Innovation and Modernisation**	*Moderator:* Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch

Davos Style Panel # 2: Innovation and Modernisation

- Real capacity building requires innovative approaches - What new tools and initiatives exist to build and strengthen capacity? Which ones are more feasible and replicable?

- In what ways can we foster knowledge sharing both among early adopters of new technologies and would-be adopters – at the global, regional and country level?

- How can we adopt and foster public private partnerships as a strategy for knowledge transfer and for harnessing the potential of the data revolution; how can we promote sustainable collaborations for increased capacity development?

- How can the new Global Partnership, which aims to federate diverse data communities, contribute to this agenda, to ensure that we don't continue with business as usual?

Moderator:
Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch

Panellists:

Diana Nova, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia

Emmanuel Letouzé, Director and Co-Founder, Data-Pop Alliance

Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of the Statistics Directorate, OECD

Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21

11:30 – 11:50	**Open discussion and questions for panellists**	
11:50 – 11:55	**Summary of 2nd session**	Shaida Badiee, Managing Director, Open Data Watch
11:55 – 12:00	**Closing**	Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21