



**Global Partnership**  
for Effective Development Co-operation

## BERN CALL TO ACTION

### FOR EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND THE USE OF DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT





Building on the four principles of effective development co-operation, the *Bern Call to Action* aims to guide effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development. It includes strategic actions to stakeholders of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation - partner countries, bilateral and multilateral development partners, civil society or the private sector.

The *Bern Call to Action* recognises the critical role played by the national statistical system at country-level to design and monitor the effects of public policies. It also takes account of dynamics at work in national statistical systems, including linkages to the wider and fast-changing data ecosystem in the context of digitalization.

## STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND DATA ARE AT THE HEART OF EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AT COUNTRY LEVEL

Timely, complete and reliable data are essential for designing public policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and *Leave no one behind*. Development data are important to inform national policymakers, help set up priorities in the development plans, provide public services effectively and be accountable to citizens, as well as to track the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Data and statistical systems are **important instruments for effective development co-operation** and connect with **the four effectiveness principles**, as shown below.

Effectiveness Principle	Effective development co-operation requires:
<p><b>Country ownership over the development process</b></p> 	Data to support countries in setting their own development priorities and strategies and to engage in effective and mutual dialogue with their partners.
<p><b>A focus on results</b></p> 	Data that help decision-makers to plan, monitor and learn and help to achieve better development results and longer lasting impact.
<p><b>Inclusive development partnerships</b></p> 	Data that are open and accessible to create trust, support accountability and as a basis for partnerships and constructive dialogue.
<p><b>Transparency &amp; Mutual accountability</b></p> 	Data that promote transparency and accountability to stakeholders' respective citizens for achieving the SDGs and other commitments

High-quality national statistical systems and the use of data are central to effective development co-operation and therefore require support and investments. This support should be *effective*. The Global Partnership of Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), a multi-stakeholder alliance of development actors, is well-placed to support this goal. **With the *Bern Call to Action*, the GPEDC aims to address the challenges related to supporting statistical systems and to promote the effective use of data for development.**

As the GPEDC convenes its 3<sup>rd</sup> High-Level Meeting in 2022, the *Bern Call to Action* will enable GPEDC stakeholders to follow-up on their commitments taken in Nairobi<sup>below7</sup> and **trigger action to improve effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development in partner countries.** Actions must be led within partner country governments, but development partners, the private sector and civil society organizations also have a major role to play.

## SUPPORT TO NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND DATA - THE EFFECTIVENESS CHALLENGES

**The framework for the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030 has put data for development high on the agenda.** Its 169 targets and 232 indicators have created a solid basis for a shared results framework. The SDG framework has triggered dialogues and initiatives on alignment of indicators, both at global and country level. The challenge now is to further institutionalize these indicators, and the associated data collection, into national systems and processes. Partner countries should be able to report from their own statistical systems on the SDG indicators as well as on their National Development Plan. There is a need for further investment in national statistical systems and engagement by all actors. To make the most of these investments, there are a range of **effectiveness challenges**.

**Many developing countries lack a national statistical system that could support effective and inclusive policymaking.** According to the last GPEDC monitoring exercise, only one third (35%) of developing countries report having the necessary data to track progress on the implementation of their national development strategy. Administrative data systems such as routine registration of births and deaths and the production of vital statistics are often incomplete, while census data and key surveys are infrequent or outdated. This is exacerbated for marginalized groups that are underrepresented or not counted at all.

*Around 63 % of low- and lower middle-income countries are in great need of additional financing for statistics and data to face challenges of the COVID-19 crisis<sup>16</sup>*

**Statistical offices often lack core funding and political support.** A relatively **weak demand for data by policymakers** in partner countries can contribute to **low domestic funding**. International funding to statistics, approximately USD 680 million per year, has stagnated since 2014 and is less than half of what is needed to meet current demands.

*African governments should allocate more domestic funding to their National Statistical Office and statistical systems to smooth spending, maintain teams, and ensure independence<sup>2</sup>*

**There are more and more diverse development partners that support and need data and statistics than before.** These include governments, subnational and regional bodies, development partners, citizens and local communities, civil society organizations, human rights institutes, universities and think tanks, the media and the private sector. For example, as humanitarian crises last longer, coordination across humanitarian, development and statistical actors, is increasingly important. While data has become a buzzword, support to data and statistical systems are however increasingly delivered as side-products of broader programmes rather than through coordinated investments that strengthen the national statistical system. Joint approaches at country-level, such as budget support or multi-donor trust funds for statistics, have become less common.

*The fragmented nature of international support and the lack of co-ordination and alignment weaken the impact of investments even further<sup>10</sup>*

The SDG framework provides an opportunity for a shared results framework for all actors to strengthen national monitoring and reporting capacity. However, development partners often prioritize **short-term solutions to collect data for their own reporting, rather than using and investing in the long-term in national statistical systems**.

*In Ethiopia, development partners were using 40 different indicators to measure SDG 7.1.1. on access to electricity. This made their data unharmonized, preventing further cooperation and left the Ethiopian government without a clear picture of how many households had access to electricity across the country<sup>9</sup>*

## THE STATISTICAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITIES MUST JOIN HANDS IN SUPPORT OF DATA AND STATISTICAL CAPACITY

Effective support to building a strong national statistical system requires close collaboration between the statistics and development communities. This section shortly describes the roles of both communities, the key actors, and the tools and processes generally used. This information is essential for understanding the proposed actions.

### The Development Community

Governments lead national **development planning**, sector strategies and other national policies. **The national development plan** sets out national priorities and connects with the SDGs. **The country results framework defines the baseline and target indicators** of the national development plan. **Aid information management systems** help track support of development partners to the national development plan.

Governments have set up national **development fora, including sector coordination groups**, where the development partners meet with their government counterparts to discuss progress of national, sectoral and sub-national plans and ensure alignment and coordination. Development fora guarantee the **inclusiveness, transparency and accountability** of the planning process.

**Bilateral and multilateral development partners**, in addition to working within the partner countries' national development plan, also have their own development cooperation goals for which they are accountable: bilateral partners to their national parliament, multilateral partners to their Board or Executive Committees.

The **four principles of effective development cooperation** provide common goals for all actors of national development planning. The GPEDC monitoring exercise tracks progress of their implementation, including on the availability and use of data.

- **The statistical community can make use of development instruments by putting issues related to statistical capacity on the agenda in development fora and processes.**

### The Statistical Community

The production of official statistics is guided by the **United Nations Fundamental Principles on Official Statistics** to ensure the production of appropriate, replicable and reliable data that adhere to professional and scientific standards. **National legislation defines the responsibilities of the National Statistical Office, governance structure and coordinating bodies and authority over the national statistical system.** The status of the National Statistical Office varies from country to country. In many countries they are semi-autonomous agencies with a degree of objectivity free of political influence. At country level the National Statistical Office, line ministries and other government institutions that **collect, process and disseminate official statistics** on behalf of the national government. Together they form the national statistical system.

Most countries have a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics**<sup>13</sup> to identify the actions needed to increase the capacity of the national statistical system and ascertain the required long-term financial, human and technical resources. It is a means to **securing domestic resources as well as for mobilizing development partners' support.** Ideally, progress on the National Strategy for the Development Statistics progress is discussed within national coordinating structures for statistics.

- **The development community should use the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics as a basis for investments and alignment and ensure quality through adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.**

## BERN CALL TO ACTION FOR EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS AND THE USE OF DATA FOR DEVELOPMENT

The *Bern Call to Action* aims to guide actors' support to strengthen national statistical systems and the use of data for development. The four mutually reinforcing principles build on a series of stakeholder consultations. They will be endorsed at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (6-7 July 2022).



**CALL TO ACTION 1** Aligning data support with countries' long-term needs and priorities



**CALL TO ACTION 2** Strengthening data uptake and use among all stakeholders



**CALL TO ACTION 3** Strengthening an evidence-based approach to Leave No One Behind



**CALL TO ACTION 4** Building inclusive, transparent and accountable data collaborations

The *Bern Call to Action for effective support to national statistical systems and the use of data for development*:

- Builds upon, and complements, the [Busan Principles for Effective Development Co-operation](#) (2011) as well as the commitments of the GPEDC [Nairobi Outcome Document](#) (2016), the [Cape Town Global Action Agenda for Sustainable Development Data](#) (2016) and other international initiatives and commitments.
- Addresses key data challenges and opportunities for partner countries in development co-operation
- Recognises the heterogeneity and diversity of data producers and users
- Aims to support national and global sustainable development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and the commitment to *leave no one behind*.
- Recognises the value of non-traditional sources of data, such as citizen and community-driven data, as an additional method to fill gaps within official statistics
- Builds on existing tools and evidence of the GPEDC and key initiatives for effective support to data and statistical systems

The *Bern Call to Action* provides a common framework to facilitate dialogue and trigger strategic actions by partner country governments, their development partners, the private sector and civil society, **considering the specific roles, opportunities and incentives**, for stronger country-level statistical systems and data use.

The following sections provide the rationale for the *Bern Call to Action* and then present strategic actions to work towards their operationalization.

## CALL TO ACTION 1: ALIGN SUPPORT TO STATISTICAL CAPACITY WITH COUNTRIES' LONG-TERM NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Developing statistical capacity is a long-term process that is as much about incentives and governance as it is about skills and procedures. National statistical systems often face trade-offs between the demands for data today and the long-term development of sustainable capacity to produce more relevant, granular and timely data in the future.

A robust national statistical system that increasingly incorporates administrative data and enables countries to collect regularly their own robust data, is a long-term goal for governments and all development actors. A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics is a means to sound planning and helps to secure domestic resources and long-term investments by development partners.

### Actions for partner countries

- Partner country governments **build and invest in a sustainable, equitable and integrated national statistical system** that reflects national policy priorities, enables the monitoring of the national development plan and the SDGs, and helps improve service delivery. They organise periodically roundtables with development partners to coordinate support and harmonise statistical production.
- Partner country governments adopt a **National Strategy and Budget for the Development of Statistics** to secure domestic resources, mobilise and strengthen the alignment of development partners' support. They consider good practices to facilitate funding to the national statistical system, for example through a *Statistical Development Fund*.
- Partner countries have a **legal basis and governance framework in line with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**, providing a clear institutional mandate to the National Statistical Office to ensure the quality assurance and the coordination between data producing agencies and new data actors in the extended data ecosystem.

### Actions for development partners

- Development partners **align their support with partner countries' statistical priorities and invest in national statistical capacities**. They consider good practices to guide their support, such as an institutional strategy on data and statistical capacity building.
- Development partners ring-fence a share of project and programme resources **to help close sector-related data gaps** based on a **common agreement on data priorities and needs**, in line with the SDG indicators. They consider good practices, for example the percentage spent on monitoring and evaluation within development interventions - on average between 2-3%<sup>17</sup>.
- **Development partners co-ordinate funding of data collection efforts to avoid duplication and increase value for money**. They collaborate to map existing data sources, such as household surveys and administrative surveys, make duplications visible and take action to prevent them in the future. They work with National Statistical Offices and government departments to **strengthen long-term national statistical capacities to collect SDG data**.

## CALL TO ACTION 2: STRENGTHEN DATA UPTAKE AND USE FOR BETTER DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AMONG ALL ACTORS

Data has the potential to support sustainable and equitable development in different ways. Governments can use data to improve programmes, policies, and the targeting of scarce resources to marginalised people and areas. The private sector can use data for investment decisions that stimulate local economic activity, data-driven innovation and international trade. Civil society organizations and individuals, empowered by data, can make better decisions and hold governments accountable. Greater uptake and use of quantitative and qualitative data can trigger a positive virtuous cycle towards a “culture of data use”.

There is scope to increase data use for development in many countries, with greater demand and recognition of its importance for designing the right policies and deliver effective public services and, with that, increased investment in its production and use.

To achieve this objective data must be relevant for data users, of high quality, sufficiently granular, trusted and easy to access especially for groups who experience marginalisation. Data uptake and use also requires investments in data literacy and skills of all users.

### Actions for partner countries

- Partner countries accelerate and deepen efforts **to make use of data to inform their policy decisions**. They use data in their national strategies, sectoral and sub-national plans as a basis **for programming, monitoring and accountability**.
- Partner countries invest in better capacity of decision-makers to read, interpret and analyse data. They **provide timely, open and easy access to data** to users and decision-makers at all levels, within and beyond the government.
- Partner countries **strengthen trust in data** by taking measures on data protection for individuals and social groups through safeguards that **protect from harm and data misuse** – in line with existing [international standards](#).

### Actions for development partners

- Development partners **commit to use the country’s national statistical system to report on their development interventions**. When they cannot avoid collecting their own data through parallel processes, they take steps to ensure that their data collection efforts are coordinated and sustainable; they connect with the national statistical system; and make their data available, while respecting safeguards in line with [international standards](#) and Principles for open data<sup>19</sup>.
- Development partners **support data use and capacity for data use throughout the national statistical system. They support data literacy among civil society organizations and media to promote evidence-based dialogue on development co-operation**.

## CALL TO ACTION 3: STRENGTHEN AN EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

In line with the pledge of [Agenda 2030](#) and of the [Nairobi commitments](#) on effectiveness, disaggregated, high-quality, timely, accessible and reliable data are needed to help understand, track and address the specific needs of those left behind. The *Leave no one behind* agenda is an opportunity for policy dialogue between country stakeholders and development partners on the **inclusion of objectives to *leave no one behind* and indicators in national development strategies**. This requires data that are relevant to the most vulnerable and marginalized, so that context-specific information about needs and concerns can be provided to improve their livelihoods. Data must be disaggregated and **processes behind data production, collection, analysis and use must be truly inclusive**. This requires long-term investments in appropriate data collection methods, such as administrative data at the subnational level.

### Actions for partner countries

- Partner countries integrate **objectives to *Leave no one behind* in their national development strategies** and monitor progress with adequately disaggregated data.
- Partner countries develop administrative systems to provide **sufficiently inclusive and disaggregated data** to decision-makers at national and subnational level.
- Partner countries encourage **innovations in citizen-generated data gathering and reporting** by women's groups, youth, organisations of persons with disabilities and other partners in civil society, and support National Statistical Offices in providing quality checks.

### Actions for development partners

- Development partners integrate **objectives to *Leave no one behind* in their country strategies and programs** and monitor progress with adequately disaggregated data.
- Development partners **support capacities to produce inclusive, accessible, and disaggregated data systems** and prioritize support to administrative data systems - such as civil registration - that include the whole population.
- Development partners **support the capacity of civil society organizations representing the most vulnerable or marginalized groups** to participate in the design, collection, analysis and use of relevant data to their context.

### Actions for civil society organizations

- Civil society organizations build their capacities to support representatives of the most vulnerable or marginalized groups to **participate in the design, planning, collection and use of data**. They collaborate with National Statistical Offices to ensure that data from vulnerable groups are included in national statistical systems.



## CALL TO ACTION 4: BUILD INCLUSIVE, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE DATA COLLABORATIONS

National data ecosystems comprise numerous actors including governments, subnational and regional bodies, development partners, citizens and local communities, civil society organizations, human rights institutes, universities and think tanks, the media and the private sector. Collaborations among these actors enhances data production that is cost-effective, timely and granular. Data collaborations also help fill data gaps by encouraging the production and use of alternative data like citizen-generated data or data from human rights institutions, which can complement official statistics. Data collaborations also help realise opportunities provided by technological change, which is radically changing the way in which actors produce, share, use and manage data.

In this context, national statistical offices have methodological leadership. This includes strengthening data partnerships to ensure the quality and accessibility of data, fostering alignment and reducing fragmentation. At the same time, it is key that data partnerships – from formal partnerships to joint actions, data sharing and the connection of data systems - are characterised by a spirit of co-creation and of co-ownership of all those involved. To make partnerships inclusive and ensure meaningful engagement, solutions must be found jointly and should take into account the needs and capacities of all partners.

### Collaborative Actions

- Partner country governments and development partners use **existing development coordination fora and platforms (including at sector-level)** to address data gaps and to mobilise, coordinate and align support to the national statistical system.
- **Partner country governments and development partners coordinate data requirements at national, sectoral and subnational level** to avoid duplicating data collection processes and define clear indicators as the basis for these exercises.
- **Strategies on digitalization connect with the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics** to ensure that new technological opportunities lead to more and better data and avoid fragmentation. Opportunities and risks, such as data confidentiality, data silos and interoperability are addressed. Relevant actors – including civil society and the private sector – are included in multistakeholder dialogues to take action and address capacity gaps.
- Partner country governments and development partners **endorse open data standards** that make data more accessible and understandable and that promote focused and effective interventions.
- **Data collaborations between central and local governments** strengthen local statistical systems and promote the use of local official and administrative data and geographically disaggregated data as a basis for service delivery and planning.
- **Humanitarian and development actors** enhance collaboration to support national coordination mechanisms on data and increase long-term investments in the institutional capacities of local and national actors to collect and use data<sup>8</sup>.

## KEY TERMS

**Citizen-Generated Data:** Data produced by non-state actors, particularly individuals or civil society organizations, under the active consent of the data providing subjects. Primary purpose of citizen-generated data are to contribute to monitoring, of public policy and demand or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities.

**Country Results Frameworks:** Country results frameworks (CRFs) define a country's approach to results and its associated monitoring and evaluation systems focusing on performance and achievement of development results. Using a minimal definition, these results frameworks include agreed objectives and results indicators (i.e. output, outcome, and/or impact). They also set targets to measure progress in achieving the objectives defined in the government's planning documents. In practice, government-led results frameworks defined at the country level are often broadly stated (e.g. long term vision plans, national development strategies) and operationalized in more detail at the sector level (e.g. sector strategies), where specific targets and indicators are set for a given timeframe.

**Custodian agencies:** United Nations bodies (and in some cases, other international organizations) responsible for compiling and verifying country data and metadata, and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

**Data ecosystem:** The community of interacting entities and the policy environment in which new data users and producers operate, creates an extended data ecosystem of many new actors (*Paris21, 2017*); the entire network of data collectors, data producers, data analysts and other data users that directly or indirectly collect, process, disseminate, analyse and/or otherwise consume data and associated services within a specified country or region (UNSD).

**Development co-operation:** Official development assistance and other non-concessional official development flows. This includes all official development financial flows aiming to promote the development and welfare of partner countries. According to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the purpose of development co-operation and other relevant policies is to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to a future in which no country will depend on aid. Its characteristics, as set out by the UN Development Cooperation Forum, are that it aims explicitly to support national or international development priorities; is not for profit; favours developing countries' priorities; and is based on co-operative relationships that seek to enhance developing country ownership. Thinking about development co-operation has evolved considerably over the years – from primarily financial aid to a much broader palette of development co-operation approaches and instruments, including non-concessional finance, South-South and triangular co-operation, climate finance, co-operation among governments on non-aid policies, and co-operation with and among non-governmental actors, such as businesses and civil society.

**Development data / Data for Development:** Data that are instrumental in understanding development challenges and opportunities and in achieving development outcomes and impact, can help strengthen development effectiveness, accelerate achievement of results, and bolster accountability. Development data include official data and statistics produced by government but also data produced by other actors such as international organisations and third parties, in particular on social, economic and environmental issues (World Bank, 2018). However, while there is a growing diversity of data producers, governments generate the vast majority of information on development inputs, outputs, and outcomes in their countries (Custer & Sethi, 2017). Line ministries and local governments produce administrative records related to the services they provide (e.g. school, hospitals), the people who access public services (students, patients), and the benefits they delivery (e.g.

enrolment and immunization rates). National statistical offices conduct censuses and surveys, including sector-specific data collection. Government data are also the most frequently used domestic source of information across different stakeholder groups, including governments, development partners, civil society and the private sector (Masaki, Custer, Eskenazi, Stern, & Latourell, 2017).

**Development partners** are the range of national and international organizations that partner with countries that receive development co-operation to realise national sustainable development priorities and the SDGs. These include governments that provide different types of development co-operation, multilateral organizations such as United Nations' agencies and programmes, international financial institutions, bilateral development finance institutions, parliamentary organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and philanthropic organizations.

**Integrated National Data System (INDS):** A way of countries realizing the potential of data for development, using the principles of the social contract as a blueprint. The INDS framework allows a country to share data between national participants safely while maximizing the benefit equitably (*WDR 2021*).

**Marginalized or vulnerable communities:** Communities who are systematically discriminated against based on descent or occupation or are marginalized due to income, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status within a country or context.

**National Development Plan / Strategies (NDP/NDS):** National development plans/strategies are overarching strategic planning tools that cover the whole-of-government. These strategies/plans are typically prepared to cover a clearly identified period of time, often covering four to eight years. The quality of these national development strategies in operational terms depends on the extent to which they constitute a unified strategic framework to guide the country's development policy and include strategic priorities linked to a medium-term expenditure framework and reflected in annual budgets. They are expected to have been developed through an inclusive consultative process involving the full range of relevant development stakeholders at country level, as to ensure legitimacy and sustainability of national development plan in the medium term.

**National Statistical Office (NSO)** is the leading statistical agency within a national statistical system.

**National Statistical System (NSS):** The ensemble of statistical organizations, including the National statistical office and units within a country that jointly collect, process and disseminate official statistics on behalf of the national government. The National statistical office and the National statistical system are part of a wider data ecosystem, the entirety of factors that condition the supply and use of development data and statistics in a specific country, including the institutional framework, technical capacity of producers, data and statistical literacy of users, and other resources.

**National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS):** NSDS are strategic plans developed by countries to strengthen the statistical capacity of the National statistical system. They show what and how statistics will be collected and published and identifies the financial, human and technical resources that will be available to the NSS.

**Non-Official Data:** Data that does not represent statistics certified or published as official

**Official Data:** Data generated and/or validated by official statistical agencies (including government agencies/bodies and international organizations). Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.

**Open data:** Data that is free to use, re-use or redistribute by anyone. There are two dimensions of data openness: (1) The data must be legally open, which means they must be placed in the public domain or under liberal terms

of use with minimal restrictions; and (2) The data must be technically open, which means publicly available and accessible on a public server, without password or firewall restrictions.

**Partner countries:** All countries that receive development co-operation.

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## ANNEX A: INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The below summarizes international commitments to strengthen national statistical systems and the use of data for development:

### Major international milestones to strengthen data and statistical capacity and systems in partner countries

- The Rome Declaration on Harmonization (2003) to improve harmonization of donor systems and coordination amongst development partners, including to improve information-sharing and avoid duplication of efforts.
- The Marrakech Action Plan for Statistics (2004) which gave prominence to a number of initiatives, including PARIS21's support for national strategies for the development statistics.
- The Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (2011) pledged to implement a global Action Plan to enhance capacity for statistics - the Busan Action Plan for Statistics.
- The Second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of 2016. Commitments made at the Nairobi High-Level Meeting inform the current work programme of the Global Partnership. Data feature prominently in the Nairobi Outcome Document, especially as a means to strengthen a focus on results (i.e. to measure and monitor progress) and a means to promote transparency and accountability. Both development partners and partner countries pledge to strengthen national statistical systems throughout the data cycle from creation to use, storage and deletion (see the detailed commitments below).
- The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data (HLG-PCCB and UNSC, 2017) called for a global pact or alliance that recognizes that the funding of national statistical systems' modernization efforts is essential to the full implementation of Agenda 2030.
- The 2019 OECD/DAC Guiding Principles on Managing for Sustainable Results comprise provisions (under its Principle 3) to enhance country ownership, mutual accountability and transparency, including five key elements that address support to statistical systems.
- The "Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals" adopted at the UN World Data Forum 2020 called on the international community and national governments to ensure that all communities work together in the data ecosystem to secure many aspects related to the 2030 Agenda.

### Data, statistics and indicators in the Nairobi Outcome Document (GPEDC 2nd High-Level Meeting, 2016)

#### In the summary

Data and statistics are mentioned in the summary in the context of strengthening a focus on results, and transparency and accountability:

10. *To strengthen the focus on results, we will:*

- a. further develop, support and use country-level results frameworks; progressively adapt results frameworks to reflect the targets and indicators of the SDGs; and make data on results publicly available; and*
- b. further develop, support and use national statistical systems, and generate disaggregated data to report on progress.*

12. *To strengthen transparency and accountability to each other, we will:*

- a. Improve publication of open data on development co-operation, and support the use of this data by all stakeholders; [...]*

- c. *Improve the capacity of local authorities and parliaments to provide transparent information to citizens on the use of resources; [...]*

#### **In the context of ownership of development priorities by partner countries receiving support (Principle 1)**

Data are only mentioned once in commitments under the first effectiveness principle, ownership of development priorities by partner countries.

*Partner countries receiving support commit to:*

- h. *encourage innovations in citizen-led data gathering and reporting by women's groups, youth and other partners in civil society.*

In contrast to, say, financial management systems and processes, partner countries are not explicitly committing to accelerate progress in use of national data and statistical systems.

#### **In the context of focus on results (Principle 2)**

Under the second effectiveness principle, focus on results, all signatories recognise the importance of data to measure progress in development co-operation. Partner countries commit to strengthen their results frameworks, linking them with SDG-related targets and indicators and identifying "meaningful and measurable indicators and realistic and robust targets [...]". Development partners providing support commit to strengthening data and statistical systems.

*52. We recognise that high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by age, sex, income, disability, race, ethnicity, migratory status, geography and other characteristics relevant in national contexts will be needed to help in the measurement of progress in development co-operation. We affirm our commitment to help develop partner country capacities in this regard. This will improve national monitoring exercises and public debates in partner countries receiving support.*

*54. Partner countries receiving support commit to:*

- a. *adapt their national results frameworks to strengthen linkages with national development priorities and SDG-related targets and indicators;*
- b. *strengthen their results frameworks, including through identifying meaningful and measurable indicators and realistic and robust targets; and improving national monitoring and evaluation systems; and*
- c. *ensure that national results frameworks have appropriate disaggregation and are used to drive performance, improve development outcomes, facilitate multi-stakeholder participation and ensure no-one is left behind.*

*55. Development partners providing support commit to:*

- a. *use country-led results frameworks and associated national systems for statistics and for monitoring and evaluation in planning, delivering and monitoring development interventions as a matter of urgency; [...]*
- c. *support the strengthening of statistical capacity and monitoring and evaluation systems of partner countries receiving support, with the aim of enhancing data collection and analysis, including data disaggregated by age, sex and location for use in policy-making, planning, budgeting and reporting on implementation of 2030 Agenda:*

#### **In the context of transparency and accountability (Principle 4)**

All signatories recognise the functional role of data to promote transparency and accountability, endorsing open data standards and measures to make data accessible and interoperable. Partner countries commit to step up their efforts to strengthen their capacity to produce data and to put in place elements of appropriate governance frameworks (e.g. the "independence of national statistical capacities" is mentioned). Development partners in turn commit to making their data open, to support increased awareness and use of data, to strengthen support to increase data use, and, again, to help their partners countries build national statistical capacity.

*74. We note that primary use of national data is to inform inclusive national conversations, to track performance, to prioritise and to promote accountability. The Global Partnership therefore commits to strengthening country-level systems throughout the data cycle from creation to use, storage and deletion. The data produced from national-level processes is the building*



*block for review at regional and global levels. We will support efforts to make data standards interoperable, allowing data from different sources to be more easily compared and used.*

*75. We also endorse open data standards and platforms that make data more accessible, understandable, and that promote focused and effective interventions. We encourage increased involvement of all stakeholders including data communities and the media to enhance data use at all levels. [...]*

*76. Partner countries receiving support commit to:*

- c. intensify efforts to strengthen national statistical capacities and their independence and to support initiatives aimed at collecting and disseminating data in more effective and accessible ways; [...]*
- f. accelerate and deepen efforts to collect, analyse disseminate, harmonise and make full use of data disaggregated by demography (including sex, age and disability status) and geography to inform policy decision and guide investments that can ensure that public expenditures are targeted appropriately, including to equally benefit both women and men and to leave no-one behind; [...]*

*77. Development partners providing support commit to:*

- a. update institutional architecture, policies and information management systems, as needed, to make development co-operation more transparent, meeting the information needs of partner countries receiving support, citizens, and other Global Partnership stakeholders, and relying on open data international standards such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and the statistical standards of the OECD-DAC systems;*
- b. close data gaps by capacity building through appropriate financial and technical support to improve national statistical capacity to systematically collect, analyse, disseminate and use data disaggregated by sex and age;*
- c. work together to improve the availability, accuracy and use of open data on development co-operation at the country level;*
- d. support increased awareness and use of data in planning, delivering and monitoring development and humanitarian initiatives, especially at the country level, to drive effectiveness, engage stakeholders and citizens and improvement development outcomes;*
- e. strive to publish data on all ongoing activities, as regularly as possible, including detailed forward-looking data as well as data on results and evaluations, wherever available; and*
- f. strengthen support to increase data use, including through the development of data visualization and analysis tools, and assist partners that receive support to do likewise.*