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**Global
Partnership**
for Sustainable
Development Data

Concept Note

High-Level Event on Unlocking Impact: Data with Purpose

77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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High-Level Event
UN General Assembly

High Level Event

Unlocking Impact: Data with Purpose

77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



Amina Mohammed
United Nations Deputy Secretary-General



Mari Pangestu
World Bank Managing Director Development Policy and Partnerships



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Envoy on Technology, United Nations



Brad Smith
Vice Chair and President, Microsoft

Trillions in investments are needed to deliver on the SDGs by 2030

Funding gap for data is estimated to be USD \$700 million per year

THE CHALLENGE

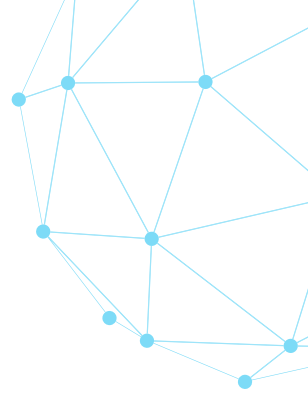
The world is in the middle of a data revolution. Societies are experiencing rapid **advances in artificial intelligence, disruptive technologies, and digital ecosystems** - **alongside shocks and mega-trends**: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict, food crises, globalization, and urbanization. People, technologies, and the environment are generating data at previously unimaginable rates. While not without risks, the increase in connectivity and exponential advances in analytics are coalescing into powerful engines for tackling global challenges. And yet, so many of the world's most critical questions still cannot be answered:

- The global community still does not know **how many people have died from COVID-19**. [Less than 20% of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) had a death registration system that was at least 75% complete as of 2019. Globally, about 40% of all countries have yet to meet this threshold.
- COVID-19 has also made critical data collection **even more difficult**. [Two thirds of countries in Africa](#), for example, had to postpone their census – a critical foundation for guiding long-term investments.
- As the climate crisis worsens, [only one in six countries](#) has sufficient **data on SDG 13: Climate Action**. Where available, most data were collected prior to 2015.
- Driven by climate change and global crises, a record 280 million people **require emergency support**. Yet [only 51% of data for crisis action is complete](#), rendering humanitarian, development, and peace operations less effective.
- Ultimately, the world is **off-track to achieve the SDGs**. Data to drive investments is lacking. Across the 17 SDGs, comprehensive quality data exists for just 6 goals in most countries. Timely data, that are [less than 5 years old, exists for 5 goals](#) only.
- Most aid investments in data and statistics capacity is untracked and unmanaged.

Supporting **data with purpose** - and the data systems and capital needed to produce actionable insights - must remain a priority for the global community. This cannot be a simple continuation of business as usual. It requires fundamental, rapid modernization in the production, sharing, and use of data in and for low and middle-income countries, including fragile and conflict-affected states. The growing volume of data and the democratization of new analytical methods can make this rapid modernization possible - if we turn **fragmented expenses into coherent investments**.

The **funding gap for crisis and sustainable development data** is estimated to be approximately **\$700 million per year**. Ultimately, this represents a **fraction of the \$300 billion in global annual aid investments** to unlock a more inclusive, greener, and safer future. A first step towards reaching this potential is better tracking of aid spending on data and statistics so international assistance translates into more science-, evidence-, and data-driven solutions for the SDGs and the world's most pressing challenges.

Without a concerted effort by the global community, the persistent **data divide between the global north and the global south** and its detrimental effects sustainable development, humanitarian, and crisis action will only worsen, with commensurate effects on lives and livelihoods, and missed opportunities for existing financing to better support people and planet.



IMPACT OPPORTUNITY

Driven by the data revolution, opportunities abound for more science-, evidence-, and data-driven solutions for the SDGs and the world's most pressing challenges. With concerted effort, societies can accelerate development, tackle emergencies, and transform government with new data, new technologies, multilateral support, and public-private partnerships. Smart **data investments can generate large returns for communities, economies, ecosystems, and societies:**

- Data-driven anticipatory action ensures **crisis responses** are earlier, faster, more targeted, and dignified.
- Combining and repurposing data from different sources **deepens SDG impact**.
- Public data **improves service delivery, targeting, accountability & empowerment**.
- Private sector data can **fuel growth and boost development**.
- Improving data infrastructure helps ensure **equitable access to services**.

Unlocking these opportunities requires **rethinking traditional approaches to development and emergency assistance**. Most importantly, it requires moving from fragmented data expenses to joint investment at scale.

PATH TO PROGRESS: MULTILATERAL ACTION AND FINANCING

The **global consensus on the need for smarter data investments is growing**. In 2021, the UN World Data Forum adopted the Bern Data Compact on stronger data systems, capacity, and capital in support of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and the 2030 Agenda. At the UN High-level Humanitarian Event on Anticipatory Action, global leaders called for increased investment in risk and crisis data. Over the course of 2021, the UN and World Bank have worked with global partners to design new financing instruments to support **coordinated investments at scale**:

COMPLEX RISK ANALYTICS FUND (CRAF'D)

The **UN-hosted [Complex Risk Analytics Fund](#)** supports diverse stakeholders in building open data ecosystems for crisis anticipation, prevention, and response – grounded in shared principles. Focused on fragile settings, CRAF'd will help secure **critical data and insights for faster, more targeted, and dignified support to lives and livelihoods** in the moments that matter most.

GLOBAL DATA FACILITY (GDF)

In partnership with the UN, the **World Bank-hosted [Global Data Facility \(GDF\)](#)** will invest in **strengthening data systems** and capacity in **low- and middle-income countries**. It will leverage support from across international organizations – including from the World Bank (IDA/IBRD funds), IMF, and OECD – and catalyze domestic financing to strengthen the quality and sustainability of national and subnational data and statistical systems. Through the GDF, countries can work with development partners to invest in the data that underpins progress across all the SDGs, **increasing the efficiency of other investments, enabling accountability, and accelerating progress**. The GDF will be supported by the [Clearinghouse for Development Data](#), a new multi-stakeholder initiative supported by the Bern Network, designed to help increase transparency and efficiency of international financial support for data activities.

The United Nations and World Bank are building a unique partnership

Open data ecosystems for crisis anticipation, prevention, and response

Modernizing national data systems, strengthening capacity for national and subnational data and statistics across all SDGs

A global campaign to raise \$500m over 10 years to unlock billions more in ODA and concessional financing in a greener, inclusive, and safer future with stronger data

HIGH-LEVEL EVENT ON UNLOCKING IMPACT: DATA WITH PURPOSE

Following the success of the High-Level Roundtable on “[Putting Data to Work for People and Planet](#)” at the World Bank 2022 Spring Meetings, this high-level meeting during the United Nations General Assembly will be a **unique occasion** for champion Member States, the private sector, philanthropies, the UN System and World Bank to advocate for **unleashing more science-, evidence-, and data-driven solutions for the SDGs and the world’s most pressing challenges**. This event will be a key step in **unlocking at least \$50 million annually and \$500 million over 10 years** to accelerate sustainable development, tackle emergencies, and transform service delivery with better data and purpose-driven approaches.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 1. Announce new commitments for investments in data with purpose**, including through the UN-hosted Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd) and the World Bank-hosted Global Data Facility, to help **unlock \$50 million annually or \$500 million over 10 years** for the world’s most critical data impact opportunities.
- 2. Announce lighthouse initiatives** to unleash the power of data in support of action to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in all areas including poverty reduction, health, education, climate, food security, agriculture, energy, gender equality, peace and crisis action.
- 3. Advance efforts to fill data gaps and improve aid tracking** to help partners ‘measure what we want to manage’ so that investments in data, evidence, and impact can be better targeted, sequenced, and prioritized.
- 4. Contribute to discussions on data as a global public good** in line with the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report.

PARTICIPATION

Invitations will be extended to Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers, Ministers of Finance, Ministers for Development and Cooperation and Ministers for Humanitarian Affairs, from across Member States. Private sector partners, foundations and civil society will also be invited to participate. Participants will highlight the urgency and need for quality data and sustainable data systems, champion what can be achieved with good data use, and call for increased investment.

FORMAT

This will be a **60-minute hybrid high-level event at the Head of State and Ministerial level**. It will be co-hosted by the UN, the World Bank and champion Member States. The in-person panel discussions will be held in the SDG Studio in the UN Secretariat building and streamed live on UN WebTV and the UN YouTube channel.

CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

For more information about the event contact: datastrategy@un.org

For information about the financing instruments contact:

- UN, Executive Office of the Secretary-General:** Priscilla Idele (priscilla.idele@un.org), Kersten Jauer (jauer@un.org), Tomas Zak (tomas.zak@un.org)
- World Bank, Development Data Group:** Haishan Fu (hfu1@worldbank.org), Craig Hammer (chammer@worldbank.org)

Please register for the event by going to <https://datawithpurpose.org/> or by clicking on the button below.



Click to Register

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

- **Moderator: Folly Bah Thibault**, Principal Presenter, Al Jazeera English

SETTING THE STAGE: FIRESIDE CHAT ON THE CASE FOR DATA WITH PURPOSE

- **Content:** A scene-setting high-level conversation to advocate for unleashing more science-, evidence-, and data-driven solutions for the SDGs and the world's most pressing challenges.
- **Speakers: Amina J. Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary-General, **Mari Pangestu**, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships

GLOBAL LEADERS CONVERSATION: PUTTING DATA TO WORK FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

- **Content:** A conversation between the Deputy Secretary-General, the World Bank Managing Director and a Head of State on how countries leverage data for impact and build sustainable data ecosystems.
- **Speakers: Amina J. Mohammed**, UN Deputy Secretary-General, **Mari Pangestu**, World Bank Managing Director of Development Policy and Partnerships, **H.E. Mr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi**, President of the Republic of Botswana (TBC)

INVESTMENT CASE: HOW DATA UNLOCKS EXPONENTIAL VALUE

- **Content:** New research on the business case for data investments, their exponential returns for communities, economies, ecosystems, and societies – and how policymakers unlock them.
- **Presenters: Claire Melamed**, CEO of Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, **Audrey Hanard**, Senior Partner, Dalberg Advisors

PANEL: DATA FOR BIG CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME - ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND STABILITY

- **Content:** A purpose-focused conversation on how data investments and partnerships accelerate support to people and planet in moments of crisis and create opportunities to leapfrog development challenges and rescue the SDGs.
- **Speakers: Anne Witkowsky**, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, U.S. Department of State, **Tariq Khokhar**, Head of Data Science and Health, Wellcome Trust, **Ligia Noronha**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office, UN Environment Programme

WAY FORWARD: HOW TO BUILD DATA ECOSYSTEMS FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

- **Content:** A thought leadership conversation on how to advance sustainable, well-governed, and impactful global data and digital cooperation.
- **Speakers: Amandeep Singh Gill**, UN Envoy on Technology, **Brad Smith**, Vice Chair and President of Microsoft, **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization