

ISI Panel Discussion

Official Statistics and Partnerships on Sustainable Development Data

ISI Side Event
47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission
March 8, 2016
UN Headquarters, New York

The International Statistical Institute (ISI) organized this side event during the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York.



The panel members were:

Ms. Albina Chuwa, Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania;

Mr. Johannes Jütting, Manager, Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21);

Mr. Sanjeev Khagram, Professor, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD);

Mr. José Rosero Moncayo, Executive Director, National Institute of Statistics and Census Ecuador(INEC);

Ms. Linda Peters, Global Manager, Statistics, Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI).

Panel Moderators:

Mr. Pedro Silva, President, ISI; IBGE - National School of Statistical Sciences, Brazil;

Ms. Irena Križman, Vice- President, ISI; Former Director General of the Statistical Office of Slovenia.

The event was well attended with more than 80 representatives from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and International Statistical Organizations (ISOs). In her opening remarks Ms. Irena Križman referred to the visionary Global Goals which were agreed to by 193 member States of the United Nations in 2015.



Panellists/Moderators Johannes Jütting, Pedro Silva, Irena Križman, Sanjeev Khagram

Most of the data for the global sustainable development indicators framework are expected to be produced by the National Statistical Offices and their partners in the National Statistical Systems. The private and non-profit sectors will also play an important role. One of the global initiatives is the Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), established by over 70 governments, civil society groups, companies, international organisations, and expert networks from all corners of the world. The ISI is one of the champions of the GPSDD and organised this side event with the aim to offer an informal platform to discuss the opportunities for and issues concerning global, regional and national partnerships in strengthening the position of official statistics to enable them to harness the data revolution to successfully meet the Post-2015 agenda.

In the sequence, the main contributions from the panel members are detailed, in the order in which the panel members are listed.

Dr. Albina Chuwa – Tanzania

1. NSO's should be at the centre of coordinating partnership with the System
2. In a partnership, each partner's role should be clearly defined, to avoid duplication of efforts - partners from the Private Sector should be of much more use in terms of investing in the data production and use data for their business.
3. Clear Road Map – should be developed and ensure all activities to be undertaken by each partner for the period of 5 years have to be owned and agreed upon. In line with the road map, a Monitoring and Evaluation framework also has to be developed for follow-up, and especially to monitor the agreed deliverables from each partner.

4. Principles and standards have to be followed by each partner while producing data that will respond to SDG Indicators, and this is the role of NSO's to ensure FPO's are followed by each partner.
5. One of the challenges that NSO's would have is to review the existing Statistics Act to incorporate data produced outside NSS.
6. TRUST and TRANSPARENCY have to be built-in to all partners whilst producing data.
7. Leadership and Management Organization is very crucial at NSO's.
8. Mobilization of adequate resources from different partners becomes crucial in terms of data production.



Albina Chuwa, Linda Peters

Role of ISI.

To continue with capacity building and statistical literacy, especially how to communicate the statistics we produce for better policy formulation and decision making and publication.

Mr. Johannes Jütting – PARIS21

Introduction:

- Thanks – grateful to ISI, very timely, important topic as we move to implementation;
- At PARIS21 we have 16 years of experience – users and producers – Foundations, private sector;
- One increasing activity: facilitate partnership creation at local level.

1) What is the new context in which we are operating?

- Increased demand for data – many more actors; many we do not know, civil society, lobby groups;
- Supply of data of different actors – private companies, - OECD (new sources of data) – prefer to work with the private sector;
- SDG's; political – bypassing NSO's - producing statistics in this context will require to engage in new partnerships, at different levels: global, regional and national.

2) National Partnerships – a panacea?

- Partnership is not a different word for solution;
- OECD DAC Development Report states 10 conditions for success.
- 3 most important ones:
High level leadership;



Defined roles and responsibilities; and
Focus on results.

- Trust and transaction costs.

Senegal D4D project – UNICEF- using mobile phone – private sector company
Sonatel, academia, national statistical office.

Kenya – presidential office –now – dat.

SDG's countries first political process – risk of bypassing is there.

Conclusion – not easy, very different.

3) What is needed from the perspective on an NSO? How can we engage?

- Partnership – which role for NSO? – oversight, clearing house, quality stamp -
or is it associated partners; some data will not be official statistics.

What is needed?

- Be aware of the challenges to set up and maintain a functioning partnership;
- Mentality change and communication;
- Leadership training.

The elephant in the room: what is the business model for an NSO in the post 2015 world?

PARIS21 stands ready to help countries in this journey.

Ms. Linda Peters, ESRI - Importance of Partnering – ISI Side Event

Partnerships are very important to ESRI. We understand that partnering gives you the opportunity to access a broader range of resources and expertise. Partnerships provide the capacity to achieve what may not otherwise be possible.

I am sure you have all heard the saying $1+1=3$ – that is what happens when you partner successfully.

A successful partnership is one where partners all believe they can better achieve their goals by working together... Communication and collaboration are key.

Think about some of the great business partnerships and what they have given us:

- Wilbur and Orville Wright;
- Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak;
- Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

And what about public private partnerships – what makes them great?

How do we make great partnerships here between public/private and official statistics?

By working with private entities, the community can benefit in many ways, such as making better use of technological innovation and expertise.

ESRI participates in many different partnerships. Organizations around the globe partner with ESRI to help solve some of the world's top geospatial problems and develop solutions.



You asked about who initiates, who coordinates, what are the results. Let me give you an example:

ESRI is part of a partnership with AAG and the USGS with regard to Global Ecological Land Units (ELU). The work was commissioned by the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO), and published in print by the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

This map provides, for the first time, a web-based, GIS-ready, global ecophysiological data product for land managers, scientists, conservationists, planners, and the public to use for global and regional scale landscape analysis and accounting.

The Global ELU map advances an objective, repeatable, 'big data' approach to the synthesis and classification of important earth surface data layers into distinct and ecologically meaningful land units.

The ecological land units provide a spatial accounting framework for assessments of ecosystem services, such as carbon storage and soil formation, as well as important risks such as environmental degradation.

We hope to be able to do similar work with National Statistics. We continue our research on population modeling and methods to use big data, real time information, new data sources such as UAS/Drones and GIS to bring new ideas and methods to bear in statistics, statistical analysis, and spatial analysis.

At ESRI, we believe in partners and take this work very seriously.

Successful partnerships focus on outcomes, and it takes commitment and hard work.

ESRI has worked with national mapping and statistical organizations for many years, trying to better understand their practices, and to help them better understand the GI Science that could help improve their work.



Albina Chuwa, Linda Peters, Johannes Jütting

To your question on how we can improve outcomes - I found this quote from Ban Ki Moon which I think answers that question really well....

"The United Nations and business need each other. We need their innovation, their initiative, their technological prowess. But business also needs the United Nations. In a very real sense, the work of the United Nations can be viewed as seeking to create the ideal enabling environment within which business can thrive."

- United Nations, Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

Mr. Sanjeev Khagram

These were provided in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, which can be seen [here](#).

Mr. José Rosero Moncayo

These were provided in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, which can be seen [here](#).



José Rosero Moncayo

Discussion

In the discussion held after the panellists' presentations, the following points were brought forward:

- Partners in the SD data production need to be accountable. It will be necessary to know with whom we partner with.
- Once partnerships have established they can lead to very positive results, but they are not a panacea for all data that is lacking.
- Partnering with private sectors requires an investment from the NSO. The NSO might want to give something back to the private sector. The private sector might be reluctant to give their data without receiving anything back.
- Companies come and go and sustainability is important for ensuring data availability over a longer period of time. ESRI is in existence for over 40 years.
- Geospatial data can be produced for the national level but certainly also for the subnational level.
- Seminar at INEGI about business models. What is the benefit for NSOs and how can we give back?
- Important to identify in what ways the Partnership can contribute. OECD World Data Forum. Team with the global partnership. Over 100 parties have joined the partnership and is a rich source for innovation and collaboration.
- Identify what is the best way to become more innovative.
- All parties in the partnership recognise the public agenda. More is to be done on making publicly visible what the partnership can do.
- The question is whether NSO should be the data hub and be certifying data. An open discussion about availability and quality of the data will lead in the end to better data.
- There is a big opportunity to fill data gaps. PSS are crucial.
- There is a 'data consensus' with the African Union.
- ISI decided to join the partnership. ISI exists thanks to voluntary contribution of statisticians and hopes to continue to do so.



ISI President Pedro Silva concluded the meeting by thanking panelists and participants, and by inviting all participants to join the ISI as a member.

The Hague, May 2016

Pedro Silva – ISI President
Irena Križman – ISI Vice President
Ada van Krimpen – ISI Director