Concept note for the first issue of Africa Data Revolution Report

1. Background

Drawing from the lessons of the MDGs, the SDG process recognized at the beginning that to achieve real sustainable development, we must "leave no one behind". This was articulated by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons in their report (HLP Report), which also emphasized the importance of transparency and accountability in the process. The report also envisaged a new partnership involving governments, civil society organizations, development partners and, most importantly, citizens. All these aspects of what became the Sustainable Development Goals require that all the actors, stakeholders and beneficiaries have access to relevant information in order for them to play their respective roles in the development process, including implementation, monitoring and reporting on progress. The scope of the SDGs therefore requires more data on a broad range of topics than we have ever dealt with, disaggregated by gender, geography, and other social and economic classes. It is with this backdrop that the HLP report called for actions to "improve quality of statistics and information available to people and government" in <A New Global Partnership> and the General Assembly agreed to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries in <Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development>.

This global call for data revolution has been echoed around the world since the publication of HLP report and much discussion has been done around how to implement it. In Africa, the High Level Conference (HLC) on Data Revolution was held in Addis Ababa, March 2015, during the Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the Africa Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa. Based on the outcome of HLC, the Ministers resolved, among others, "to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies …" (Resolution 923 [XLVII], 2). In the subsequent Ninth Joint Annual Meeting, the Ministers requested that the integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development be supported with "information on the status of the data system on the continent".

In the view of these developments, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) proposed to publish a biennial "Africa Data Revolution Report", which will report on the status of the data ecosystem in African countries, focusing on thematic areas. The Africa Data Revolution Report 2016 (henceforth "Report") is envisioned to provide a thorough review on the data ecosystem in the continent based on in-depth country assessments. The publication will feed SDG, Agenda 2063 and other initiatives and studies by providing a concrete analysis of data issues in the continent and provide the information on the data system status in Africa as requested by the Ministers.

2. Objective

The overall objective of the Report is to provide a comprehensive review of data ecosystem in the perspective of emerging data revolution. Based on this review, the Report also aims to identify common

problems challenging countries and propose action plans applicable in the regional context, hence ultimately to support data stakeholders in Africa in meeting new data demand from SDG and Agenda 2063.

Specifically, the Report seeks to

a) Capture the current situation of data ecosystem (see Section 4 for more details on the data ecosystem component to be reviewed) in Africa based on the in-depth country assessments. This review will serve as baseline against which progress of data revolution could be monitored in subsequent publications
b) Identify data communities[1] in the selected countries for country assessment and areas for existing/potential cooperation; deliberate on the ways how to gear the data ecosystem components to create a more conducive environment for the partnership
c) Analyze the new SDG data needs and new data sources to identify the data gaps
d) Share good practices of data revolution and take stock of innovations
e) Promote the coordination role of National Statistical Offices in the data ecosystem

3. Methodology

To provide in-depth review on data ecosystem, country assessment will be conducted in 14 countries within which, one national researcher will be identified to carry out the assessment. One lead author will coordinate the entire exercise, consolidate the findings of the country assessments and write the full report based on them. The research methodologies to be employed by national researchers and lead author include

a) Literature review: a desk review on the country's data ecosystem components (e.g. SDG data availability analysis, identification of data communities, statistical law review, innovation inventory and etc.). The literature review should also cover major data revolution initiatives occurring in regional and global level to make the analyses harmonize with broader scale movement.
b) Surveys and face-to-face interview: short surveys (online and offline) and focus group discussions will be considered to capture perspectives of stakeholders on specific questions. These may be undertaken throughout the assessment period, concurrently with other components of the present methodology.

Throughout the whole project period, the Africa Data Revolution Report consortium members (see Section 5) will provide guidance in selecting national researchers and Lead Author, specifying research methodologies and establishing guidelines for country assessment.

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[1] Data community refers to a group of people who share a social economic or professional interest across the entire data value chain-spanning production, management, dissemination, archiving and use

4. Components of data ecosystem to be reviewed

The components of data ecosystem that will be covered in the Report include:

a) Data: the Report will explore the new dynamics in data production/consumption processes through prism of data revolution, examine data needs for the implementation of SDG and Agenda 2063 and assess the availability of the data.

b) Data stakeholders: data stakeholders are entities of data ecosystem that have an interest in data value chain and affected by decisions and changes in the system. Data producers, data users, intermediaries are among them. To make better use of all types of data from various sources, scaling up the collaboration between different data communities (public, private, academia and etc.) is crucial. In the review, the Report will pay a special attention to i) National Statistical Office (as a principal stakeholder in production of official statistics), ii) data custodians in private sectors, and iii) data communities (as emerging collaborators).

c) Data culture: data culture of a society is the way its members perceive about the role of data and statistics and use them in their lives. This can be manifested as i) the importance of the role data play in policy making processes; ii) the level of data/statistical literacy in the society; and iii) perception of data as crucial public good, hence opening data by default; to name a few. Data culture is intangible component but affects all other components of data ecosystem significantly. Recognizing the difficulty in directly capturing data culture of one country, the Report will utilize proxy sources to understand the status of data culture and how it is changing from, for example, media interviews/articles from government officials on data and statistics.

d) Legal framework: in the review of legal framework, the Report will highlight the statistical laws defining the role and the scope of work of NSO. Laws dictating rules of sharing/using data in other data stakeholders will also be considered given their increasing importance.

e) Technology: the role of technology in data production/consumption processes is becoming ever more important in the era of data explosion. Mobile technology and GIS have irrevocably changed the way data are collected, shared and disseminated. Many of the environment data (water quality, air quality, forest area, biodiversity and etc.) cannot be collected without use of technology. The Report will assess the level of advancement and usage of technology in data production/consumption processes in the countries.

f) Infrastructure: good infrastructure is a pre-requisite for data revolution. The Report will review quality of mobile/internet network infrastructure measured in various dimensions (e.g. upload/download speed, network reliability, average latency and etc.) and GIS infrastructure (e.g. national geospatial data layers and data management system).

g) Interaction between above mentioned components

5. Implementation partners

In the course of successive discussions with other actors in the African data ecosystem, it became known that ECA, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Wide Web Foundation and the International Development Research Centre were simultaneously working on reports on data revolution in

Africa. Therefore, the four institutions decided to work in tandem for production of one single report which led to a creation of Africa Data Revolution Report consortium. Following is the contact information of the consortium partners.

Name of institution	Contact person/Title	Type of institution
The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - ECA	Chukwudozie Ezigbalike, Chief, Data Technology Section, African Centre for Statistics	Regional Economic Commission, UN
The United Nations Development Programme - UNDP	Serge Kapto, Policy Specialist on Data for Development. Post-2015 Team.	Development Agency, UN
World Wide Web Foundation	Nnenna Nwakanma Africa Regional Coordinator	International Civil Society Organization
International Development Research Centre	Fernando Perini Senior Program Officer	National Research Corporation

The consortium will seek the maximize synergies with ongoing initiatives led by other partners working in the area of Africa Data Revolution. Organizations interested in participating or contributing to the project are hereby invited to submit a letter of intent to:

InKyung Choi

United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa, African Centre for Statistics

P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Email: ichoi@uneca.org

6. Work plan and timeline

Action	Description	Proposed timeline	Implementer
Phase 1: Design			
Finalise project	Finalise concept note, including research	February	Consortium

framework	guide		
Identify Lead Author	Identify a knowledgeable expert to lead research team	February	Consortium
Select countries	Selection of African countries in a regionally-balanced manner	March	Consortium
Phase 2: Recruitments			
Call for Researchers	Publish and disseminate call in English and French	April	Consortium + Lead Author
Country Research contracts	Identify and contract research experts for each chosen country	April	Consortium
Identification of national partners	Identify potential partners in selected countries	April	Lead Author + National Researchers
Phase 3: National Assessments			
Desk Reviews	Literature review	May-June	National Researchers
Interviews	Face-to-face interviews	May-June	National Researchers
Focus Groups	Interview selected and approved focus groups	May-June	National Researchers
Others	Other relevant research	May-June	National Researchers
Production of drafts	Consolidate national draft reports	June	National Researchers
Phase 4: Review of country drafts			
Lead Author	Compilation of first	July	Lead Author

Consolidation/ review	draft of the ADR		
ADC team review meeting	Core team review of draft and recommendations	August	Consortium
ADC Stakeholders input to first draft	Input from Africa data community to draft in English	August	Lead Author
Phase 5: Finalisation and production			
Final report	Final draft submitted to consortium by Lead Author	August	Lead Author
Report design	Layout of digital format of report	August	Service Provider
Translation	Production in FR	September	Service Provider
Printing	Limited printing	September	Service Provider
Phase 6: Launch and presentations			
Launch	Official launch	October	Consortium
Continental Conference	High-level presentations - Africa	October-December	All ADC Community
Global presentation	High-level presentation/s - outside of Africa, including IODC 2016	October-December	Consortium members or designates