



# **A World that Counts:**

*Mobilising the Data Revolution  
for Sustainable Development*



# BACKGROUND



# Creation of the group

- Establishment of an **Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG)**
  - Announced on 29th August
- *Part of SG's efforts to prepare the **Synthesis Report** requested by Member States*
  - *Ahead of intergovernmental negotiations leading to adoption of post-2015 development agenda*

# The mandate

- A **strategic framework** and advice on what the “data revolution for development” means in practice
- Suggest **measures** to close data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities
- Assess new **opportunities** linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new data providers
- Provide a report by 31 October with recommendations



# THE IEAG REPORT



# What is the data revolution

- **The data revolution is already happening:**
  - New technologies leading to **exponential increase in volume and types of data available**
  - **Much greater demand for data from all sides**
  - Governments, companies, researchers and citizen groups are in a ferment of **experimentation, innovation and adaptation**
- **A huge opportunity**

# Why act? Invisibility

- There are too many gaps in what is counted, making some people and some issues almost invisible:
  - Too many countries **still** have **poor data for MDGs**
  - Data arrives **too late**
  - Too many issues are still **barely covered** by existing data
  - Entire groups of **people, regions** and **key issues** remain **invisible**

# Why act? Inequality

- **The data revolution is very unequally distributed between countries and people (gaps in who can count)**
  - People, organisations and governments are **excluded because of lack of resources, knowledge, capacity or opportunity.**
  - There are huge and growing inequalities in **access** to data and information and in the **ability to use** it.



# Why act? Risks

- Risks to privacy
- Risks to human rights
- Risks of poor quality data
- Risks of breakdown of trust

# The opportunity of the SDGs

- New goals will cover **wider range of issues** than MDGs
- **Monitoring will require substantial additional investment** to develop reliable, high-quality data
  - On a range of **new subjects**
  - Ensuring that **no groups are excluded**
  - With an unprecedented level of **detail**

# VISION and RECOMMENDATIONS

# The vision for data

11101001100  
001100DATA  
REVOLUTION  
0GROUP11001  
011000100011  
11101110000

- The world we need is **a world of data that is transformed** in the following ways:
  - Data for **everyone**
  - Data for **now**
  - Data for the **future**

# The vision for governments

- Investments in data from domestic resources and external financing
- Independence of statistical offices to be guarantors of quality and public interest
- Regulatory frameworks to protect privacy and data rights
- Public data is open by default

# The vision for international institutions

11101001100  
001100DATA  
REVOLUTION  
0GROUP11001  
011000100011  
11101110000

- Forum for stakeholders to set common standards to maintain quality and ethics in changing world of data
- Capacity development and resource flows for developing countries
- Coordination and leadership for effective action



# IEAG recommendations

- Develop a global consensus on principles and standards
- Share technology and innovations for the common good
- New resources for capacity development
- Leadership for coordination and mobilisation
- Exploit some quick wins on SDG data



*Never again should it be possible to  
say “we didn’t know”*

*No one should be invisible*

*This is the world we want:  
a world that counts.*