



# EVERYBODY COUNTS



**A commitment to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit and measurement of social and economic progress**

## Vision

The global agenda set in 2015 by the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Climate Agreement requires a change in the way we do business to achieve success. Those who are tasked with implementing the ambitions of the 2015 agreements are severely hindered by inadequate, unreliable, or non-existent data and information, as well as the lack of skills, funding and/or support to use data. In particular, in order to live up to the promise inherent within the SDGs, to “*Leave No One Behind*,” we need timely, comprehensive, and disaggregated data, to better understand the situation of the poorest and most marginalized.

Through this, we can make better decisions that positively impact all people’s lives. We, a global network of governments, NGOs, philanthropists, and businesses, commit to improve and strengthen data disaggregation by signing up to this Charter. Between now and 2030, we will work to improve the quality, quantity, financing, and availability of inclusive and disaggregated data as well as the capacity and capability to produce and use it, in accordance with internationally accepted standards and ongoing processes under the auspices of the United Nations.

“Sustainable Development Goal indicators should be disaggregated, where relevant, by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, or other characteristics, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics”

General Assembly Resolution 68/261

## Principles



### **Principle One - All populations must be included in the data**

We can only achieve the “leave no one behind” goal by empowering the furthest behind. This means ensuring their voices are heard and their experiences are represented through data and analytics. We need to acknowledge all people, make them visible in the data to understand their lives, and include them in the development process.



### **Principle Two - All data should, wherever possible, be disaggregated in order to accurately describe all populations**

We recognize that data should be disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location, and disability status and, where possible, by income, race, ethnicity, migratory status, and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.



### **Principle Three - Data should be drawn from all available sources**

We recognize the need to make high-quality, timely data from official and non-official sources accessible, and that these should include new data sources, where consistent with internationally accepted statistical standards.



### **Principle Four - Those responsible for the collection of data and production of statistics must be accountable**

We will balance the principles of transparency - maximizing the availability of disaggregated data – confidentiality, and privacy to ensure personal data is not abused, misused, or putting anyone at risk of identification or discrimination, in accordance with national laws and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.



### **Principle Five - Human and technical capacity to collect, analyze, and use disaggregated data must be improved, including through adequate and sustainable financing**

We recognize that collecting and analyzing disaggregated data needs specific skills and these must be built. We recognize the need to finance data collection, analysis, and use appropriately and sustainably so that high-quality data can be collected and used by governments as well as by businesses, civil society, and citizens.

# Addendum to the Inclusive Data Charter vision and principles

## Purpose

This document is an addendum to the Inclusive Data Charter vision and principles originally published in July 2018. It provides updated information, based on the findings of the five years of the IDC strategic review in 2023, on how the vision and principles should be interpreted in light of shifts and developments in the inclusive data landscape in recent years.

## Commitments



We are a global network committed to mobilizing action to advance the availability and use of inclusive and disaggregated data, so that governments and organizations better understand, address, and monitor the needs of marginalized people, to ensure no one is left behind.



We work to improve the quality, quantity, financing, availability and accessibility of inclusive and disaggregated data as well as the capacity and capability to produce and use it, in accordance with internationally accepted standards and ongoing processes under the auspices of the United Nations.



We reaffirm our commitment to the Inclusive Data Charter vision and five principles published in July 2018 and to advancing knowledge, in collaboration with partners and stakeholders at local, national and global levels, to put inclusion at the heart of data systems and practice.

## Defining inclusive data

The Inclusive Data Charter's vision and principles are a broad pathway that support governments and organizations to practically look at what inclusive data means in their own contexts, enabling them to develop relevant, tailored action plans to advance their goals on strengthening the inclusivity of data in their organizational processes, systems and practice.

Inclusive data refers to data that is representative, especially of those who are often marginalized, ensuring that data are collected for all people, regardless of their location, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or other characteristics.

Inclusive data goes beyond data disaggregation, looking across the data value chain - from data collection, analysis through to its dissemination and use. To build inclusive data systems, organizations must:

- Ensure that the production of data is inclusive by closing the data gaps that inadvertently facilitate discrimination and bias in monitoring, evaluation and decision-making.
- Ensure that the dissemination and use of this data is inclusive, open and transparent by establishing mechanisms to share the data back with the people and communities from whom it is collected and building the capability of users to make use of the data.

## New and evolving concepts impacting inclusive data

Since the launch of the IDC in 2018, new and evolving concepts in sustainable development, the leave no one behind (LNOB) and data for development landscapes, have impacted how the development sector thinks about inclusive data, expanding our understanding of the thought processes needed. These concepts include inclusive data governance, digital inclusion, citizen generated data, and advancements in intersectionality and human rights-based approaches for data collection and use.

The five principles of the IDC provide a framework to prompt individuals and organizations to think about inclusivity in data in a holistic way – from inclusion of marginalized populations and community-led approaches to data, harnessing different data sources such as administrative data, balancing the issues of privacy and risk, to strengthen investments in the resources, human and technical capacity needed to advance inclusive data systems.

In applying the Inclusive Data Charter vision and principles, we commit to considering the implications of the concepts below, and how they can enhance and complement Inclusive Data Charter Champions work on inclusive data.



## Inclusive data governance

Decisions about how data is collected, stored, analyzed, managed, used, and shared are often made by a small handful of people or individuals at the organizational, national, regional, and local levels. People who are represented in data and who are affected by these decisions must be included in data governance mechanisms and processes, whether through consultation, representation, or direct input, to ensure that data is ethically used to benefit everyone and to create systems that help and empower people.



## Citizen data

Citizen data is defined as data produced by and with sufficient engagement of citizens, communities, civil society organizations and other actors at the design and/or collection stages of the data process, with the aim to inform decision making, responding to specific needs of a community, supplementing existing data from the National Statistical Systems at various levels, or filling data gaps. By sufficient engagement, we mean citizens partner equally with producers of data to share planning and decision-making responsibilities or citizens actively control the entire data process, showcasing collective agency.



## Digital inclusion

As more data becomes digitized, more services, processes and decisions become automated, and with the increased focus on Artificial Intelligence, digital inclusion is becoming more prominent within the LNOB agenda. In harnessing the opportunities and benefits of technological advancements, organizations must ensure these are balanced with assessing risks and ethical considerations to ensure inclusive, accessible, responsible, equitable and safe access for the benefit of everyone.



## Intersectionality

While data disaggregation – breaking down datasets by characteristics – is critical to uncovering different population groups' situations, various aspects of a person's identity, including gender, age, race, orientation, ethnicity, religion, disability and so on, often overlap to create or reinforce inequalities and exclusion. An intersectional approach is the analysis of how these different aspects of identity overlap. It looks at systemic inequalities and their root causes, drivers and effects, and gives a more comprehensive understanding of an individual's or group's experiences of marginalization. Intersectional approaches to data can help to promote equity across the data value chain and ensure that data practices, processes and institutions are more inclusive, accessible, and equitable.



## Human rights-based approaches to data

The development of human rights-based approaches to data has further strengthened the impetus for inclusive data. Human rights data principles include participation, data disaggregation, self-identification, transparency, privacy and accountability. Alongside intersectional approaches, a human rights-based perspective enables assessment of the appropriateness of collecting data on different population groups, ensuring that organizations ask critical questions about the data they are collecting, whom it benefits and why it is needed.

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Inclusive Data Charter Champions produce action plans to describe the concrete steps they will take to realize the vision and principles of the Charter. [Action plans are available here](#). To learn more about the Inclusive Data Charter and how to become a champion, [get in touch here](#).