



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HLPF 2019: UK-Led VNR Lab

Title: Harnessing data to drive progress, innovation and cooperation on the SDGs

Date and Time: Wednesday 17 July, 08:00 to 09:00

Location: Room 2726/27, UN Secretariat 27th Floor

Hosts: United Kingdom, Department for International Development

Objective and expected outcomes

Data is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to Leave No One Behind, by making the invisible visible.

The objective of the event is to share data-related challenges and lessons learnt from the UK's Voluntary National Review and discuss how innovative data solutions can improve data disaggregation. By focusing on the challenges and solutions to obtaining appropriate and unofficial data sources this event will resonate with challenges faced by other countries and provide a forum for cross-country discussion.

UK panellists will also set out various examples of how the UK is working with other countries to develop their statistical capacity and share expertise. Ghana is collaborating with the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) to improve their data capability. This is a great example of how partnership can help to support the closing of SDG data gaps.

Participants

Panellists:

- 🌐 Jo Evans – Head of SDGs, UK Office of National Statistics
- 🌐 Neil Briscoe – Head of Global Partnerships and Multilateral Effectiveness, Department for International Development
- 🌐 Rachael Beaven – Data Revolution Lead, Department for International Development
- 🌐 Davis Adieno – Regional Director for Africa, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data

Guest speaker:

- 🌐 Omar Seidu – Principal Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service

Moderator:

- 🌐 Marion Barthélemy Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

Guiding questions

- What opportunities can data innovation and Artificial Intelligence provide for achieving the SDGs?
- How do we make sure that data innovation is efficient, collaborative and scalable?
- How do we ensure that data innovation supports the principle of Leave No One Behind?

Format

- **3 mins**- Welcome remarks by Marion Barthélemy, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development of DESA
- **10 mins**- Two panellists present on the UK's Voluntary National Review and the role of the UK Office of National Statistics,
- **9 mins** Questions and Answers from the audience.
- **15 mins**- Three panellists present on the UK's work internationally, with a focus on data development in Africa.
- **12 mins**- Interactive dialogue between panellists and the audience based on the above guiding questions.
- **3 mins**- Closing remarks

Background

With UK data currently reported on 180 (74%) of the 244 Global Indicators, the UK is widely recognised as providing good quality, timely and comprehensive data. However, access to, and a general lack of, appropriate data remains a key challenge to fully reporting on UK progress towards the Goals. This can take many forms and is not a challenge unique to the UK.

Internationally the UK supports a range of countries in strengthening and modernising their national statistical systems to enable them to gather and analyse good quality disaggregated data. There are programmes in Nepal and Malawi, and strategic partnerships, through the UK Office for National Statistics, in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

The [Open SDG Platform](#) is a reporting platform resulting from a collaboration between the UK Office of National Statistics and the US Government. Built exclusively with open-source libraries and tools, it is freely available for any country or organisation to reuse. It can be hosted and maintained using free services. The Open SDG Platform has been modified by countries in five continents, including in Ghana, Rwanda, Australia, Poland, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan.

Questions regarding the UK VNR lab arrangements:

please contact Emily.braid@fco.gov.uk.