



Data Strategy

Data Strategy of the Secretary General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere: With Insight, Impact and Integrity

OUR VISION

Building a whole-of-UN ecosystem that unlocks our full data potential: For better decisions and stronger support to people and planet – in the moments that matter most.

BACKGROUND

As structural UN reforms settle, we focus on building the data, digital, technology and innovation capabilities the UN needs to succeed in the 21st century. The Secretary-General's "Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere" is our agenda for the data-driven transformation. Data now permeates all aspects of our work, and its power – harnessed responsibly – is critical to global agendas we serve. The UN family's footprint, expertise and connectedness create unique opportunities to advance global "data action" with insight, impact and integrity. To help unlock more potential, 50 UN entities jointly designed this Strategy as a comprehensive playbook based on global best practice. As a COVID-19 response priority, the Secretary-General and Executive Committee approved the Strategy in April 2020.

PROBLEM-DRIVEN APPROACH

At the core of our Strategy is a simple idea: We start not with bureaucracy but data action that adds immediate value for our organization, for the people and the planet we serve. By concentrating on portfolios of "data use cases" that address priorities we face right now, we "learn by doing" and raise the chance of success in our work for the global community.

With a problem-driven approach, we will build the capabilities and organizational enablers we need to unlock the UN's data potential. Every use case will be an opportunity to add value and learn. Step-by-step, we will advance a transformation in people and culture, partnerships, data governance, and technology – so that data thrives as a strategic asset.

OUTCOMES

Better approaches to data will deliver better outcomes for everyone: Stronger decision-making and policy advice, greater data access and sharing, improved data governance and collaboration, robust data protection and privacy, enhanced efficiency across our operations, greater transparency and accountability, and better services for people and planet.

LONG-TERM ROADMAP

The data-driven transformation will not happen overnight or without partners. Our roadmap is designed for the long term. It not only provides a playbook for the UN family, but also offers a reference for Member States who seek data-driven change.

PRIORITIES FOR DATA ACTION

Making better use of data – with approaches grounded in UN values and human rights – is integral to our future and service. To unlock critical potential, our Strategy is focused data action with insight, impact and integrity in key priority agendas:

- Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030
- Climate Action
- Gender Equality
- Human Rights and Rule of Law
- Peace and Security
- Governance and Ethics for the Future
- UN Reform

NURTURING CAPABILITIES

As we tackle priorities and generate more value from data, we will build new capabilities, in an iterative and agile fashion:



ANALYTICS

Using data to better understand "what happened", "why it happened", "what may happen next", "how to respond"



DATA MANAGEMENT

Ensuring everyone, everywhere can discover, access, integrate and share the data they need

FOSTERING ENABLERS

While better abilities will in part emerge through "learning by doing", we will foster stronger enablers to accelerate progress:



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Build data skills and talents, and spread a culture of collaboration, excellence, openness and sharing



DATA GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY OVERSIGHT

Build governance mechanisms and strategy oversight to manage data as a shared strategic asset



PARTNERSHIPS

Connect sustainably to ecosystems outside the UN family, so we can jointly unlock more value at scale



TECHNOLOGY ENVIRONMENT

Empower all users with tool sets and processes in optimal ways, so data can turn into insight and action

CONTACT US

For questions on the Secretary-General's "Data Strategy for Action by Everyone, Everywhere", please contact the Secretary-General's Executive Office.