



PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Secretary-General Appoints Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development

Experts from civil society, private sector, academia, Governments and international organizations named

New York, 29 August 2014 – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today announced the establishment of an Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. The Group will advise the Secretary-General on measures required to close the data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities.

The Group is also expected to assess new opportunities linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new public and private data providers to support and complement conventional statistical systems and strengthen accountability at the global, regional and national level.

The Secretary-General has appointed two co-chairs: Professor Enrico Giovannini of Italy and Mr. Robin Li of China. The full list of Panel members is available below.

“The data revolution is giving the world powerful tools that can help usher in a more sustainable future,” said the UN chief. “The recommendations of the Group will be important inputs to the post-2015 debate and our efforts to shape an ambitious yet achievable vision.”

The Group is part of the Secretary-General’s efforts to prepare the Synthesis Report that Member States have asked him to issue ahead of the intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Special Advisor of the Secretary-General for Post-2015 Development Planning, Assistant Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Thomas Gass, will serve on the Group as ex-officio members and will provide the link to the UN system.

The Group is expected to submit its recommendations to the Secretary-General in the fall of 2014.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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LIST OF MEMBERS

The Secretary General’s Independent Expert Advisory Group on the “Data Revolution for Sustainable Development”

Enrico Giovannini (Italy)

Co-Chair

A Professor of Economics and Statistics at University Tor Vergata of Rome since 2002, Professor Giovannini was the Minister of Labor and Social Policies in Italy from April 2013 to February 2014. He was previously President of the Italian Statistical Institute (Istat) and Director of Statistics and Chief Statistician of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Robin Li (China)

Co-Chair

Robin Li is co-founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Baidu, the Chinese Nasdaq-listed internet search company. He was previously a staff engineer for Infoseek and a senior consultant for IDD Information Services. Mr. Li also acts as the vice chairman of the internet Society of China (ISC).

TCA Anant (India)

TCA Anant is the Chief Statistician of India, with concurrent responsibility as the Secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. He is also a co-Chair of the Friends of the Chair Group on Broader Measures of Progress. He was previously a professor of economics at the Delhi School of Economics, and a member of the advisory committee on regulations under the Competition Commission of India.

Shaida Badiie (Iran)

Shaida Badiie is the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Open Data Watch. During her tenure as Director of the World Bank's Development Data Group, flagship statistical products were launched such as the World Development Indicators and Global Development Finance. In 2010, she led the World Bank's Open Data Initiative to provide full and free access to the World Bank's extensive statistical databases. Prior to that, she played a key role in the creation and operation of PARIS21.

Carmen Barroso (Brazil)

Carmen Barroso is the Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region. She has served on the Millennium Project Task Force on MDG 3 and the Brazilian Commission on Reproductive Health, and currently serves on the board of the International AIDS Alliance, is co-chair of PAHO's Panel on Gender and Health, and is a member of the Independent Expert Review Group of the Global Strategy on Women and Children's Health, appointed by the UN Secretary-General.

Robert Chen (US)

Robert Chen is the Director and Senior Research Scientist, Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) within the Earth Institute at Columbia University. He is also on the faculty steering committee for the Columbia Global Center Beijing and served on the University's E-Science Task Force.

Choi Soon-hong (Republic of Korea)

Choi Soon-hong served as United Nations Chief Information Technology Officer from 2007 to 2012, where he was in charge of all substantive and operational needs relating to information and communications technology of the United Nations. He was previously with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he served in numerous technical and business operations and team leadership positions.

Nicolas de Cordes (France)

Nicolas de Cordes is Vice President of Marketing Vision at Orange France Telecom Group. An expert of the telecom industry, he joined Orange France Telecom in London where he headed the Mobile Strategy Practice before moving to Paris to lead the Group Strategy Team covering all lines of business. He was previously Head of Consumer Marketing with Mobistar, the Belgian mobile subsidiary of Orange.

Fu Haishan (China)

Fu Haishan is the Director of the Development Data Group at The World Bank. She was previously the Director of the Statistics Division of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Prior to that, she was the Chief of Statistics at the Human Development Report Office of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Johannes Jütting (Germany)

Johannes P. Jütting is the Manager of the PARIS21 Secretariat within the OECD's Development Co-operation Directorate, where he leads the partnership's work in supporting developing countries to strengthen capacity to better produce and use statistical data for policy-making and the monitoring of development outcomes. He was previously Head of the Global Development Team at the OECD Development Centre.

Pali Lehohla (South Africa)

Pali Lehohla is the Statistician-General for Statistics South Africa. He is the current Chair of the Africa Symposium on Statistical Development, and was the Chair of the United Nations Statistics Commission in 2008 – 2009. He managed censuses for Bophuthatswana in 1985 and 1991 and was also responsible for directing the South African Census in 1996.

Tim O'Reilly (US)

Tim O'Reilly is the founder and CEO of O'Reilly Media Inc. A thought leader in technology and innovation, he is also a partner at O'Reilly AlphaTech Ventures, a venture firm, and board member of Safari Books Online, PeerJ, Code for America, and Maker Media.

Sandy Pentland (US)

Sandy Pentland is the Toshiba Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A pioneer in organizational engineering, mobile information systems, and computational social science, Professor Pentland's research focuses on harnessing information flows and incentives within social networks, the big data revolution, and converting this technology into real-world ventures. He is founder and director of the Human Dynamics group, and the Media Lab Entrepreneurship Program.

Rakesh Rajani (Tanzania)

Rakesh Rajani is the Head of Twaweza, an initiative to enhance access to information, citizen agency, and public accountability in East Africa. He was previously the founding Executive Director of HakiElimu, an independent organization that promotes citizen engagement in education in Tanzania.

Juliana Rotich (Kenya)

Juliana Rotich is the co-founder and Executive Director for Ushahidi, an open-source software project which uses crowdsourced geolocation, mobile phone, and web reporting data to provide crisis reporting and information. Rotich is also a founder of iHub, a Nairobi tech space and Mobisoko, a mobile marketplace for language and location relevant apps in Africa.

Wayne Smith (Canada)

Wayne R. Smith is the Chief Statistician at Statistics Canada. He was previously Assistant Chief Statistician in the agency's Communications and Operations division, Director General of Regional Operations, Director of Special Surveys Division Branch, and Director of Communications Division.

Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape (Mexico)

Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape is the President of the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico. He previously served as Chief Economic Advisor to President Vicente Fox and as Secretary of Economy in the cabinet of President Felipe Calderón.

Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

Gabriella Vukovich is the President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office. She currently serves as the Acting Chair of the 45th Session of the UN Statistical Commission. A specialist in Population and Development, she was previously the Head of the Population Census Department in the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.

Alicia Barcena (ECLAC)

Alicia Bárcena is the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). She previously served as the Under-Secretary-General for Management at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Chef de Cabinet and Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the former Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Robert Kirkpatrick (Global Pulse)

Robert Kirkpatrick is the Director of the UN Global Pulse, an innovation initiative of the Secretary-General to harness Big Data for a revolution in humanitarian action and sustainable development. His work in government, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector has focused on developing solutions at the intersection of technology, policy and social change. He was previously Lead Architect for Microsoft's Humanitarian Systems Team.

Eva Jespersen (UNDP)

Eva Jespersen is the Deputy Director, Human Development Report Office at UNDP. Prior to joining UNDP, she worked at the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre in Florence where, as chief of the unit for research on social and economic trends and policies she led two flagship reports, the Social Monitor and the Report Cards on child wellbeing.

Edilberto Loaiza (UNFPA)

Edilberto Loaiza is a Social Demographer working as Sr. Adviser for Monitoring and Evaluation in the Technical Division of UNFPA in New York. Before joining UNFPA in 2009, Mr. Loaiza spent ten years working in UNICEF at the Strategic Information Section (SIS) where he coordinated the data production, analysis and dissemination for the areas of child mortality, education and child protection

Katell Le Goulven (UNICEF)

Katell Le Goulven is the Chief of Policy Planning at UNICEF where she was previously Head of Multilateral Affairs. Before joining UNICEF, she held senior positions with the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability, the International Commission on Climate Change and Development, and the International Task Force on Global Public Goods.

Thomas Gass (ex officio)

Thomas Gass is the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs in UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Previously, as Ambassador and Country Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Nepal, he established the Embassy of Switzerland in the country and served as its Head of Mission.

Amina J. Mohammed (ex officio)

Amina J. Mohammed is Assistant Secretary-General and the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning. She previously served as Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals in three administrations. In 2005 she was charged with the coordination of the debt relief funds (\$1 billion per annum) towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.