



DECLARATION OF A ROAD MAP FOR A COUNTRY-LED DATA REVOLUTION

I. Despite much progress over the past 15 years, many of the world's developing countries continue to struggle to provide the data needed to monitor progress, make evidence based decisions and provide citizens with a tool to hold decision makers accountable. This will become even more apparent under the post-2015 framework as countries are tasked with providing data for the Sustainable Development Goals. To meet this challenge, the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) has worked with partner countries to produce the *Road Map for a Country-led Data Revolution* to show how a data revolution can realistically be started across the developing world.

II. This road map is based upon the principle that **countries should be at the core of the data revolution**. The centrepiece of the road map is a broad framework of actions to help developing countries meet their statistical challenges through improvements in **capacity building, principles and standards, technology and innovation and governance and leadership** – the four action areas identified by the UN Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on the Data Revolution and discussed at the 2015 UN Statistical Commission.

III. **We, the undersigned, find that an effective and sustained data revolution in developing countries will require:**

Capacity building: The data revolution will need to turn a vicious cycle of underperformance and inadequate resources for statistical agencies into a virtuous one where increased demand leads to improved performance and an increase in resources and capacity leading to an increase in the effective use of data.

Principles and standards: A set of core principles for managing data and a process to establish and promote standards for different aspects of data work must be applied as widely as possible. Countries should adopt and use key principles; the right of users to access data should be advanced; and key technical standards should be promoted and their adoption actively monitored.

Technology, innovation and analysis: A major concern for the data revolution will be identifying the innovations that work best for developing countries. Given the lack of resources in many of these countries, much of the necessary research and development will happen at the regional or international level. But it will need to take better account of countries' needs and concerns than in the past.

Governance and leadership: Improvements will be needed first, within countries, to strengthen coordination between agencies and to enhance the leadership role of national statistical agencies; and second, at the regional and international levels, where the voice of

developing countries needs to be heard and where countries should be encouraged and supported to play a more prominent role in international coordination.

IV. The time is now to bring the data revolution to everyone, everywhere. It is already happening for the 1.25 billion people who live in the rich countries of the world. But for the majority of the world's poor people, the data revolution has not fully gotten underway. The revolution must not only reach these populations but also provide the means for data to be used to produce, effective and sustained policies, programmes and services that lift them out of poverty.

V. We find that the data revolution provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity for developing countries, in particular. Increases in mobile phone penetration, innovations and the proliferation of technology are making it possible for them to catch up with — and even surpass— rich countries in the amount and quality of data used for policymaking.

VI. We, the undersigned, therefore call on the international community to join forces with partner countries to support the road map and make the data revolution happen.