

A banner image featuring a large number of national flags on tall poles, arranged in rows, leading towards a building with the United Nations logo and text. The text is overlaid in large, bold, yellow font. There are blue arrow graphics pointing up and down on the sides of the text.

Call for Applications from Academia

United Nations Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels

Background

The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development ([CSTD](#)) is pleased to announce the opening of the call for the establishment of **the Working Group on Data Governance**. The Working Group will be established and operate in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/79/1](#) and, in particular, Paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact ([GDC](#)).

The Bureau of the CSTD has decided to launch **an open call for expressions of interest from academia** with expertise in fields related to data governance to become members of the Working Group. This is a unique opportunity to contribute directly to shaping global data governance policies. The Working Group will report its progress to the United Nations General Assembly by its eighty-first session.

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will provide secretariat support to the Working Group.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Working Group will:

- Participate actively in discussions and meetings of the Working Group;

- Collaborate with Working Group members from governments, civil society, academia, the business sector, technical communities, and international organizations;
- Commit themselves to observe [the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the ECOSOC](#) and to respect the decisions made by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and of the Chair of the Group regarding the operation of the Working Group;
- Contribute to drafting the progress report, recommendations, and proposals as outlined in the Working Group's mandate;
- Be able to commit time to participate in meetings (which may be held in person in Geneva or virtually) and contribute to the Working Group's activities.

Participation in the Working Group is on a pro-bono basis. Travel expenses may be reimbursed, subject to the availability of budgetary allocations for the Working Group and in accordance with United Nations policies and regulations.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must:

- Have demonstrated expertise in fields relevant to data governance, such as data science, data policy, digital economy, digital platforms and ecosystems, internet governance, or information technology;
- Have a strong and internationally recognized publication record in peer-reviewed journals;
- Possess a strong understanding of data governance challenges and opportunities;
- Have experience with intergovernmental or multistakeholder processes.

Expressions of interest

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. **Curriculum Vitae:** Highlight academic qualifications, areas of expertise, and relevant experience;
2. **Cover letter** (maximum one page): Explain your motivation for joining the Working Group and how your expertise aligns with its objectives;
3. **List of publications:** Provide a detailed list of your publications;
4. **Grants information:** Include details of all grants or funding received.



Submission

All materials must be submitted by **15 January 2025 (CET, midnight)**.

Please send your application to cstd-datagov@un.org with the subject line “Expression of interest from academia”.

Nomination Process

The CSTD Secretariat will review all applications and forward those that meet the eligibility criteria to the Chair of the UN CSTD for consideration. In consultation with the CSTD Bureau, the Chair will designate four members of the Working Group from eligible researchers. The selection process will prioritize a broad range of perspectives and expertise, while ensuring regional, gender, and age diversity, along with strong academic accomplishments.

Please note that only candidates selected for membership in the Working Group will be notified directly.

