Call for Applications from Technical Communities

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 technical communities** 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, international organizations, and other technical communities;

- 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:

- Be members of a technical community (collective groups of individuals, or organizations who collaborate on the development, implementation, maintenance, and governance of technical standards or digital infrastructures and their elements) actively engaged in fields relevant to data governance, including but not limited to data security, privacy engineering, internet architecture, open-source development, or information technology;

- Demonstrate expertise in addressing data governance challenges and opportunities from a technical perspective;

- Have a proven track record of contributions to technical projects, standards development, or community initiatives related to data governance;

- Have experience with intergovernmental or multi-stakeholder processes.

Expressions of interest

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae: Highlight your professional qualifications, areas of expertise, relevant experience, and any significant technical projects or initiatives you have undertaken;

2. Cover letter (maximum one page): Explain your motivation for joining the Working Group and how your expertise aligns with its objectives;

3. Technical community information (maximum one page): Provide a description of your technical community and specify the areas of specialization;

4. Contributions (maximum one page): Provide details of technical projects or initiatives you have contributed to, particularly those related to data governance. List any relevant publications and technical papers you have authored or co-authored. Describe any involvement in the development of technical standards, protocols, or best practices.

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 technical communities".

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 technical community representatives. The selection process will prioritize a broad range of perspectives, technical expertise, and areas of specialization while ensuring regional, gender, and age diversity.

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