

**United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**  
**Working Group on Data Governance**

**Terms of Reference**

*adopted by the Working Group at its second meeting on 3-4 July 2025*

**Mandate**

The Working Group on Data Governance (WGDG) is established under the directive of the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution A/RES/79/1, as articulated in Paragraph 48 of Annex 1 (GDC).

**Composition**

The WGDG is composed of 27 Member States of the CSTD and 27 Non-Governmental Members, and will be open to observers, which includes all interested international organizations.

**Outputs**

The WGDG will submit to UNGA's 81st session a report on its progress as provided in paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact.

**Chair Summaries**

After each WGDG meeting the Chair will circulate a Chair's summary within two weeks reflecting the results of the meeting. These summaries will be made available to the members of the group for comments.

**Timeline**

The WGDG will present its report on progress to the UNGA by no later than its 81<sup>st</sup> session. The Chair will inform the CSTD intersessional panel in November 2025 and the CSTD Annual Meeting in April 2026 about the progress made by the Group.

**Working methods**

The group will hold discussions in plenary meetings. The format of the plenary is hybrid (in person and remote participation). Plenaries are open to observers (entities with ECOSOC and/or WSIS accreditation, international organizations). Observers may

contribute to the work of the group. Plenaries are held in Geneva and should be scheduled, if possible, back-to-back to other UN events. The group, during the inter-sessional periods, may form smaller groups to produce input to be discussed during the plenaries. Input documents should be circulated 3 weeks before the plenary.

The group will work by consensus. The working group may elaborate by consensus where there are differing views in the report. If there are specific issues where consensus cannot be achieved, the Chair will include a “Chair’s note” in the report on progress. These “Chair’s notes” should seek to elaborate divergent views or disagreements in a balanced way, not reflecting one side or another as a majority or minority view. The notes will be made available to the members of the group for comments.

The Working Group is established by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a multistakeholder dialogue, which will foster meaningful participation of all members on equal footing. The WGDG meetings will be guided by the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (E/5975/Rev.1), taking into account the Composition of the group.