

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Lisbon, Portugal
6-7 November 2023**

Contribution by Peru

to the CSTD 2023-2024 priority theme on “Data for Development”

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

1. What are the major contributions and risks of data in relation to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

According to article 23 of the Digital Government Law enacted in 2018, data is an strategic asset in the public sector, it means it can leverage value for the citizens, decision makers and economic activities in the society. Moreover, data along with digital technologies are catalysts for prompt digital transformation of the society and economy.

In that vein, data is a key and strategic enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through improving efficiency in the rendering of public services closely related to the SDGs, strengthening a data-driven organization, enhancing the transparency and accountability of the governmental expenditure and, last but not least, fostering the digital innovation and transformation of the economy. For instance, the Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion collected eye data from patients to develop a digital application for early detection of anemia¹. Thus, it complies with SDG 3 (Health and well-being) and SDG 10 (Reduction of inequalities).

However, data quality issues and weak data governance can lead to inefficiencies in the rendering of public services and have a negative impact on the citizen's trust. For example, the lack of security controls for the data being processed could affect the privacy and confidentiality of the information. Similarly, data gathering without proper privacy measures may risk third parties being able to identify an individual without their consent. In addition, there is also another kind of risk created by the increasing use of data, such as inequality derived from barriers to access or collect data or biases in the data sets or algorithms used for decision-making. Finally, inaccurate or outdated data can lead to misguided policies or inadvertent errors.

2. How can developing countries benefit from the data revolution while considering risks ?

Peru is convinced that developing countries can foster their data capabilities as well as mitigate related risks whether we consider the learned lessons of developed countries, political recommendations of international organizations such as OECD, ITU and WEF, and demonstrate a huge commitment to the transition process.

In this regard, the Digital Government and Transformation Secretariat assert Governments of developing countries must consider as part of its Public Administration Reform Agenda the following strategic initiatives:

- a) Adopt a comprehensive national strategy to prioritize public investment in data storage, data processing, training in data-related activities (E.g., data cleaning),*
- b) Enact policy goals to reduce digital inequality by targeting vulnerable populations,*
- c) Set public data as open data by default as a mechanism to increase data analytics, among others.*
- d) Invest in data infrastructure and human capabilities besides cooperating with national and international organizations on these issues.*
- e) Develop national standards for ethical data collection, data quality, safety, privacy and adopt the most used international standard for those subjects.*
- f) Update or adjust their policies and regulatory frameworks to promote data initiatives that use appropriate safety measures and have enough flexibility to allow the development of innovative initiatives.*

¹

<https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/viewer/Artificial-Intelligence-for-Social-Good-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean-The-Regional-Landscape-and-12-Country-Snapshots.pdf>

Drawing on the above, Peru is currently working on the implementation of its National Policy of Digital Transformation² as well as formulation of the Enforcement Decree of the Artificial Intelligence Law enacted this year (2023) by the National Parliament.

Finally, the regulatory adjustments as well as the required investment can be followed up by establishing or adjusting governance structures within public and private organizations that are adaptive to the evolving nature of data. For instance, last year the Peruvian Secretary of Government and Digital Transformation developed the governance structure of the public administration by publishing guidelines for the role of the data governance officer.³

3. What national and international policies and support measures can help address the challenges of the developing countries in the area of data relevant for sustainable development, including scientific and research purposes, data quality, data capabilities and data governance, while taking into account the multiple dimensions of data?

In the view of the Digital Government and Transformation Secretariat, the CSTD or other international organizations such as OECD, ITU and WEF can support developing countries to achieve the SDGs by implementing the following initiatives:

- *Financing mechanisms for data infrastructure projects.*
- *Funding mechanisms for data-related skills training programs.*
- *Forum for the exchange of experiences with public data projects or open data projects.*
- *Implementation guidelines for ethical data frameworks.*
- *Technical assistance and capacity-building programs to improve data management and data capabilities.*
- *Accessible data standards that are not limited by payment*
- *Cooperation mechanisms among developing countries such as KOICA, GFK, GIZ.*
- *Funding for research on data governance public policies and platforms for sharing findings and ideas.*

4. In your country's view, what role could CSTD play in respect of data for development, including in the context of the Global Digital Compact?

As an international body, the CSTD can fulfill most of the measures of international support that were mentioned in the previous question. However, considering its institutional capabilities as well as the aspects of the Global Digital Compact (connectivity, internet fragmentation, data protection, human rights online, artificial intelligence regulation, digital commons), in the view of the Digital Government and Transformation Secretariat, the CSTD could support developing countries by cooperating in the following actions:

- *Financing mechanisms for connectivity initiatives*
- *Forum for the exchange of experiences with public data projects and its harmonization with human rights, privacy, and digital commons.*
- *Implementation guidelines for human rights, privacy, and ethical data frameworks in data science or artificial intelligence projects.*

² <https://www.gob.pe/44545-politica-nacional-de-transformacion-digital>

³

https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/3026640/SGTD_Perfil_Oficial%20de%20Gobierno%20de%20Datos.pdf.pdf

- *Accessible data standards that are not limited by payment*
- *Cooperation mechanisms among developing countries for artificial intelligence regulation, internet, and digital commons.*
- *Funding for research on connectivity, internet fragmentation, data protection, human rights online, artificial intelligence regulation, digital commons*