**Contribution from the Collaborative on administrative data to the “Elements paper” for the Financing for Development process**

This submission is made by the Collaborative on administrative data which has members from over 30 national statistical offices, as well as from several regional and international bodies.

## **A global financing framework (including cross-cutting issues)**

**Strong national data and statistical systems are essential for advancing the financing for development (FfD) agenda as they are the foundation for understanding the state of the economy**, including public financial and debt management, investment decisions, and measuring progress towards national, regional and global development goals. These data include information on gender inclusion, climate and poverty alleviation – critical components of sustainable financing strategies.

National Statistical Offices (NSOs) play a central leadership role in these efforts, guiding the integration of data governance frameworks and driving innovation within the national data ecosystem. They have a key role in ensuring quality of official statistics, following the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Through their leadership, NSOs ensure that statistical systems are not only responsive to current data needs but also capable of leveraging emerging technologies, such as big data and AI, to support evidence-based policymaking and long-term sustainable development.

**Investments in data and in official statistics should therefore be integrated into the core action areas as a cross-cutting issue** **of the FFD agenda and the outcome document,** and not just defined as a monitoring issue for implementation of the agenda.

To ensure national data and statistical systems are integral to the FFD agenda, member states should embed data investments directly into their national budgeting processes and establish dedicated financing mechanisms to support statistical capacity. This ensures that data systems receive consistent funding and are seen as essential to economic planning. Development of long-term strategies on data and statistics could be considered in this regard. Additionally, fostering a culture of data-driven decision-making among policymakers, coupled with training and capacity-building, will ensure that statistical insights directly inform public financial management, investment strategies, and inclusive development

# **Action areas**

## **Domestic public resources**

Reliable access to granular and timely data and statistics is a precondition for understanding domestic revenue generation and for making sound policy decisions and investments.

**To help ensure that good quality data and statistics are available to decision makers and to increase efficiency of the government, data and geospatial information should be shared between government agencies.** By sharing and re-using data collected for various administrative purposes for statistics production and financing decisions, government also saves resources by avoiding multiple and duplicate data collection processes, thereby saving resources. Investing in data-sharing infrastructure also supports broader digital transformation in government operations.

Effective coordination between ministries, government agencies, and national statistical offices is essential for successful data-sharing efforts. The sharing process should ideally be organized through the national statistical system in a country to ensure confidentiality, consistency, and compliance with standards.

As an example, sharing data with statistical offices can allow them to provide more timely and granular statistics on a wide range of areas; if statistical offices receive administrative data on businesses, sectoral engagement or on ownership information, this can improve national accounts, can shed light on the involvement of women in businesses and contribute to evidence on many other aspects, ultimately informing revenue and expenditure decision making. Also, data sharing between tax and customs administrations has the potential to identify revenue losses and make more effective use of tax administrations budgets.

While data sharing offers substantial benefits, it also presents challenges, such as ensuring data interoperability and standardization. Governments should adopt common data formats and invest in technology that supports seamless data integration across different platforms.

In the process of agreeing on how and with whom to share data, confidentiality and privacy considerations should be taken into account, also ensuring the necessary legal frameworks are in place. Sharing for statistical purposes, is, however, generally considered appropriate if the statistics producer has confidentiality and security measures in place.

**Member states should further commit to make the necessary investments in national data and statistical systems, including for capacity development and technical infrastructure development, to facilitate sharing of administrative data and in using these to produce relevant output data and statistics to improve public financial management**.

1. **Domestic and international private business and finance**

## Member states should also explore public-private partnerships to leverage technical expertise, infrastructure, and resources available within the private sector to support increased access. Such partnerships can accelerate the development of robust national statistical systems and ensure the availability of timely, high-quality data. Collaboration with technology companies, for instance, can enable faster digital transformation and build the necessary infrastructure for data sharing and analysis.

## **International development cooperation**

Currently only a share of all investment in data and statistics goes to support the national statistical system, which is at the core of national data collection and official statistics generation. **Development partners should therefore consider re-orienting international assistance towards developing capacities of these systems and reduce practices that collect data for monitoring without strengthening national data and statistical infrastructure**. This includes using existing national statistics wherever possible, investing in capacity building where data gaps exist, and minimizing redundant data collection efforts. Investments and international assistance should ideally align with national priorities to ensure ownership and sustainability. Additionally, investing in efforts to increase data literacy and engagement between statisticians and politicians is recommended to help ensure increased uptake and use in decision making.

Many countries highlight the value of south-south cooperation and funding towards experience exchange on data and statistics should also be considered in this context. **Member states should also review global funding flows for data and statistics to reward integrated and cross-system support of national data and statistical systems**.

## **f. Addressing systemic issues**

**Member states should commit to investing in data sharing and in strengthening national statistical systems to have a better knowledge base for decision making on the various systemic issues.**

For instance, increased collaboration and data sharing can provide more timely macroeconomic information, help GDP rebasing targets and allows agility towards the beyond GDP measure. Similarly, on climate and environment finance, sharing data and making geospatial information available can substantially help inform and allow for better response to climate change and disasters. Investments in national statistical systems can also help move the anti-corruption agenda forward.

## **g. Science, technology, innovation and capacity building**

The statistical community has made substantial progress since Agenda 2030 was adopted when it comes to use of innovative data sources, methods and technology to better respond to information needs, including on use of administrative data. Increased availability of open-source software and safe mechanisms for data sharing has made data more openly available and led to increased availability of statistics. Many countries lack knowledge and experience in how to fully utilize these opportunities, however, so there is a need for systematic investment in digital public infrastructure, including infrastructure for data storage, exchange and computation, investment in technical capacity, and the development of frameworks for governing data effectively. Therefore, **to further help leverage opportunities, there is a need for continued support, particularly to low resource statistical systems, to develop capacities in use of science, innovation and technology.** Targeted capacity-building programs on new technologies, and localized digital solutions are needed, along with regional knowledge exchanges and public-private partnerships to build secure digital infrastructure. These efforts can help countries maximize open-source tools and produce high-quality, timely data.

Technology advancements should be supported by strong data governance frameworks that ensure privacy, security, and ethical use. Also, to enhance data sharing and strengthen national statistical systems, and be able to ensure effective use of technology, member states should standardize data formats and improve interoperability among agencies. Investing in digital infrastructure like secure data portals and cloud-based systems can provide real-time data access, aiding decision-making in areas like economic planning and climate resilience. Focusing on data quality through validation checks, audits, and strong legal frameworks for data governance is essential to ensure transparency and protect sensitive information. These strategies can make national statistical systems more responsive and effective, supporting better decision-making and progress on development goals.

## **Data, monitoring and follow-up**

Robust, independent official statistics are essential to the core functioning of government and sustainable financing. **Member states should reaffirm the importance of high-quality and granular data and statistics for decision-making,** ensuring thatall groups of the population are visible and represented to leave no-one behind. Member states should in this context acknowledge and strengthen the central role of national statistical systems in generating, disseminating, coordinating and administering data to inform sustainable financing and other key national information needs. **Member states should commit to step up investment from domestic and international sources in high-quality, timely, and reliable statistics and to enhance capacity-building through technical and financial support to developing countries for this purpose**.

To strengthen and build on the follow-up processes established by the Addis Agenda, member states should recommend that the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), which brings together the Chief Statisticians of member states annually, is given the mandate to follow up on the data and statistics related commitments in the FFD4 outcome. Part of the follow up could be to explore which national, regional and global initiatives are best suited to support implementation of the FFD4 commitments.