Data Revolution for Enhancing National Planning and Sustainable Development Policy Making

Cairo: March 19-20, 2019

I. Introduction

"The ability of policy makers to take advantage of various data sources, including digital data, can help the government to make decisions faster and more accurately. High-quality data will provide the right and accurate information for policy makers to design, monitor and evaluate policies for national planning and sustainable development."

Data are considered the lifeblood of decision and policy-making; data are also the new material for accountability. Without high quality data providing the right information on the right things at the right

time, design, monitoring and evaluative effective decisions and policies become almost impossible.

New technologies are leading to an exponential increase in the volume and type of data available creating the unprecedented possibilities for informing and transforming society and protecting the environment. Governments and companies, resources and citizen groups are in ferment of experimentation, innovation and adoption to the new world of data, that is a world which data are bigger, faster and more detailed than ever before. This is the Data Revolution.

Some are already living in this new world. But to many people, organizations and government agencies , especially in developing countries as in Egypt, are still excluded because of lack of resources, knowledge, capacity or opportunity. There are huge and growing inequalities in access to data and information and in the ability to use it.

Data needs improving continually. Despite considerable progress in recent years, whole groups of people are not being counted and important aspects of people's lives and environmental conditions are still not measured. For people, this can lead to the denial of basic rights, and for the planet to continued environmental conditions degradation. Too often, existed data remain unused or not at all, not well documented and harmonized, or not available at the level of detail needed for national decision and policy-making.

As the world embarks on an ambitious projects to meet new sustainable development goal (NSDGs) there is an urgent need to mobilize the data revolution for all people and the national planning as well as sustainable development in order to monitor progress, hold government accountable and foster sustainable development policies. More diverse integrated, timely, and trustworthy information can lead to better decision- and policy-making, and real time citizen feedback. These in turn, enables individuals, public and private sectors to make choices, that are good for them and for the world they live in.

Therefore, this 26th Scientific Conference sets out the main opportunities and risks presented by the data revolution for national planning and sustainable development policy making. Sizing the existing opportunities and mitigating the probable risks require active choices, especially by the government. Without immediate action, gaps between developed and developing countries, between information-rich and information-poor people, and between the private and public sectors will widen, and risks harm and abuses of human rights will grow.

II. Conference Objectives:

The conference is aiming to provide a medium to discuss the opportunities and challenges of using new data sources for policy makers, and to test technically sound and politically attainable solutions to inform policy decisions through data innovation. Commonly what is called 'big data' due to its quantity, diversity and speed of data collection, it opens endless new opportunities for policy makers, ranging from engaging citizens in collecting and analyzing data to gaining new insights into our complex and evolving national planning and sustainable development for decision and policy-making.

III. Conference Themes:

This conference is to discuss topics such as:

- Data revolution evolution and concepts
- Data Revolution for National Planning and Sustainable Development
- Data Revolution and Economic Analysis
- Big Data Analytics for Inclusive National Growth
- Data-Driven Era and Modern IT Infrastructure
- Data Ecosystems for Sustainable Development
- Data Lake Adoption for National Planning
- Data Roadmap for National Planning and Sustainable Development
- Emerging Manpower in Data Transforming the Work
- Data Revolution and the Emergence of New Skills for Future
- Role of National Statistics in the Data revolution
- Etc.