

Minutes: Kick-Off Meeting for the Sevilla Platform for Action initiative:  
**“FfD4 and the Future of Data: Strengthening Systems for Sustainable Financing”**  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2025| Hosted by: Colombia, Norway and the United Kingdom

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**Participants:** 85 participants from 20 countries and 27 organizations (of these 8 countries and 13 organizations have already endorsed the SPA)

**Countries:** *Albania, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Ireland, Jordan, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, South Africa, Switzerland, UK, Uruguay*

**Organizations:** *ADB, AFDB, ATI, Brookings, CIAT, GPSDD, IADB, IDMC, IMF, ITU, JIPS, ODW, P21, SDSN, TOSSD/OECD, UN Women, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNECA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOSSC, UNSD, UNU WIDER, WB, WorldPop*

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## 1. Introduction

The goal of the meeting was to share information about the Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA) initiative *FfD4 and the Future of Data: Strengthening Systems for Sustainable Financing* with interested stakeholders and to kick off discussions on how the SPA can help achieve the data and statistics objectives set out in the [Compromiso de Sevilla](#).

The meeting was structured into two main sections, the first one (re) introducing participants to the background, objective and pillars of the SPA (efficient data financing; future-proofing data; and political commitment and cross sector coordination). The second section featured discussion in 7 breakout groups<sup>1</sup> as well as reporting back to the plenary. Each one of the breakout groups addressed a series of questions (annex 1), which overall sought to leverage inputs on how to strengthen the role of the SPA initiative through connection with other stakeholders, projects, and initiatives.

## 2. Summary

### a. Pilar 1: Efficient Data Financing

Clear call to connect with different stakeholders within the data ecosystem. While recognizing the progress within the official statistics community, there is a need to strengthen participation from different stakeholders at the national (ministries of finance, tax agencies), regional (IO's) and international level (IFI's, CSO's), as well as to connect with other initiatives within the Sevilla Platform of Action,

Donor Coordination: There is a need for a clearer mechanism for donor coordination at data/statistics level. Advocacy to focus project/programmes on strengthening national capacity rather than short term data collection efforts. Strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation on the field of data and statistics. Use of National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDSs) as a prioritization mechanism. For data and statistics related projects, participants highlighted the importance of making resulting data publicly available.

### b. Pilar 2: Future Proofing Data Investments:

Future proofing investments on data and statistics is directly related to a sound legal environment which enables: coordination at the national level, ensuring mainstreaming of key principles for

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<sup>1</sup> The Breakout groups were A) Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization; B) Optimizing International Development and South-South Cooperation; C) Inputs for Future-Proofing; D) Outputs for Future-Proofing; E) Strengthening Links Between Government Entities; F) Strengthening Links Across Government, Civil Society, Academia and Private Sector ; and G) Coordinating Development Support Between International Partners

data management, as well as the recognition of different data sources traditional sources which are seen as the basis for the development of data systems (censuses) as well as the wide array of new sources and methodologies. . Secondly, digital and infrastructure related gaps in developing countries were highlighted as a challenge by participants. A third challenge identified was how can technical institutions, such as NSO's, increase the political buy-in with high level decision makers.

Besides tackling the challenges on coordination at the national level, participants underscored the key role of interoperability to avoid duplication and future proof data outputs. Participants also mentioned coordination at the global level, coordination of different agendas (e.g., Global Digital Compact), as well as data portals/ dashboards and other international data-based initiatives.

### **c. Pilar 3: Political Commitment and Cross-Sector Coordination**

Improving coordination within government institutions requires strengthening the legal framework, establishing institutional agreements. To help ensure sharing, strengthening capacity of civil servants in a sustainable way, also considering political transitions and changes of government was highlighted. It was also discussed how international partners increasingly can move to support political engagement from more technical support.

There is a long list of groups who are underserved by financing data, including vulnerable and marginalized populations, civil society and academia. The group shared different good practices to increase involvement of these groups as well as availability of data.

Current mechanisms, building on what we already better and how to do better. Collaborative expertise. Building on this, many groups already exist. Use those to create a common framework. Coordination is easier to do at sector level. Demand for ecosystem mapping. Identify duplication among initiatives. Explore how materials can be shared. Bigger and less initiatives. NSDS starting point for coordination. Aid effectiveness community. Softer theme of balance and compromise

### **3. Way forward.**

Taking into consideration that the monitoring of the Sevilla Platform of Action is currently being reviewed by the UN Secretariat of the FfD process, the co-leads agreed to get in touch with the UN to identify next milestones to work jointly on.

On the meanwhile, co-leads and institutions agreed to strengthen efforts leading to further endorsements of the SPA Future of Data Initiative.

\*\*\*Participants and endorsers, [to fill out the SPA Survey](#)\*\*\*

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|          | Group                                                               | Questions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pillar 1 | A) Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilization                         | <p>What are the major gaps in data/statistics to inform domestic resource mobilization decision making?</p> <p>Where is better data most critical for debt management?</p> <p>Is there sufficient connection between central and local governments in terms of data and ICT systems and software, in terms of DRM?</p> <p>What government institutions and 3rd party data sources are the most important to enhance DRM efficiency and impact, and where is the biggest gap as of today and what are best practices to change this?</p>                                                       |
|          | B) Optimizing International Development and South-South Cooperation | <p>What would be the biggest contributors to improve efficiency of donor funding for data systems?</p> <p>Is donor funding for data/statistics optimized?</p> <p>How can south-south cooperation play an increasing role in optimizing cooperation to strengthen data systems for FfD?</p> <p>How can South-South cooperation data reporting be optimized, and what challenges exist to capitalize on existing platforms and ensuring interoperability among them?</p>                                                                                                                        |
| Pillar 2 | C) Inputs for Futureproofing                                        | <p>Is there a conducive legal environment for data and statistics?</p> <p>Are the methodological and technical infrastructures in place?</p> <p>Have enough considerations been given to data quality aspects?</p> <p>Do we have the right discussions around data governance and are we involving the right communities across?</p> <p>What needs to be done to ensure that AI has the right input?</p> <p>Balance between open source and proprietary software and systems- lessons learned and implications for data and statistics.</p>                                                   |
|          | D) Outputs for Futureproofing                                       | <p>Which investment is most urgent to future-proof national data systems?</p> <p>How can we work to ensure wider commitments to open data?</p> <p>Where could open data deliver the highest return for FfD4?</p> <p>How does the Global Digital Compact come into play?</p> <p>How can we work to link up data portals and make them easier to find?</p> <p>Is data federation used well and how can it be improved?</p> <p>How to find a balance between different data for different purposes and use, and where is the gap in investment and potential impact for development largest?</p> |
| Pillar 3 | E) Strengthening Links Between Government Entities                  | <p>Where is political commitment for data systems weakest today?</p> <p>What are the main challenges to strengthen the links?</p> <p>Many government entities are both producers and users of data and statistics, how can we best strengthen the producer-user links?</p> <p>What would be important developments to ensure more collaboration and data sharing within government, for instance among members of the National Statistical System?</p> <p>Which collaborations are most important to develop in a FfD context?</p>                                                            |
|          | F) Strengthening Links Across Government                            | <p>Which user group is most underserved by current financing related data?</p> <p>What is needed to ensure a stronger link nationally between different user groups and key producers of FfD related information?</p> <p>Many users are also producers; how can the dialogue be strengthened?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|          | G) Coordinating Development Support Between International Partners  | <p>How can international partners better collaborate across agencies and projects to strengthen national data systems?</p> <p>Are there current mechanisms that could be better utilized? If yes, how?</p> <p>Do we have the right people around the table or is there also a need to strengthen coordination within agencies (such as between data/statistics and financing for development experts?)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |