
Twelfth meeting of the Statistical Conference of the Americas
of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Santiago, 26–28 September 2023

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF DATA HELD BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR THE PURPOSES OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The Statistical Conference of the Americas of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its twelfth meeting, held in Santiago from 26 to 28 September 2023,

Bearing in mind the considerations and commitments set forth in the “Position statement on the access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics”,¹ adopted at the seventieth plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians, held in Geneva on 22 June 2022, and in the statement on the importance of access to data held by the private sector for statistical purposes signed at the XXIII Specialized Statistical Meeting of the Southern Common Market on 24 November 2022, with a view to their application in the context of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the interest expressed by the countries of the region participating in the high-level conference on the effective exchange of public and private data for evidence-based policymaking,² which was held in Montevideo on 22 and 23 November 2022, in issuing a statement on access to private data in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas,

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 68/261 of 29 January 2014 on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, as well as the role of official statistics as an indispensable element of the information systems of democratic societies,

¹ Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), “Position statement on the access to data held by the private sector for purposes of official statistics”, Conference of European Statisticians, 2022.

² See [online] <https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/key-takeaways-high-level-conference-effective-public-private-data-sharing-evidence-based>.

Taking into account also the increased challenges associated with the collection of primary data from persons, households, businesses and institutions, as well as the potential of private sector data in the more timely and efficient production of official statistics,

1. *Calls upon* the countries of the region to support national statistical offices in their key coordinating role in the access to data held by the private sector for official statistical purposes, taking into consideration the different levels of progress of the respective national statistical systems;

2. *Encourages* international organizations dealing with access to data held by the private sector to strategically coordinate their work so as to ensure a more efficient use of human and financial resources, and to support national statistical offices in their efforts to cooperate with the private sector;

3. *Agrees* to collaborate effectively with private sector data providers to ensure the mutual benefits of such collaboration, while maintaining the security and confidentiality of data;

4. *Also agrees* to explore the legislative tools for sustainable access to data held by the private sector for the purposes of official statistics, while maintaining confidentiality throughout the process;

5. *Calls for* the development, adoption and implementation of standards and protocols and the provision of infrastructure to facilitate access to data held by the private sector;

6. *Encourages* countries to ensure strict adherence to legal provisions in accessing data held by the private sector for the production of official statistics and to use such data under strict observance of statistical codes and good practices;

7. *Calls for* the acquisition of data to be based on the principle of necessity, always with a specific purpose and in the best interest of citizens;

8. *Suggests* establishing open communication and mutual understanding with private sector data providers and the public on the access to and the use of this source of data for official statistical purposes, to create trust and to earn and maintain social acceptability from the public;

9. *Calls upon* the countries to ensure the quality of statistics based on data held by the private sector, including in situations where such data are integrated with data from other sources;

10. *Agrees* to enhance organizational capabilities through training and competency building and the development of data management infrastructures and technological solutions for connectivity, storage, processing and cybersecurity;

11. *Also agrees* to define and promote shared principles and protocols of good practice for cooperation with the private sector in accessing data;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of sharing experiences and lessons learned through the mechanisms established in the framework of the Statistical Conference of the Americas with a view to fulfilling the commitments agreed therein;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of efficient coordination of work at the international, regional and national levels on the access to data held by the private sector.