

**High Level Forum on  
Partnership for Capacity in the Context of the Data Revolution**

**United Nations Statistical Commission  
UN Headquarters, New York  
March 2, 2015**

The report *A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development*<sup>1</sup> was developed last year by an Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) set up by the UN Secretary General. The UN Statistics Division organised a High Level Forum (HLF), in conjunction with the UNSC, to discuss strategies for capacity building in the context of the Data Revolution. The goal was to identify the main elements of a future global framework for training, knowledge management and sharing. The HLF was organised to formulate an adequate response to the increasing and changing demand for building human capacity, in order to facilitate the modernization of official statistics and to improve the ability of the national statistical systems and to monitor the post-2015 development agenda effectively, efficiently, and sustainably.

Enrico Giovannini, ISI member and Co-Chair of the IEAG, was the keynote speaker and moderator of the HLF. Other speakers included Lisa Grace Bersales (National Statistician of Philippines), Vijay Nair (ISI President), Margarita Guerrero (Director, UN-SIAP) and Pieter Everaers (Director, Eurostat). See [http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom\\_2015/seminars/high\\_level\\_forum/default.html](http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/statcom_2015/seminars/high_level_forum/default.html) for the programme and presentation slides.

In his presentation on *Building Technical, Financial and Human Capacities for the Data Revolution*, Enrico Giovannini discussed how to mobilise resources to build new capacities, especially in less developed countries, to fully benefit from the data revolution and meet the recommendations in the report by the IEAG.

ISI President Vijay Nair's presentation dealt with *Training and Capacity Building in the Era of Big Data; Partnerships with Academia, Business and Industry*. He outlined recent developments in the context of 'Big Data' in academic and business communities, in the areas of research and infrastructure as well as training and education programs. Universities and corporations are investing considerable resources into the new field of Data Science. Nair noted that there is much to be gained by developing strong alliances with these communities, and partnering with them in training and capacity building activities. He also emphasized that ISI is uniquely positioned to nurture these collaborations.

There will be a half-day open meeting related to this initiative at the ISI World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janeiro, on Sunday July 26, 2015 before the Opening Ceremony. More information about the meeting will be announced soon.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>