



Call for Applications from the Civil Society

United Nations Working Group on Data Governance at All Levels

Background

The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development ([CSTD](#)) is pleased to announce the opening of the call for the establishment of **the Working Group on Data Governance**. The Working Group will be established and operate in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/79/1](#) and, in particular, Paragraph 48 of the Global Digital Compact ([GDC](#)).

The Bureau of the CSTD has decided to launch **an open call for expressions of interest from civil society organizations** with expertise in fields related to data governance to become members of the Working Group. This is a unique opportunity to contribute directly to shaping global data governance policies. The Working Group will report its progress to the United Nations General Assembly by its eighty-first session.

UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will provide secretariat support to the Working Group.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Working Group will:

- Participate actively in discussions and meetings of the Working Group;

- Collaborate with Working Group members from governments, the business sector, academia, technical communities, international organizations, and other civil society representatives;
- Commit themselves to observe [the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the ECOSOC](#) and to respect the decisions made by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and of the Chair of the Group regarding the operation of the Working Group;
- Contribute to drafting the progress report, recommendations, and proposals as outlined in the Working Group's mandate;
- Be able to commit time to participate in meetings (which may be held in person in Geneva or virtually) and contribute to the Working Group's activities.

Participation in the Working Group is on a pro-bono basis. Travel expenses may be reimbursed, subject to the availability of budgetary allocations for the Working Group and in accordance with United Nations policies and regulations.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must:

- Be members of a recognized civil society organization active in fields relevant to data governance, such as data rights, digital inclusion, privacy, internet governance, or information technology;
- Demonstrate expertise in the implications of digital transformation for sustainable social and economic development;
- Have experience with intergovernmental or multistakeholder processes.

Expressions of interest

Interested candidates should submit the following:

1. **Curriculum Vitae:** Highlight your professional qualifications, areas of expertise, relevant experience, and any significant projects or initiatives related to data governance;
2. **Cover letter** (maximum one page): Explain your motivation for joining the Working Group and how your expertise aligns with its objectives;
3. **Relevant contributions to data governance** (maximum one page): Provide information on any relevant projects, publications, policy statements, or advocacy materials you have contributed to;
4. **Organizational information** (maximum one page): Provide background information on your organization, including its mission, areas of



specialization, societal impact, number of full-time equivalents, headquarters location, and year of establishment.

Submission

All materials must be submitted by **15 January 2025 (CET, midnight)**.

Please send your application to cstd-datagov@un.org with the subject line "Expression of interest from the civil society organizations".

Nomination Process

The CSTD Secretariat will review all applications and forward those that meet the eligibility criteria to the Chair of the UN CSTD for consideration. In consultation with the CSTD Bureau, the Chair will designate four members of the Working Group from eligible civil society organizations. The selection process will prioritize a broad range of perspectives and expertise while ensuring regional, gender, and age diversity, along with strong societal impact.

Please note that only candidates selected for membership in the Working Group will be notified directly.

