A World that Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development
BACKGROUND
Creation of the group

• Establishment of an Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG)
  – Announced on 29th August

• Part of SG’s efforts to prepare the *Synthesis Report* requested by Member States
  – Ahead of intergovernmental negotiations leading to adoption of post-2015 development agenda
The mandate

• A **strategic framework** and advice on what the “data revolution for development” means in practice
• Suggest **measures** to close data gaps and strengthen national statistical capacities
• Assess new **opportunities** linked to innovation, technical progress and the surge of new data providers
• Provide a report by 31 October with recommendations
THE IEAG REPORT
What is the data revolution

• The data revolution is already happening:
  – New technologies leading to **exponential increase in volume and types of data available**
  – **Much greater demand for data from all sides**
  – Governments, companies, researchers and citizen groups are in a ferment of **experimentation, innovation and adaptation**

• A huge opportunity
Why act? Invisibility

- There are too many gaps in what is counted, making some people and some issues almost invisible:
  - Too many countries still have poor data for MDGs
  - Data arrives too late
  - Too many issues are still barely covered by existing data
  - Entire groups of people, regions and key issues remain invisible
Why act? Inequality

- The data revolution is very unequally distributed between countries and people (gaps in who can count)
  - People, organisations and governments are 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.
Why act? Risks

- Risks to privacy
- Risks to human rights
- Risks of poor quality data
- Risks of breakdown of trust
The opportunity of the SDGs

• New goals will cover **wider range of issues** than MDGs

• **Monitoring will require substantial additional investment** to develop reliable, high-quality data
  – On a range of **new subjects**
  – Ensuring that **no groups are excluded**
  – With an unprecedented level of **detail**
VISION and RECOMMENDATIONS
The vision for data

• The world we need is a world of data that is transformed in the following ways:
  – Data for everyone
  – Data for now
  – Data for the future
The vision for governments

• Investments in data from domestic resources and external financing
• Independence of statistical offices to be guarantors of quality and public interest
• Regulatory frameworks to protect privacy and data rights
• Public data is open by default
The vision for international institutions

• Forum for stakeholders to set common standards to maintain quality and ethics in changing world of data
• Capacity development and resource flows for developing countries
• Coordination and leadership for effective action
IEAG recommendations

• Develop a global consensus on principles and standards
• Share technology and innovations for the common good
• New resources for capacity development
• Leadership for coordination and mobilisation
• Exploit some quick wins on SDG data
Never again should it be possible to say “we didn’t know”

No one should be invisible

This is the world we want: a world that counts.