

Africa Data Revolution Report 2018

**STATUS AND EMERGING IMPACT
OF OPEN DATA IN AFRICA**



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THE STATUS AND EMERGING IMPACT OF OPEN DATA IN AFRICA

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Foreword

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The first biennial Africa Data Revolution Report was announced in January 2017 at the UN World Data Forum, and launched in July 2017 at the second Africa Open Data Conference in Accra, by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNDP, Open Data for Development, and the World Wide Web Foundation amongst other partners. This first (2016) Report recognised African countries' pledge to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth for all following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. It further highlighted the challenges and opportunities for a data revolution in the continent that was sprung out of these agendas.

The 2016 Report addressed issues on the process of transforming national data ecosystems, from the status quo to an aspirational state where data from both conventional and new sources are being harnessed to inform decision-making better and enable sustainable development with contributions from diverse data communities. The report aimed to assist countries on the continent in charting their way towards strengthened national data ecosystems.

South Africa, the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB) introduced the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data. Among the key objectives of the Global Action Plan is to modernise governance and institutional frameworks to allow national statistical systems to meet the demands and opportunities of constantly evolving data ecosystems. In order to achieve these objectives, member states agreed to take action to explore ways of revising the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics to include relevant and appropriate aspects of open data initiatives, and to encourage national statistical offices to embrace open data initiatives and ensure stakeholders of the national statistical system as part of the process.

As an answer to these imposing challenges and needed actions posed in front of African national statistical systems, this second report focuses on the theme of open data in Africa. The report will discuss the current status of, and recent evolution in open data – with the emphasis on Open Government Data – in the African

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