Data responsibility in humanitarian action in the digital era

Side event on the margins of the 2019 second regular session of the Executive Board

Thursday, 21 November 2019 from 8:30 to 9:45

Aula Delegatis, WFP headquarters

Breakfast will be served in the Aula Delegatis from 8:00 to 8:30

You are kindly invited to the side event co-hosted by the Government of Luxembourg and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the participation of other Member States, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the NEC Corporation.[1]

Context

Digital technology has eased the collection, analysis, and sharing of information. It has fostered inclusion of marginalized populations, prevented fraud, and facilitated greater transparency, to name a few of the many benefits. As organizations are transforming their processes, delivery systems and outreach through digital technology, the protection of data and privacy has become everyone's central concern. The speed of digital technology and accumulation of data has been outpacing normative and governance frameworks at times.

Amongst humanitarian organizations and United Nations entities, WFP is at the forefront of digital transformation. Like all other organizations undertaking this fundamental change, it is also grappling with data protection and privacy concerns. It is cognizant of these concerns and is putting in place ways to ensure that responsible use of data is at the heart of its digital transformation, including through its engagement with partners, policy and normative development, technical solutions, and capacity building.

Objectives

The forum is an opportunity to inform the WFP Executive Board, other Member States, donor and host countries of ongoing efforts and challenges with regard to responsible data. It also provides a venue to exchange with and learn from partners, peers, external experts and governments on their practices and lessons learned. The event further provides an update to Member States on WFP's digital innovations and transformation, and ways forward, including considerations and organizational outlook on data responsibility. WFP aims to augment commitments of support from stakeholders for its efforts on promoting data responsibility, and digital transformation in general.

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[1] The NEC Corporation is a Japanese multinational information technology and electronics company, headquartered in Minato, Tokyo, Japan. The company was known as the Nippon Electric Company, Limited, before rebranding in 1983 as NEC.

Panel of speakers:

- Opening remarks by the Chair: H.E. Paul Dühr, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg

- Current and emerging practices in WFP, including on governance, programmatic and policy approaches, solutions, and partnership strategies presented by the co-chairs of the WFP Data Responsibility Task Force: Ms Enrica Porcari, WFP Chief Information Officer and Director of the Technology Division, and Mr David Kaatrud, Director, WFP Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division

- Lessons from the private sector: Mr Shinya Kukita, Principal, NEC Corporation

- State of data responsibility in the humanitarian sector and opportunities for cooperation: Mr Stuart Campo, Team Lead, Data Policy, and Senior Fellow, Centre for Humanitarian Data, OCHA

- Data collection and sharing: Host government's perspective, concerns, and policies and practices: Mr Antonio José Beleza, Deputy National Director, INGC (National Institute for Disaster Management) Mozambique – *audio connection*

Open forum with interventions and questions from Member States from the floor.