

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

I would like briefly to convey few key messages that are at the core of our discussion today.

1. **We need to change our perspective on data governance.** If we All agree that tackling global crises implies to act locally and think globally, we also need to act globally and to use tools with a global dimension. Data are an essential part of the science-policy interface, and we need to reconcile data at different levels. We need to improve information from different sources, for instance in compliance with statistical frameworks and to consider **the important role and contribution of citizens** in filling the gaps in data sources. Integrating official data with citizen-science activities brings institutions closer to citizens and to democratization data processes.

2. **In certain contexts and domains we have too much data available, and we are not able to use them adequately and correctly.** It is necessary to create a buffer between raw data and institutional data sources to prevent data flooding and make data accessible to the majority of people. We should implement reporting strategies to reach as many people as possible and in the meanwhile to limit exposure to data fatigue. Moreover, it is necessary to link the concepts of data and metadata to allow a better use also based on the experience of indicators.

3. **Technology is helping us; satellite data are the future but then we need to interpret them.** We need correct evaluations and at the moment the inclusion of socio-economic aspects is not enough. We need to consider the whole sustainable dimension.

In this context, Italy welcomes the new global data strategy initiative from UNEP and emphasizes the importance of four key elements:

1. **Open science principles and practices are key points in leveraging development:**
2. **Interoperability is also a democratic concept:**
3. **Cooperation with private sector must be encouraged:** business companies have often very precious datasets in terms of data quality and quantity.
4. **Finally, stakeholder consultation is essential** to avoid overlapping and to make the most of efforts already undertaken.

In conclusion, Ms Moderator, Italy recognizes the pivotal importance of joining forces in this context and is willing to support UNEP in this important initiative.

I thank you for your kind attention.