Becoming a National Member of CODATA

These are the recommended steps and actions to become a National Member of CODATA.

Indicate wish to join CODATA: Indicate to the CODATA Executive Director the wish of a given organization or consortium of organizations to join CODATA. National members can be single organizations or consortia that can perform a prominent national leadership role and act as the point of contact for CODATA in a given nation or economy.

Membership is approved by the CODATA Executive Committee. Membership dues are assigned according to a formula related to GDP. Dues-paying Members must pay their first year's dues before receiving any privileges of membership.

Name CODATA Delegate: Identify a primary point of contact for governance matters. Each member country should appoint a CODATA delegate who is expected to attend the biennial General Assembly and to act as the key liaison and coordinator in relation to governance.

Name Point of Contact for the Collection of Dues: Identify a single point of contact for the collection of CODATA's annual national membership dues. CODATA dues may be paid by a single organization or by a consortium of organizations. The dues may be raised by the most appropriate means in a given territory: from the budgets of the lead organization or the consortium, by direct government grants, by contributions from a range of organizations in that country. Dues should be paid annually and as promptly as possible. The invoices are generally issued in January.

Establish a National Committee: Each country or economy that is a member of CODATA should establish a CODATA National Committee (CNC). The composition of such CNCs will necessarily vary from country to country, because of local circumstances, the stakeholders and resources involved. Some general recommendations are given below.

Establish a National Office? CODATA also encourages the development of national offices (CNOs) or similar entities (with staffing and funding to support national activities and international engagement) where this is of interest to the countries in question. Where possible and appropriate, such offices might act also as the point of contact for other partner organizations (like GO FAIR, RDA or WDS). Where there is already an entity that represents data issues nationally, or is the point of contact for another of the organizations mentioned, this entity could act as host of a national committee or a point of contact for CODATA. National Offices are discussed in another document.

CODATA General Recommendations for National Committees (CNC):

- A CNC should develop a sense of mission and purpose to advance the CODATA strategy and related issues within the national science system and internationally. Ideally activities should reflect a serendipitous blend of national priorities and the CODATA strategy.

- CNC involvement in and support of strategic activities relevant to the CODATA Decadal Programme (link) is strongly encouraged.

- CNCs should engage with CODATA activities, with CODATA conferences and the Data Science Journal, to participate in Task Groups and Working Groups and to propose these at the General Assembly and to the Executive Committee respectively.

- CNCs should nominate Officers and Executive Committee members as well as participating actively in General Assemblies in order to influence and direct the strategy of CODATA at an international level. It is by engaging actively with these international activities that the benefits of CODATA membership can be most felt at national level.

- CNCs are encouraged to actively liaise with related activities in the country that are not directly undertaken by CODATA such as the RDA, GO FAIR and WDS activities, and to ensure that the involvement of CODATA in all such activities is well recognised and publicised.

- CNCs are encouraged to pursue activities at a national level to address strategic priorities and advance their mission. CNCs have the potential to act as or to convene a national data forum to raise important issues at a national level. Also productive can be bilateral and regional initiatives. CNCs are encouraged to show initiative in their activities and to contribute to the strategy and prioritisation of CODATA's international activities.

- Typically a CNC comprises 8-12 members, in order to achieve stakeholder representation, but this may vary according to resources, candidates and national circumstances.

- CNC members should be drawn from a range of stakeholders and data experts. The following categories of membership should be considered (*not* in order of priority):
    - representatives of national science academies or similar that are members of the International Council of Science;
    - representatives of international scientific unions or associations that are members of the International Council of Science;
    - representative of ministries or funders of research and higher education;
    - representative of ministries or entities responsible for data collection activities (in particular or for example in relation to the environment or society);
    - representative of key data collection and stewardship organizations;
    - representative of key research organizations with activities in data analysis and stewardship;
    - leading experts in data stewardship, in data standards and metadata, in various branches of data science, including large scale analysis, AI etc;
    - leading experts in specific research disciplines with an interest in how that field uses data;
    - representatives of organizations that maintain data standards or other components of the data ecosystem;
    - representatives of research libraries or other institutions performing data stewardship and assisting researchers with that task;
    - representatives of publishers, journals and other organs taking an interest in the place of data in the scholarly record;

- o experts in data policy, IPR and legal issues relating to data.
- Ideally, a CNC should meet face-to-face at least once a year but regular virtual meetings are also encouraged where these can help advance CNC activities. The National Member organization or consortium generally provides resources to allow CNC members to meet.
- CNCs are encouraged to use the CODATA logo to brand CODATA-related activities within their region.