



# Why Join CODATA? National Members

***Become a CODATA member and join an influential network of countries and organizations that champion data as a key resource for science ... science that is key to addressing pressing societal and environmental challenges.***

## What is CODATA?

CODATA is an international non-profit organization with a mission to connect data and people to advance science and improve our world

Membership allows the voice and interests of the nation or region to be heard in discussions of data policy, in the development of expert reports and position papers, in influential policy and technical documents, in technical working groups, and in strategic initiatives.

As the 'Committee on Data of the International Science Council (ISC)', CODATA supports the ISC's mission of 'advancing science as a global public good' by 'promoting improved research data stewardship and use'. CODATA works to advance the interoperability and the usability of such data: research data should be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). CODATA promotes the principle that data produced by research and of potential value for research should be as open as possible and only as closed as necessary.

CODATA's goals are:

- An increase in awareness of the importance of effective and high quality production, evaluation, analysis, management and stewardship of research data.
- The development of national and international data policies, methods and practices commensurate with the needs of the research communities as well as society as a whole.
- An increase in international capacity for the management, stewardship, dissemination and reuse of research data.

CODATA achieves this through strategic activities to build consensus and implement good practice, and through advancing data policies, data science and data education. In particular, CODATA has been tasked by ISC to prepare [a major global programme to 'Make data work for cross domain grand challenges'](#) which aims to assist interdisciplinary research by making data from multiple sources FAIR and thus easier to combine.

## Why Join CODATA?

Research has been profoundly transformed over the last 20 years by open access to data and large-scale data analysis. CODATA is a leader in development of the components of that transformation including open data policies, capacity building, data stewardship, infrastructure, and data and metadata specifications.

Keeping pace with these rapid developments presents a challenge to national science systems and organizations. By leveraging an active international community and collaborating with other international data and science organizations, CODATA ensures that members are kept informed of recent advances and best practices delivering excellent return on investment. CODATA works closely with many other international organizations including: International Council for Science, the GO FAIR initiative, the Research Data Alliance, the World Data System, many International Scientific Unions, and global research programmes.

## CODATA Achievements

CODATA's recent achievements and activities are described in detail in regular reports. The most recent include the [CODATA Activities and Achievements 2019-2020](#) and the [CODATA Prospectus, Oct 2018](#).

Some of the highlights include:

- Decadal Programme: Data for the Planet: Making Data Work for Cross-Domain Challenges ([link](#))
- CODATA Recommended Values for the Fundamental Physical Constants, now underpinning the revised SI System ([link](#))
- African Open Science Platform and other regional open science initiatives ([link](#))
- CODATA Task Groups, supporting the Decadal Programme and Strategic Plan ([link](#))
- Data Policy Committee ([link](#)), regular reports and statements of principle, such as the Beijing Declaration on Research Data ([link](#))
- CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science ([link](#))
- International Data Week Conferences ([link](#))
- Regional Conferences ([link](#))
- Data Science Journal ([link](#))
- 4DATA Declaration ([link](#))

The backbone of CODATA is its network of member CODATA National Committees (CNCs)—or in some instances National Offices—which link CODATA strategic activities to member requirements. A (CODATA) National Committee is typically comprised of data experts and stakeholders and would meet periodically. Some National Committees may wish to set up a National Office (CNO) with staffing and funding to support national activities and international engagement.

Progress on national and international strategic data priorities is accelerated by establishment of activities that engage experts from CODATA's extensive international community in task groups, working groups, workshops, training sessions, and conferences.

## Benefits of joining as a National Member and Establishing a CODATA National Committee

- The nation's or region's data community will achieve greater international influence through engagement with CODATA's community and exercising its vote at the CODATA General Assembly, and subject to election, on the CODATA Executive Committee.
- The CNC is seen nationally as at the frontline of the international developments in the data field.
- Consulting in developing and implementation of FAIR principles at the national scale.
- Active day-to-day involvement and project management to one of the strategic CODATA activities will make the CNC much more visible in the country.
- Participation in biennial International Data Week conferences, in thematic CODATA conferences, and in regional conferences and strategic meetings.
- The possibility of submitting joint proposals to national science funders with support, endorsement and involvement from CODATA.
- A focal point for capacity building, initiatives in data education (for example the CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science) and other training initiatives in data science and data stewardship.
- A reference point for knowledge about national infrastructure and facilities.
- A possibility for 'in kind' contribution of member countries to CODATA activities.

For more information on how to join CODATA and become a member of an influential international community, contact the CODATA Secretariat ([simon@codata.org](mailto:simon@codata.org)).