

# 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals



## Concept Note

### Background

#### Big data towards achieving

#### *Sustainable Development Goals*

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) provides a globally accepted framework with concrete goals and targets, guiding actions, and the means to track and implement relevant national and regional actions ensuring progress across economic, environmental, and social dimensions. However, lack of reliable data on indicators has impeded tracking of the progress in the implementation of 2030 Agenda. Therefore, there is a pressing need to focus on improving technological capacity, digital connectivity and digitization of data and information, as it will enable us to track progress, improve necessary interventions and investments, facilitate innovative solutions and provide effective support to policy making and decision support process for SDGs.

International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS) is a flagship conference organized by International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS). CBAS is the world's first international scientific research institute using big data to facilitate the implementation of 2030 Agenda, which was officially launched in Beijing, China on September 6, 2021. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory letter to the inauguration ceremony of the research center and the opening ceremony of the forum, expressing his hope that people and organizations around the world may take full advantage of the new center and the forum to work together on developing big data in support of the 2030 UN agenda. On the same occasion, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres expressed his hope in his congratulatory video message that this center would make a great contribution to the United Nations big data global platform. The two previous forums, FBAS 2021 and FBAS 2022, attracted more than 1500 international experts from about 70 countries and regions. Both forums provided in-depth scientific communications and provided an important platform for collaborations among academia, government, civil society, private sectors, and international organizations. Building upon the success of these previous forums the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Forum on Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (FBAS 2023) will be held on September 6-8, 2023 in Beijing, China.

### Theme

#### Big data accelerating

#### *Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

The year 2023 is a critical year for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development due to the SDGs mid-term review. At present, global poverty alleviation is being hampered; climate change, water security, and food and energy crises are becoming increasingly severe. The world is also facing significant uncertainties in three major areas of economy, society, and environment. UN Secretary-General Guterres noted that "we are moving farther away from our goals". As a result, transformative action and

solutions are urgently needed. The experience of the past few years has shown that science and technology play an imperative role as an integral part of the UN's sustainable development promotion mechanism. In particular, the rapid digital transformation since the past decade holds tremendous potential to advance the implementation of sustainable development goals.

Big data is an important ingredient for innovation in frontier digital technology, which can enhance monitoring and evaluation of sustainable development indicators from a multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-scale perspective, providing us with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges we are facing, and the opportunity to develop appropriate solutions for these challenges.

FBAS 2023, with the theme of “Big Data Accelerating Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, will feature a wide range of academic discussions on topics such as Science and Technology Promote the Realization of Environmental SDGs (SDG 2, SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 13, and SDG 15), Policy and Investment to Promote Regional Sustainable Development, Building Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals and Youth Innovation: Sharing the Future.

## Objective

**Promote the use of big data science and technology to support the**  
*Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals*

The key objectives of the forum include the following:

- ✓ Highlight the advantages of big data in monitoring and evaluating the sustainable development indicators as well as the importance of big data in support of decision-making to promote the implementation of 2030 Agenda.
- ✓ Facilitate the development of innovative methods, popularization of new technologies and demonstration of the applications of big data and digital technology in sustainable development.
- ✓ Promote partnerships and foster cooperation among all relevant stakeholders to better mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and superior resources to support the achievement of SDGs.
- ✓ Provide a global high-level communication platform for Scientists, Politicians, Entrepreneurs, and Youth Groups to discuss and form solutions on the use of technology facilitation mechanisms to achieve the sustainable development goals.

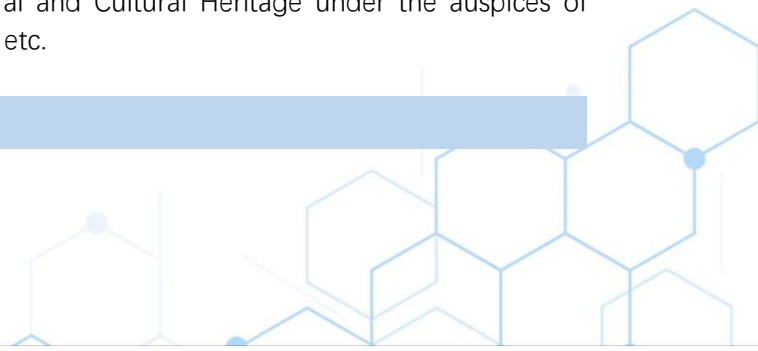
## Organizations

**Leading Science and Technology Organization**  
*International Research Center of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals*

FBAS 2023 will be sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS), hosted by the International Research Centre of Big Data for Sustainable Development Goals (CBAS) and supported by several UN entities and International NGOs including Office of the President of the UN General Assembly, UNDESA, UNEP, FAO, UNCCD, UN-Habitat and The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), etc. The forum will also be co-organized by about 40 well-known universities, research institutes and international organizations including Group on Earth Observations (GEO), Committee on Data of the International Science Council (CODATA), World Geospatial Industry Council (WGIC), Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), International Society of Digital Earth (ISDE), Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), International Center on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage under the auspices of UNESCO (HIST), Digital Belt and Road Program (DBAR), etc.

## Format

**Onsite**



## *Various types of communication activities*

FBAS 2023 will be a 3-day onsite event. The Forum will feature several keynote speeches by prominent guest highlighting their ideas, experiences, important developments in harnessing big data to serve 2030 Agenda, parallel high-level thematic panel discussion, round table, showcase events and presentations, which will gather international experts from research institutes, National Sustainable Development Innovation Demonstration Zone, leading digital technology companies to share their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of big data to support UN technology facilitation mechanism.

### Participants

#### **Experts from** *Around the World*

FBAS 2023 has invited high-level participants including scientists, engineers, policymakers and experts from diverse backgrounds from around the world which will provide good opportunities for fostering improved partnerships and networking towards collaborative and collective efforts in Big Data to support the SDGs.

### Topics

#### **Big Data for** *Sustainable Development Goals*

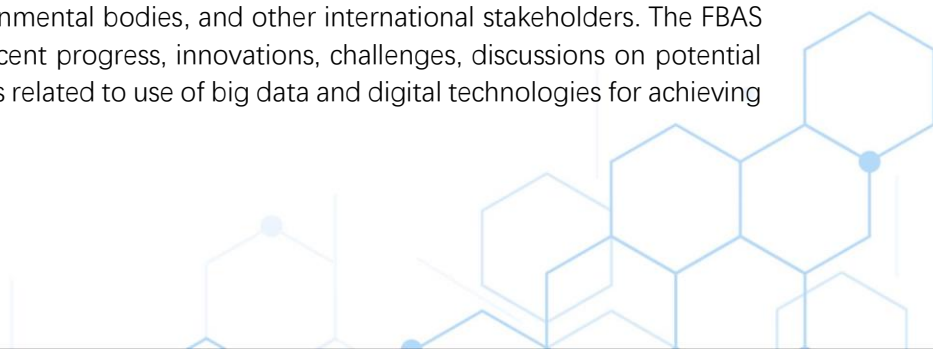
The session will focus on topics including

- ✓ **Digital technology advancing global sustainable development**
  - SDG2 (Zero Hunger): Developing sustainable food systems
  - SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation): Integrated management for water resources
  - SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy): Transitioning to low-carbon energy
  - SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Green and resilience city
  - SDG13 (Climate Action): Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation
  - SDG14 (Life below Water): Blue innovation for the delivery of the SDGs
  - SDG15 (Life on Land): Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems
- ✓ **Policy and digital industry promoting regional sustainable development**
- ✓ **Development of global partnership facilitating the implementation of SDGs**
- ✓ **Youth innovation: sharing for the future**

### Outcomes

#### **Concrete solutions for multi-stakeholder cooperation towards** *Sustainable Development Goals*

FBAS 2023 is hoping to provide an interdisciplinary platform for discussion and exchange of ideas that will help to develop collaborations among the global scientific community, international science organizations, private sectors, intergovernmental bodies, and other international stakeholders. The FBAS 2023 will work to ensure the share of recent progress, innovations, challenges, discussions on potential and viable solutions and future endeavors related to use of big data and digital technologies for achieving sustainable development goals.



The forum will feature and promote new data knowledge, innovative technologies, demonstrative case studies, products, and services to facilitate the analysis and monitoring of various SDG indicators. It is also expected to launch a strategic framework and initiative for global digital technology cooperation to promote sustainable development goals, and establish a youth alliance for big data science during FBAS 2023. The forum will therefore provide an unique opportunity and a rich experience for different stakeholders on various topics of data sciences, technology, and scientific cooperation to promote the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

