

2026 Global Conference of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development

Thematic Event Title:

Data policies for times of crisis: Enabling open science for coordinated response



Date: 17 July 2026

Time: 14:30-15:45 CEST

Room XI, UNESCO, Headquarters

Registration for online participation:

https://unesco-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_REcbpTeeRDKr7zdpJypUTg#/registration

Short description of the event

As crises become increasingly complex, interconnected, and transboundary, timely access to trustworthy data is essential for effective preparedness, response, and recovery. This event presents findings from the first global UNESCO-CODATA survey on the implementation of Data Policies for Times of Crisis (DPTC) facilitated by Open Science. Drawing on experiences from organizations across sectors and regions, the session examines how open science principles are being applied to crisis data governance, identifies implementation challenges and good practices, and explores opportunities to strengthen responsible, interoperable, and coordinated data sharing in support of sustainable development and resilience.

1. Background and Objectives

The growing frequency and complexity of global crises, including public health emergencies, natural hazards, climate-related events, and humanitarian crises have highlighted the critical importance of timely, reliable, and interoperable data. Effective crisis response depends on the ability of institutions to share, access, and use data across sectors and borders while ensuring ethical safeguards, accountability, security, and respect for human rights.

To support these efforts, UNESCO, in collaboration with the International Science Council's Committee on Data (CODATA), developed the Data Policies for Times of Crisis (DPTC) facilitated by Open Science resources, launched in 2025 as part of the [UNESCO Open Science Toolkit](#). Grounded in the [2021 UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#) and aligned with internationally recognized principles such as FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), CARE (Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, Ethics), and TRUST (Transparency, Responsibility, User focus, Sustainability, Technology), the DPTC Toolkit provides practical guidance to governments, research institutions, UN agencies, civil protection authorities, and other stakeholders seeking to strengthen crisis data governance.

The event is hosted as a thematic session of the 2026 Global Conference of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development. It will present findings from a global UNESCO-CODATA survey conducted between March and June 2026, assessing how organizations are implementing data policies for times of crisis and applying open science principles in operational contexts. By examining current practices, implementation gaps, and emerging needs, the session will contribute to ongoing efforts to strengthen science-informed crisis preparedness and resilience worldwide.

The session has three objectives:

- Present the findings of the first global UNESCO-CODATA survey on the implementation of data policies for times of crisis.
- Facilitate dialogue among policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and international organizations on challenges and opportunities in crisis data governance.
- Identify priorities for strengthening responsible, ethical, and coordinated data sharing through open science approaches in support of crisis preparedness, response, and recovery.

2. Agenda

Duration: 75 minutes | Format: Hybrid | Language: English

Master of Ceremonies: Ezra Clark, Chief of Section, Research, Governance and Diplomacy, UNESCO

Time	Item
14:30–14:35	Welcome and opening remarks Dr Ezra Clark, Chief of Section, Research, Governance and Diplomacy, UNESCO
14:35–14:50	Presentation of survey key findings

	• Ms Rania Sabo, Associate Programme Specialist, Research, Governance and Diplomacy, UNESCO • Prof Burçak Başbuğ Erkan, Faculty member of the Middle East Technical University-Department of Statistics & Co-Chair of the International Science Council's Committee on Data (CODATA) International Data Policy Committee (IDPC)
14:50–15:30	Panel discussion: Translating open science principles into data policies for crisis management across sectors Moderator: Dr Simon Hodson, Executive Director, CODATA • Dr Animesh Kumar, Head, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Office in Bonn – (online) • Mr Manuel Ricardo Galindo Moreno, Project Officer, Research, Governance and Diplomacy, Sciences Sector, UNESCO • Dr Paola Gonzalez Vargas, Academic Advisor, Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica – (online) • Prof Virginia Murray, Co-chair International Data Policy Committee, CODATA & Honorary Professor, University College London (UCL), United Kingdom
15:30–15:40	Questions and answers Open discussion
15:40–15:45	Closing remarks Dr Simon Hodson, Executive Director, CODATA

3. Expected Outcomes

The event is expected to produce the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness of the role of open science in enabling responsible and effective data governance during times of crisis.
- Dissemination of findings from the first global UNESCO-CODATA survey, providing evidence on current practices, challenges, and opportunities related to crisis data governance.
- Enhanced dialogue among policymakers, researchers, international organizations, and practitioners on strengthening institutional preparedness through open science-enabled data policies.
- Identification of priority areas for future capacity-building, policy development, and pilot implementation activities related to the DPTC Toolkit.
- Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders working to advance ethical, interoperable, and coordinated data sharing for crisis preparedness, response, and recovery.



4. Contact

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