

GeoCensos statement

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Production, Use and Complementation of Geospatial Data with the participation of civil society

What is not measured does not exist in many ways. And what is measured shapes the reality we perceive. The agreement on the 17 sustainable development goals in the 2030 Global Agenda, and its associated indicators, represents our desire for a better reality. But how to share this with our communities and territories?

It is clear that we are not looking for cold numbers, on the contrary, we seek data and indicators that may reflect daily experiences and willingness to change the lives of our people, who we have always counted with to tell our stories. Thanks to the extensive work we have been undertaking through recent years to empower our citizenry through organized civil society and promoting participation by recording information as a basic expression of participative commitment, is that we present the below statement.

WE BELIEVE THAT SHARING INFORMATION CAN BRING MORE AND BETTER KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL, which in turn can support welfare needs of all our grassroots. It is in the shared knowledge where we justify the participation and give new meanings to data generation in our contexts, communities and territories. Usually, this information can be used to make better decisions. Depending on how the data are taken, where, with whom and for whom we can generate together better and greater impacts. We believe that sharing information and knowledge is critical in all decision-making processes and that a true knowledge society can not be based on data and decisions of a few.

WE WANT TO MAKE COUNT THE VOICE of communities and territories that we cover through baseline data for each of the various groups involved, and this is a challenge that gives integrity to the 2030 agenda. We are aware that our collaborative initiatives with open data are still considered in many areas as a technological eccentricity; and yet the emphasis on participation and equity in

SDGs requires open data with the support of free platforms to improve the value of the data belonging to all, its accessibility, its transparency and its quality. This will facilitate the use, collection and reuse of data, pursuing the welfare of local communities.

We PROPOSE THIS FORUM TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE WORK OF CIVIL SOCIETY in a systematic, harmonic and continued way, as the key to raising awareness and ensuring a culture of integration and data sharing. Departing from the highest levels of statistical formality to the spontaneity of new urban and rural communities of data it is essential that we work together in producing viable indicators that can contribute -efficiently and effectively - in value to the SDGs. Complementing efforts by civil society from the local and territorial viewpoint can become a vital source that may generate added value when reading and finding meaning to the data.

WE WANT TO COMPLEMENT AND TO COOPERATE with our efforts to the official data collection stream, as it has been done with the civil society in the recent national population and housing censuses in Peru and Chile. We also want that the production of data by civil society could be accessible and viewable by all, so that information and knowledge are truly shared.

GOVERNMENTS NEED TO STUDY , DEVELOP AND FACILITATE OPEN ACCESS PLATFORMS ALREADY AVAILABLE AND APPROPRIATED BY THE ORGANIZED CIVIL SOCIETY, including initiatives to disseminate best practices in both inclusive and open, standards aimed at generating collaborative projects in the production and use of geo spatial data democratically.

Participation as a democratic way in the production, use and complementation of geospatial data, which entails including the role of civil society to complement the statistical production and developing best practices from the civil sector to achieve the high objectives on the 2030 agenda is a call to which we pledge to work alongside with all national statistical offices and data authoritative agencies in our countries.

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