

Technical Workshop: “Mobilising Private Sector Data for Climate Change”

24 March 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 CET

Permanent Mission of Switzerland, 9-11, rue de Varembe, CH - 1211 Geneva 20

Draft as of 20 March

I. Setting the scene

The [PARIS21 Foundation](#) is an independent non-profit charitable organisation founded in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2021 by [PARIS21](#), a Partnership hosted by the OECD and which works to bring “better data for better lives”. The PARIS21 Foundation seeks to promote innovative activities that strengthen inclusive, participatory data systems to advance robust decision-making that promotes better lives for people everywhere and leaves no one behind. In complement to PARIS21’s work with international organisations, national governments and civil society, the Foundation seeks to enable private organisations, companies, and high net worth individuals to take part in the development of transformative solutions to enhance the production, use and dissemination of trustworthy data to sustainable development.

One of the core areas of work of the PARIS21 Foundation is to investigate and develop innovative solutions for data-driven and inclusive policymaking to tackle climate change. Premised on [PARIS21’s approach to a Climate change data ecosystem \(CCDE\)](#) for coordinated climate action, the Foundation aims to complement PARIS21’s work to better grasp how private sector data can be leveraged into CCDEs at local, national and global level.

Tackling the complex policy challenge of shifting current socio-economic models towards sustainable environmental practices and fighting the adverse effects of climate change is dependent upon access, collection, analysis and sharing of quality, actionable data. The private sector holds numerous data that are relevant to the fight against climate change. In forestry and agriculture alone, much of the data collected by private companies are not readily available to public institutions – from logging reports, to the volumes of agricultural goods exported through ports, acres of land dedicated to specific crops, or volumes of water used to grow those crops.

For policy makers, access to data, including data that the private sector can make available, is essential to achieving the ambitious climate change objectives that countries must design and implement. In this context, finding ways for the private sector to share or help curate this data could bear a critical impact on the fight against climate change. Yet there is at present a lack of understanding of what data from the private sector could be used for public policy making, how it could be accessed, and under what conditions it could be mobilized.

II. Objectives of the technical workshop

To better understand the current trends in the mobilization and use of private sector data for policy making on climate change, the PARIS21 Foundation commissioned the report entitled “Mobilising private sector data for climate change” prepared by the Solvary Public Policy House from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB). The objectives of this technical workshop are to:

1. To discuss the background report prepared, with experts from the corporate sector, civil society, public sector and academia;
2. To gather participants’ views on the main challenges and opportunities for business to governments data (B2G) sharing for climate action, promoting peer-learning innovative solutions;

- To identify key areas for further research and policy action for mobilizing private sector data for climate change and pave the way for the creation of a strong circle of champions on the topic.

III. Draft Agenda

1. Introductions and presentation of the report (40 min)

10:00 am – 10:10 am	Welcoming remarks and introduction of participants by Johannes Jütting, PARIS21
10:10 am – 10:25 am	Brief presentation of the findings of the background report by Estelle Cantillon, ULB
10:25 am – 10:40 am	Discussion and feedback from participants on the background report, moderated by Élisabeth Narminio, PARIS21

2. Thematic discussion (70 min)

Moderated by Élisabeth Narminio, PARIS21

10:40 am – 11:10 am	<p>PART 1. State of play & current challenges</p> <p>What is the business case for B2G data sharing in the context of climate change?</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are some examples of how SDGs and climate targets can be achieved through private data use? What is the motivation for private companies to share data for climate change policy making? <p>What are the key challenges for mobilising private-sector data?</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the most pressing technical and operational challenges? (Interoperability, existing tools, models, frameworks...) What incentives are missing to further develop B2G partnerships? (Financial considerations -Monetary vs non-monetary models / Trustworthiness of the data and privacy & protection issues / Governance and institutional challenges - regulatory frameworks, enabling environment, transboundary agreements...) How to guarantee the quality, maintenance, and upscaling of open data sets
11:10 am – 11:30 am	<p>PART 2. Opportunities & enabling conditions for mobilising private-sector data</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The three routes to private data identified are commercial access, open access and B2G sharing agreements. What are the opportunities & enabling conditions for mobilising private-sector data for each route?</i> <i>What are some examples of existing solutions to share private data? (i.e, platforms, data governance frameworks, targeted investment)?</i> <i>What are the major differences and enabling factors for B2G data sharing between the Global South and the Global North?</i>

11:30 am – 11:50 am

PART 3. A road map for the way forward: a circle of champions

Guiding questions

- What can members of this technical workshop do to promote future engagement and create opportunities for collaboration, network, research and policy action for mobilizing private sector data for climate change?
- The two routes to be enhanced suggested by the report include commercial access and open access. What are examples of commercial and/or open access databases for climate change? What can be done to promote their availability?
- What are some best practices for commercial use of policy relevant private databases for climate change? And for open access ones?

3. Conclusion (10 min)

11:50 am – 11:55 am

Wrap-up and concluding remarks by Sasha Ramirez-Hughes, PARIS21

11: 55 am – 12:00 am

Group picture