

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER

We hope that you have had a good spring break and are ready for the latest news update from the community. This edition, we're reporting on our visit to Nairobi, Kenya, where members of the Data for Policy team met with key stakeholders in the data and policy space. We're also pleased to publish our first annual report of activities, with highlights of our main achievements. Our regular community spotlight features Dr Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, founding member for area committee 6. We close with updates from our partner journal, Data & Policy.

Maximizing Sub-Saharan Africa's impact in the Global Data for Policy Dialogue: A Strategic Consultation



At the end of March, the Data for Policy team was on the road again, this time to Nairobi, Kenya.

As part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-sponsored project on maximising Sub-Saharan Africa participation in the data for policy community, we organised a strategic consultation meeting with key stakeholders from East and South African regions. Our co-host for the meeting was the [Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis \(KIPPR\)](#). The meeting was organised and facilitated by Diasmer Bloe (Data for Policy), with virtual participation facilitated by Peter Agamile ([Evans School, University of Washington](#)) and Wendy Essuman ([SpidiPay, Rwanda](#)).



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Eldah Onsomu, KIPPRA's Director of Economic Management, and the Gates Foundation's Joshua Ariga (Senior Program Officer) welcomed participants from academia, business and government at the start of the meeting. The opening address set the scene for the proceedings, with an outline of the activities of Data for Policy CIC and partner journal Data & Policy from Zeynep Engin (Founding Director of Data for Policy CIC and Editor-in-Chief, Data & Policy), followed by a call for action for better linkage of data with policy-making for sustainable development from Aggie Asiimwe Konde (Vice President, Programme Innovation and Delivery, [Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa](#)).



Over the course of the day, researchers, practitioners, civil society, and private sector stakeholders from Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda framed crucial issues, presented findings, shared expertise and lessons learned, and debated and synthesized strategies for action.

Although timely issues such as agriculture, climate action and data science capabilities provided some grounding, the cross sectoral dialogue branched all aspects of the African data-policy pipeline - from knowledge generation and formulating research questions to daily use at the frontline. The dialogue included a series of engaging panel discussions on topics such as African knowledge generation and impact on the regional and global stage, evidenced impact of African-led research at the nexus of data and policy, and a collaborative theory of change. Participants discussed national and sector- and field-specific contexts, taxonomies, challenges, and opportunities, key decision points influencing Africa's data and policy landscape, and strategic areas of interest for addressing these challenges.

Data for Policy would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the meeting such a success, in particular our colleagues from the foundation: Stanley Wood, Joshua Ariga, Robyn Parker and the Events team; Maureen Adoyo ([Rongo University](#)) and Leigh Anderson (Evans School, University of Washington) for their assistance in and commitment to planning this event.

Data for Policy's Sub-Saharan Engagement project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and is in collaboration with the Evans School for Public Policy and Governance, University of Washington.

Data for Policy Annual Report of Activities



We're pleased to publish Data for Policy CIC's annual report of activities for 2022-23. The report highlights this year's achievements against our four pillars of activity in the data for policy space:

- Facilitating global dialogue and debate
- Thought leadership - building the field of data for policy research
- Curating & disseminating knowledge
- Community building & widening participation

The report also includes a section on our strategy for the year ahead, including plans for the Data for Policy's tenth anniversary and the next conference, both in 2024. You can find [the report](#) on our website.

Community Spotlight



In this edition we are highlighting the contribution of Dr Eleonore Fournier-Tombs, the [Head of Anticipatory Action and Innovation](#) at the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research in New York. She has been a member of the Data & Policy Community since 2021, when she joined Area Committee 6: Data to Tackle Global Issues and Dynamic Societal Threats. Since then, she has contributed as an associate editor to the journal, as well as a track organiser for the 2022 Data for Policy Conference.

Eleonore has worked as a data scientist and researcher in the UN system for over a decade. In 2012, she was awarded the UN21 Award, given by Secretary General Ban Ki Moon for noteworthy UN staff contributions.



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She has since worked for the UNDP Human Development Report Office, the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, and the World Bank. Before joining UNU CPR, she was a Senior Research at UNU Institute in Macau, where she led a research portfolio on gender sensitive AI policy in Southeast Asia. She is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law Research Chair on Accountable AI in a Global Context, and has taught several graduate courses in data science, international cooperation, and cybersecurity at McGill University and Université de Montréal.

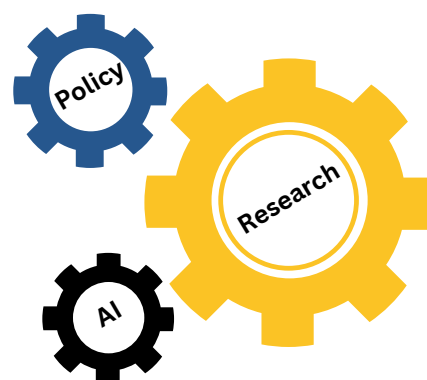
In her current position, Eleonore is developing a research lab which focuses on methodology and policy interventions that would support foresight and anticipatory action in the UN system and with member states. This work builds upon the momentum of the [Summit of the Future](#), which will be held at the UN General Assembly in 2024. The lab will have four main areas of intervention over the next five years - peacebuilding and conflict, humanitarian coordination, global health, and climate change. These themes would be strongly influenced by work on gender, technology policy, and deliberation, which have characterised Eleonore's research agenda in the last decade.

Over the next year, Eleonore hopes to work with Area 6 on a special journal issue on citizen-centred data for global issues and continue to contribute to the Data for Policy conference.

Data & Policy News Snippets

AI Ethics Policy Published

Data & Policy's publisher, Cambridge University Press, has announced its [policy on AI Research Ethics](#). This recognises the potential of ChatGPT and other large language models (LLMs) for research but underlines that their use must be clearly explained in research papers (just as with other software and technology). It notes that an AI tool cannot itself meet the criteria for authorship and the named authors are accountable for accuracy, integrity and originality of the work.



Hot off the Press

Recently published articles cover a wide range of topics, including [explainable AI](#); [interoperability and compatibility in digital twins](#); [making standards for robotic technologies](#), [measuring internet censorship](#) (with accompanying [blog](#)) and a [survey of AI transparency legislation](#). You can find the latest articles by visiting [this page](#).

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Calls for Papers:

Data for Epidemic Preparedness and Containment Policy
Emerging Data and Policy-driven Approaches for African
Cities Challenges

NEW! Sustainable Mobility Using Data in Latin America

NEW! Data for Peace: How Can Novel Data Sources and
Technology Enhance Peace?

Please see the individual webpages for full details.

Data & Policy Blog

In March, we were pleased to mark Open Day Week with an [excellent blog](#) from Shaida Badiie at Open Data Watch. This highlighted the results of their [Open Data Inventory](#) which is an assessment of openness and coverage of official statistics.

[Submissions](#) to journal and blog are welcome, as are special collection proposals.



Keep up to date with further publications [via eTOC alerts](#) and [@data_and_policy](#).

Thank you for reading; we hope you found the content useful and interesting. If you have any feedback for the newsletter or think there's an interesting piece of research, event or development we've missed, please do let us know via team@dataforpolicy.org



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