Data Sustainability Driven
Dr. Abdulfatah Said Mohamed – Hamad Bin Khalifa University

In today's in 2015, a momentous event occurred when global leaders rallied behind the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a visionary agenda stretching to 2030. Now, in 2023, during the UN General Assembly, it is imperative to reaffirm the central role of data. driven sustainability. Midway through this transformative journey, the quality of our data has emerged as a cornerstone in achieving these global goals. Data driven sustainability is about collecting and using data to make decisions that guide measurable and responsible practices at government or private sectors.

Promoting informed decision-making is about high-quality data. Without equipping and furnishing leaders with such high-quality data, leaders would not be able to make essential insights to allocate resources wisely, design effective policies, and ensure actions are deeply rooted in evidence.

If the SDGS has served as the roadmap in this journey, then high-quality data have been serving as GPS navigator of the journey. Every institution and or a decision maker would meticulously be able to track progress, identify priority areas and adjust strategies as necessary to ensure the activities are staying on track, without relying on meaningful data.

At the heart of the SDGs is the principle of leaving no one behind. Quality data plays a critical role in identifying marginalised communities, targeting interventions where they are most needed, and promoting equitable progress.

Preparing for Crises In a constantly evolving world, quality data acts as our early warning system. It enables us to anticipate and respond effectively to crises, whether health, environmental or economic, potentially saving lives and minimising suffering.

The Dangers of Bad Data Conversely, the lack of reliable data or reliance on poor quality data can have catastrophic consequences:

1. Policy Pitfalls Policies created without reliable data can veer off course, resulting in misallocation of resources and leading to critical issues being left unaddressed.
2. Exacerbating inequalities Inadequate data hinders efforts to eliminate inequalities and contradicts the core idea of the SDGs.
3. Environmental risks Inadequate data can hinder conservation efforts, endanger ecosystems and contribute to permanent damage.
4. Health Threat: During health crises, accurate data is a lifeline. Poor data can lead to higher mortality rates and longer suffering.

As we find ourselves halfway through the SDG journey in 2023, the importance of high-quality data cannot be overemphasised. It is our guiding star that leads us to a sustainable and just world. Global leaders must prioritise data collection, analysis, and dissemination. By harnessing the power of high-quality data, we can ensure that the remaining years of the SDG agenda are characterised by real progress and transformative change and deliver on the noble goals set in 2015.

In this endeavour, the world can continue to confidently move towards a goal of a better and more sustainable future for all.

"Preparing for Crises In a constantly evolving world, quality data acts as our early warning system. It enables us to anticipate and respond effectively to crises"

Dr. Abdulfatah Mohamed