

Open Data Charter Principles

OAS- ODC Webinar
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Open data is digital data that is made available with the technical and legal characteristics necessary for it to be **freely used, reused, and redistributed by anyone, anytime, anywhere.**

Open data is a **key public good** and presents opportunities to provide innovative, evidence-based policy solutions and support **economic benefits** and **social development for all** members of society.

Who we are

The Open Data Charter is a collaboration between governments and experts working to open up data. It was founded in 2015 around six principles for how governments should be publishing information.

The shared aspiration is that data should be **open by default, timely and interoperable.**

Open data holds the promise of helping solve tough policy problems, improving governance and government responsiveness, and promoting more inclusive and equitable societies.

Our goal is to embed open data as a central ingredient to achieving better solutions to the most pressing policy challenges of our time.

We seek to ensure that responses to the problems governments face are data driven and participatory, and that this influences how governments are building their broader data infrastructures and information systems.

We do this by setting global norms and demonstrating what they can achieve:

- 1. Setting norms:** As stewards of global principles, that represent the gold standard for what good open data looks like, including that opening up data in isolation is less effective than if targeted at solving specific policy problems.
- 2. Demonstration projects:** Demonstrate how principles translate into action through the development and piloting of Open Up Guides, that offer practical guidance for government reformers to open up datasets in ways that are most likely to yield specific and tangible benefits to citizens.

Data impact framework



There has been a growing recognition that opening up data in isolation is less effective than it can be if targeted at solving specific policy problems—that **“publish with purpose” can deliver more than “publish and they will come”**.

The Charter’s [Open Up Guides](#) explain in practical terms what types of datasets can be used to solve specific problems and how this data should be published.

Six Core Principles



1. Open Data by Default



2. Timely and Comprehensive



3. Accessible and Usable



4. Comparable and Interoperable



5. For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement



6. For Inclusive Development and Innovation



Open by
Default



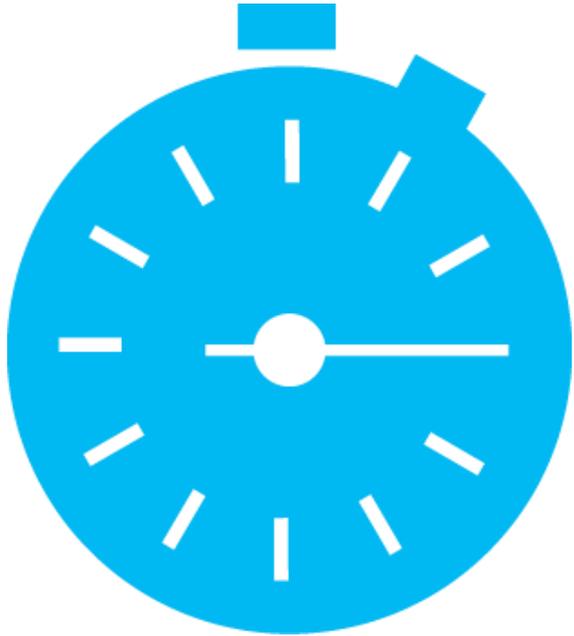
1. Open by Default

1. Data held by national, regional, local & city governments, international government bodies, wider public sector, & data created for governments/public
2. Government data is of value of society & economy
3. Global development & adoption of resources, standards, & policies for the creation, use, exchange, & harmonization of open data
4. Will not compromise right to privacy, citizens have right to influence collection & use of personal data



1. Open by Default

- Adopters will:
 - a) Develop and adopt policies & practices
 - b) Provide justifications for why certain data cannot be released
 - c) Establish culture of openness
 - d) Support culture of openness in all departments & agencies
 - e) Observe domestic laws & internationally recognized standards
 - f) Anonymize data when necessary



Timely and
Comprehensive



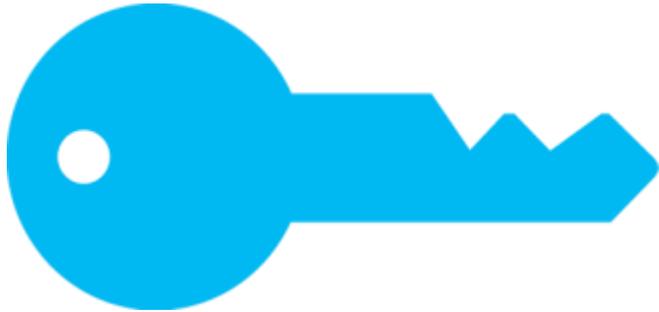
2. Timely and Comprehensive

1. Human & technical resources to identify data for release/publication
2. Importance of consultation to prioritize data for release/improvement
 - including with citizens, government, civil society, private sector
3. To be of value data must be comprehensive, accurate, and high quality



2. Timely and Comprehensive

- Adopters will:
 - a) Share lists of data holdings for prioritization, publication, & release
 - b) Release data in timely manner
 - c) Release data in original, unmodified form & provide links
 - d) Release data disaggregated to lowest level of administration
 - e) Allow feedback and continue to improve data quality
 - f) Apply information lifecycle management practices
 - g) Consult data users on changes to structure or supply of data
 - h) Document processes online



Accessible and
Useable



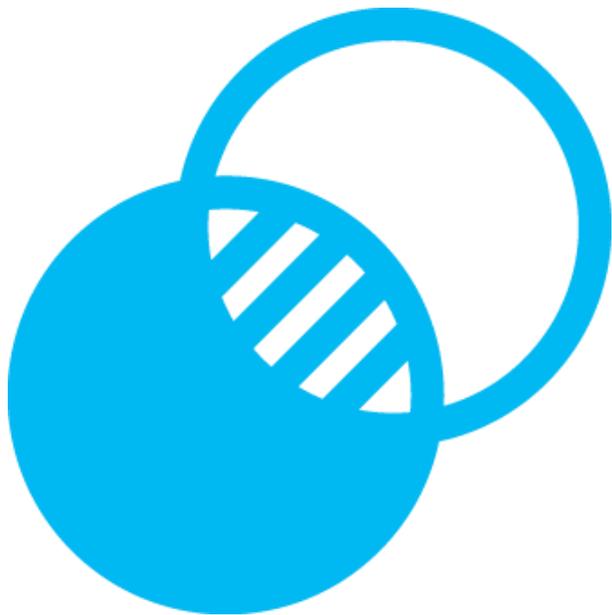
3. Accessible and Useable

1. Opening up data enables governments, citizens, civil society, and private sector organizations to make more informed decisions
2. Open data should be discoverable and accessible, without bureaucratic or administrative barriers



3. Accessible and Useable

- Adopters will:
 - a) Publish data on central portal
 - b) Release data in open & standardized formats
 - c) Release data free of charge under open & unrestricted license
 - d) Release data without mandatory registration to access data
 - e) Ensure data can be accessed & used efficiently by range of users
 - f) Support initiatives to raise awareness of open data



Comparable and Interoperable



4. Comparable and Interoperable

1. Data should be easy to compare within and between sectors, location, and time
2. Data should be presented in structured and standardized formats to support interoperability, traceability, and effective reuse



4. Comparable and Interoperable

- Adopters will:
 - a) Implement consistent open standards
 - b) Ensure data includes metadata & is available in human & machine-readable formats
 - c) Provide clear & comprehensive documentation
 - d) Engage with domestic & international standards bodies
 - e) Map local standards & engage with emerging global standards



For Improved
Governance
and Citizen
Engagement



5. For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement

1. Release of open data improves transparency, strengthens government, rule of law, and trust in public institutions
2. Improved civic engagement and better development, implementation, and assessment of programs and policies
3. Citizens, civil society, and private sector can help to highlight what data should be prioritized
4. City and local governments have a crucial role in citizen engagement



5. For Improved Governance and Citizen Engagement

- Adopters will:
 - a) Report regularly to the public
 - b) Release transparency or anticorruption information as open data
 - c) Training, tools & guidelines to support government employees
 - d) Engage with Freedom of Information/Access to Information/Right to Information community
 - e) Engage with non-state actors to identify data needs
 - f) Respect citizens' right to freedom
 - g) Encourage open data policy solutions



For Inclusive
Development
and Innovation



6. For Inclusive Development and Innovation

1. Importance of openness in stimulating creativity and innovation
2. Identify social and economic challenges, facilitating sustainable development
3. Open data is an equitable resource but can be limited by global digital divide
4. Government's role does not end with the release of data, it must take active role in understanding and reuse of data



6. For Inclusive Development and Innovation

- Adopters will:
 - a) Support creation of rich open data ecosystem
 - b) Create/explore partnerships
 - c) Create/support programs & initiatives fostering development or co-creation of datasets
 - d) Engage with schools & post-secondary education
 - e) Conduct/support research on impacts of open data
 - f) Build capacity & share technical expertise & experience
 - g) Empower future generation of data innovators

Adoption Mechanism

- Aims to find a balance between achieving **high level political support/commitments**; while **avoiding burdensome entry barriers** that could hinder adoption.
- The proposal is to ask for a **high-level public statement** (*Head of State, Secretary, Minister, Governor, Mayor, etc.*) with the following characteristics:
 1. **Statement of support towards the Open Data Charter** and its principles;
 2. **Appointment of key areas or individuals** responsible for following the work around the Open Data Charter; and
 3. **Outlining the mechanism(s) through which the principles of the Open Data Charter will be operationalized** by the country/city/local government (*ex. OGP National Action Plan, Open Data Action Plans, national/local Open Data implementation policies, etc.*)

Our network

 open data charter



Open Youth



opendatacharter.org

Our resources

- Open Up Field Guides
- Open Up Guide on Anticorruption
- Open Data Charter Measurement Guide
- Open Up Guide on Agriculture

More:

<https://opendatacharter.net/resource-centre/>