

Authoritative data and evolving geospatial landscape

Welcome and setting the scene:

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Fourteenth Session of the United Nations
Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial
Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

UNHQ, New York | 7 – 9 August 2024

Context of this Side event

- Evolution in the geospatial landscape: more disciplines, technologies, providers
- From a policy/legal perspective, there is a need to consider:
 - **Governing** authoritative data through **distributed or shared authority**, including cross-sectoral **collaboration**
 - Evolution of national **legal, regulatory and policy frameworks**
 - Clear definitions, robust **governance frameworks**
 - Cross-sectoral and international **collaboration**
 - The significance of authoritative data and 'criticality' of the data to **decision-makers**



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A framework for “Authoritative data” governance

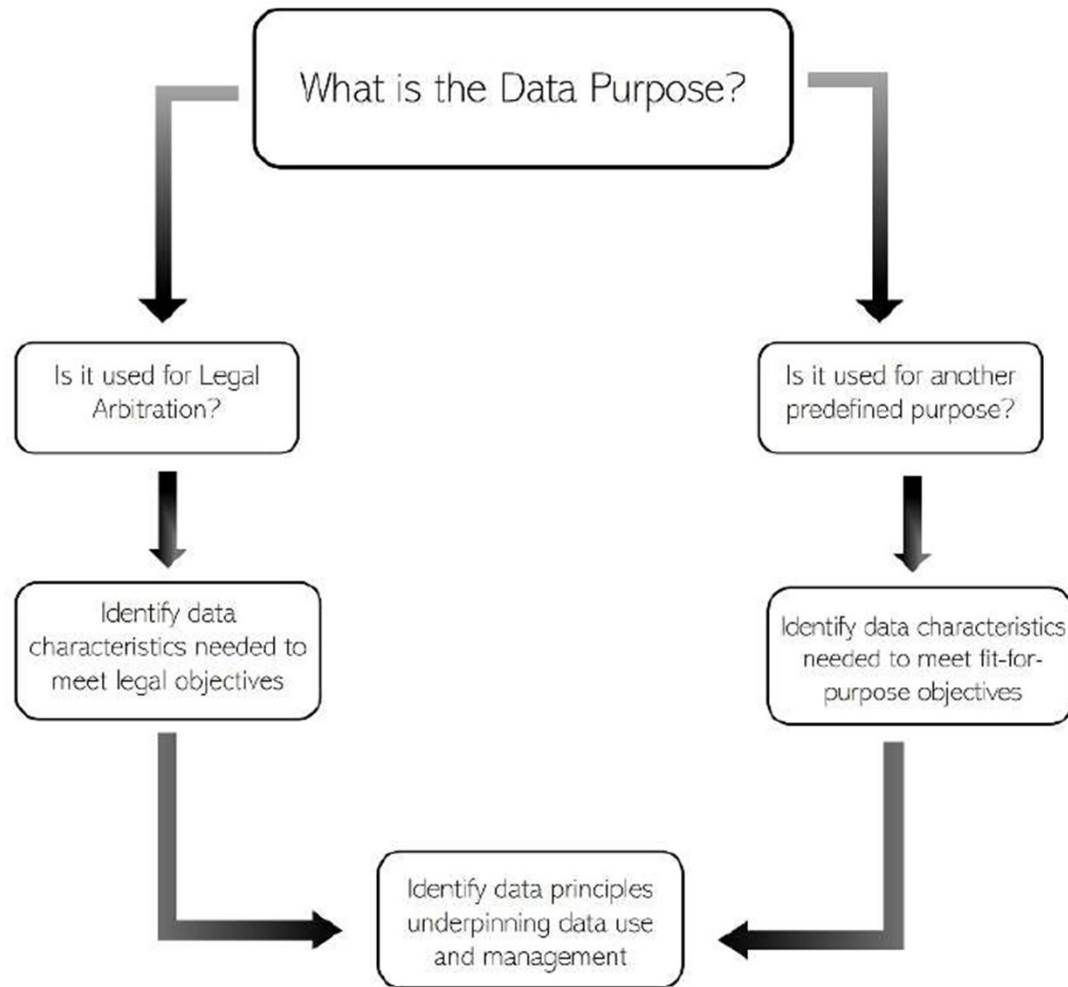
- The authoritative data paper Part I suggests a “fit for purpose” frame for domains seeking guidance
 - **In order for any data asset, process or organization to be considered as *authoritative*, it must be fit for its intended, predefined purpose(s).**
- To support transparency and establish the pre-conditions for trust, this means:
 - Data governance provides assurance that the data is suitable for its intended purpose and has the desired characteristics and/or required legal status
 - The chosen principles for any given data purpose guide the processes and governance to deliver on the intent for the data
- *While this guidance was intended primarily for Member States, is it also relevant for distributed or shared authority, including cross-sectoral collaboration?*
- *And particularly for non-traditional domains, new disciplines in the changing landscape?*



A framework for “Authoritative data” governance

- A pathway to establishing authoritativeness for data used for decision-making and for other predefined purposes
- The paper also offers general guidance for law and policymakers seeking direction in the development, implementation, or review of their authoritative data

governance



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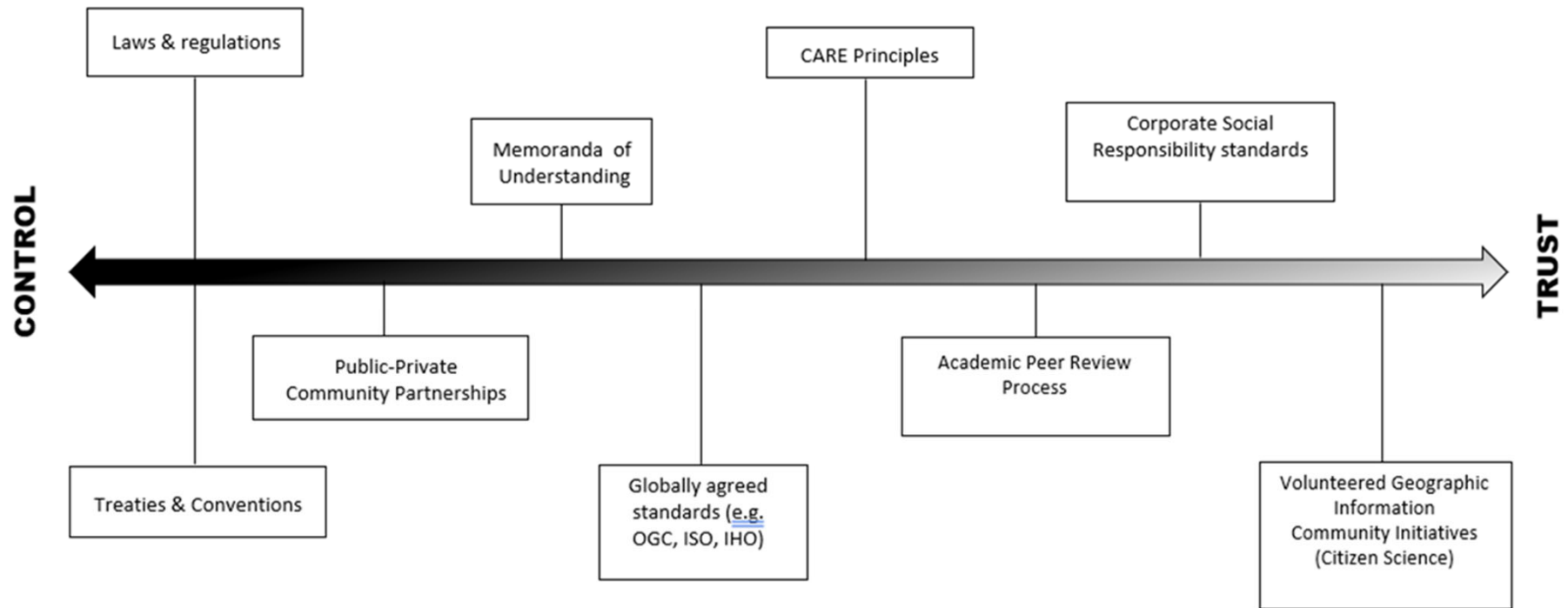
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The Control- Trust Continuum

- Oversight of authoritative geospatial data exists along a continuum, with governance instruments positioned between endpoints of “control” and “trust”.



What needs to be considered when our assumptions about authoritative data are challenged by crises?

- **Proliferation and evolving roles of actors/instruments** involved in crisis management
- **Trade-offs in geospatial data characteristics/principles** that may arise during an acute crisis scenario, and address accompanying limitations
- **Perspectives of responders** navigating the challenges associated with providing **on-the-ground, real-time responses to crises**
- **Data users' experiences**, with an emphasis on **identifying trustworthy data** sources while maintaining quality standards given the **constraints**
- *Can these considerations also inform an evolving geospatial landscape?*



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Authoritative geospatial data for crisis – preliminary findings (authoritative data paper Part II)

Policy and legal considerations addressed

- Data Privacy and Security
- Intellectual Property (IP) Rights
- Licensing
- Open Data Initiatives
- Interoperability Standards
- Data Quality Assurance
- Collaborative Governance
- Infrastructure and Technology

Institutional arrangements addressed

- Clear Mandates and Responsibilities
- Interagency/Interorganizational Coordination
- Legal Frameworks for Data Sharing
- Standardization and Interoperability
- Capacity Building and Training
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Adaptive Management and Learning

How do these apply to an evolving geospatial landscape?



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Final consideration / guidance... keeping ‘the public Good’ front and centre

- Increasingly complex environment of data science and technology development bringing both **opportunities and challenges** for governments in their capacity to exercise legal and institutional authority
- Member States are expected to pursue the public good through principles-based policy and legal frameworks that **evolve over time and respond to societal progress and technology developments**



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Final consideration / guidance... keeping ‘the public Good’ front and centre

- **Need for stronger safeguards and enforceable remedies** to prevent risks and abuses, ensure respect for civil rights and liberties, inclusion and diversity, environmental rights, and promote economic growth and general welfare
- Considering the wide range of geospatial data providers and users, it is highly recommended to **consult with and engage a multitude of stakeholders and partners** with deep knowledge of technology, relevant domains and applications
- As illustrated by the above Control-Trust Continuum , Governments have a range of policy/legal instruments to choose from, **including state-driven and multilateral ones.**



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Thank you!!



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