

# Authoritative data and evolving geospatial landscape

*Welcome and setting the scene:*

*The paper on authoritative geospatial data for crisis*

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United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management

WORKING GROUP ON POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS  
FOR GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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# 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



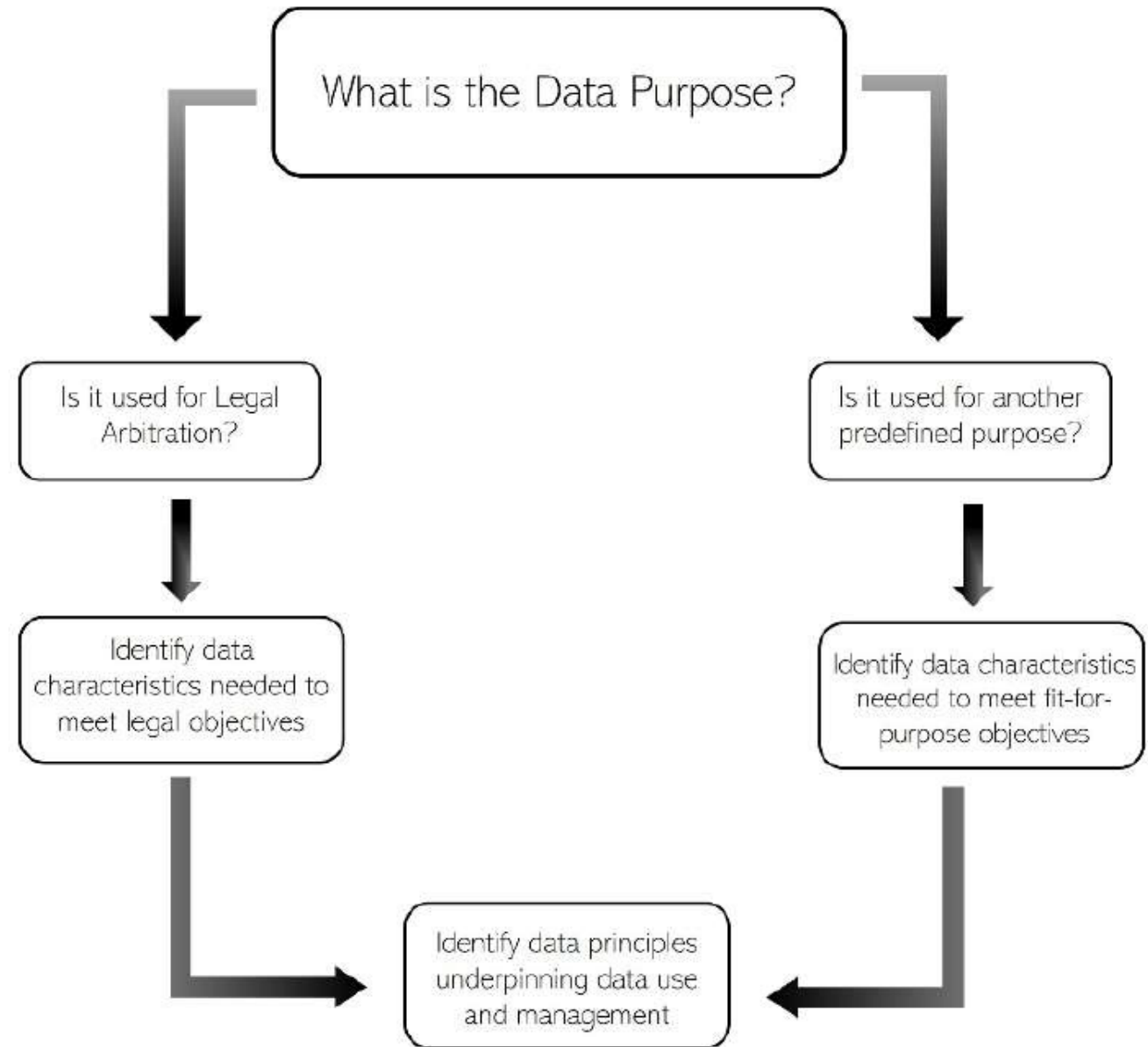
# A framework for “Authoritative data” governance

- 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?*



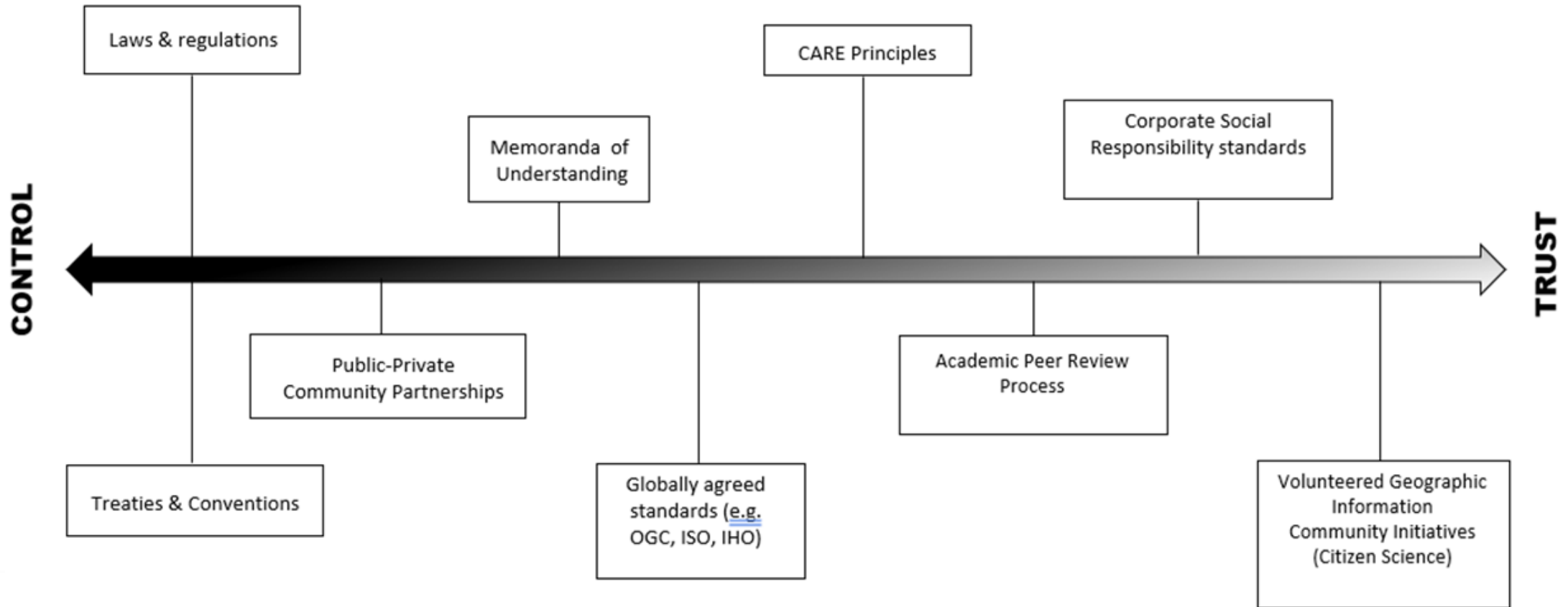
# A framework for “Authoritative data” governance

- 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



# 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?*



# 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?*



# 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





# 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.



# Thank you!!



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