Press Release

DATA REVOLUTION FOR BETTER PUBLIC POLICY

JAKARTA (21/2) – Today, the Ministry of National Development Planning/National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) and Pulse Lab Jakarta, in collaboration with the Knowledge Sector Initiative, host the **International Conference of Data Revolution for Policy Makers**, running from 21st to 22nd February 2017 in Jakarta. Over 300 researchers, policy makers, activists and data analysts, Government of Indonesia representatives, private enterprises, UN agencies, and civil society organizations gather for this "Expanding the Evidence Base: Government Demand for Advanced Data Analytics in Indonesia" themed conference. It aims to discuss the opportunities and challenges of utilizing new data sources for policy makers, and to test technically sound and politically attainable solutions to inform policy decisions through data innovation.

Minister of National Development Planning/Head of Bappenas Bambang Brodjonegoro affirms that the Government of Indonesia fully supports the conference due to the importance of the data revolution in the policy-making process. "The ability of policymakers to take advantage of various data sources, including digital data, can help the government to make decisions faster and more accurately. High-quality data will provide the right information for policymakers to design, monitor, and evaluate policies," he adds. Minister Brodjonegoro also hopes that the conference would bring an outcome that provides policymakers with the ability to harness the data revolution in Indonesia, for the development of policies and programs that fulfill the needs of inclusive growth in Indonesia and the region.

Indonesia, a home for millions of users of digital technology, is one of the world's richest sources of digital data. Commonly called big data due to its quantity, diversity, and speed of data collection, it opens up endless new opportunities for policy makers: from engaging citizens in collecting and analyzing data to gaining new insights on our complex and evolving world. In its 2014 report, "A World that Counts: Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development", the Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) convened by the United Nations Secretary-General highlighted several challenges in using big data to create a clearer picture of the world we live in. The conference is responding to the IEAG Report's recommendation to share technology and innovations for the common good.

According to the IEAG report, emerging technologies accelerate the increase of volume and types of available data, and thus develop unparalleled opportunities for informing and transforming society as well as caring for the environment. This is the data revolution in which governments, companies, researchers, and communities experiment, innovate, and adapt to the new world of bigger, faster, and more detailed data than ever before. Director of UN Global Pulse Robert Kirkpatrick highlights the urgency of using advanced data analytics for policy making. "Big data can transform how decision-makers view problems and inform strategic decisions. Measuring and achieving progress toward the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, in today's digitally connected world, depends in part on our ability to draw on new sources of real time data and innovative technologies to inform policy-making," Kirkpatrick explains.

This is also accompanied by efforts to better utilize existing datasets, including those owned by government, to yield richer insights. "Traditional ways of collecting data takes a long time. Surveys are costly and focus groups are insufficient to capture the diversity of Indonesia," says UN Resident Coordinator for Indonesia Douglas Broderick. He expresses that more diverse, integrated, timely and reliable information is needed. It can complement traditional sources of data to better inform decision-making processes.

The two-day event features plenary sessions with senior representatives from government, the UN and public and private entities on seven themes: taking stock of the data landscape; taking the pulse — applications of real-time data for decision

making; the policy side of data innovation; synchronizing and sharing data; forging data partnerships; reconfiguring citizen engagement and making sense of the data. It includes interactive displays of citizen data collection, data visualizations, big data analysis and hands-on data innovation sessions facilitated by data experts. Petrarca Karetji, the Knowledge Sector Initiative's Team Leader, emphasizes the need to link data innovation approaches to the needs of policy makers. "We need to understand the drivers of demand for data analytics for policy makers, so that we arrive at solutions that are not only technically robust, but also implementable," he concludes.

More information on the Data Revolution for Policy Makers International Conference is available at: http://drfpconference.org. In implementing its activities, Pulse Lab Jakarta is grateful for the generous support of the Government of Australia.

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