

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Global Data Organization Adopts Open Data Sharing Principles

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As the leading international, multidisciplinary organization in the provision of trusted scientific data services, the World Data System (WDS) of the International Council for Science has adopted a new set of [Data Sharing Principles](#) to advance its goals and to embody the spirit of ‘open science’ meant to unite diverse communities of data producers and data users.

‘These Principles express the core ethical commitments that are operationalized in the WDS Certification for trusted data repositories and data services,’ said Professor Sandy Harrison, Director of the Centre for Past Climate Change at the University of Reading in the UK, and Chair of the WDS Scientific Committee.

Earlier this year, the Scientific Committee developed a first draft that was submitted to an extensive consultation with and review by WDS Member Organizations. As a result, WDS anticipates strong alignment with its Members’ existing organizational policies.

‘IRIS would have no issue abiding by these new Principles, and it is nice to have them articulated so clearly,’ remarked Tim Ahern, Director of Data Services for Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS)—a Regular Member of the World Data System.

These newly adopted Principles are in line with the data policies of national and international initiatives, including those of the [Group on Earth Observations](#), the [G8 Science Ministers’ Statement](#) and [Open Data Charter](#), the [OECD Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding](#), as well as the [Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World](#) enunciated jointly by the International Council for Science, the InterAcademy Partnership, the International Social Science Council, and The World Academy of Science.

ICSU World Data System

The World Data System—an interdisciplinary body of the International Council for Science—aims to promote universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, data services, products and information, with a view towards long-term data stewardship. Furthermore, WDS is committed to fostering compliance with agreed-upon data standards and conventions, and providing mechanisms to facilitate and improve access to data. WDS brings together over 90 Member¹ organizations with a national or international remit to form a ‘community of excellence’ for scientific data stewardship. Regular and Network Members are certified trusted data services, holders and providers of scientific data covering a broad range of disciplines from the Natural and Social Sciences, and Humanities.

¹ www.icsu-wds.org/community/membership