OPEN DATA AND FOREIGN POLICY

Louis Saint-Arnaud
Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada
Rome, 21 February 2014
• Expand the conversation about open government/open data beyond domestic open government commitments

• Need for a panoramic view beyond Aid tracking and digital diplomacy

• ‘Openness’ and international agendas

• Recommendations for Canadian engagement
What is openness?

- Open Government vs. Open Data vs. Big Data vs. Meta Data
- Open Information vs. Open Dialogue vs. Open Data
- Open Internet vs. Cyber Governance vs. Openness
- ICT vis-à-vis open government/open data vs. Open Data for Development
What is openness?

Why is it important to pay attention to trends in openness from a foreign affairs lens?

- It is becoming a key topic in the international arena
- It is an opportunity to expand values of democracy, accountability and good governance abroad
- It is in line with the spirit of innovation
- Open data is one of many vehicles
Experience with ‘Openness’

1. Open Government Partnership (OGP)
2. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
3. Pilot projects using open source data and Big Data analytics
4. Internet Governance and Cyber Foreign Policy
5. G8 Open Data Charter
“The dignity divide is not left versus right but rather between systems that are open and those that are closed”
Openness and Diplomacy

Growing culture of openness is affecting global political dynamics and geopolitical relations.

- How is open government affecting a country’s positioning geopolitically?
- What comparative advantage does the use of Open Data offer to countries?
Openness and Development

How is ‘openness’, and more specifically Open Data, currently being used for development?

• In what ways are donor countries/development organizations using Open Data for development?
• What research are leading think-tanks conducting on Open Data? (ex. OD4D)
• How is Open Data being used as a tool to foster better government?
• How is Open Data being used to accelerate development? (e.g. innovation, stimulating the economy, inclusion etc.)
• http://www.open-dev-ouvert.ca
Openness and Trade

• How is open government, and more specifically Open and Big Data, is used to stimulate the economy, and how it is likely to affect global trade?

• How can data be used as a driver for private sector innovation and economic growth?

• What impact will open government/open data have in terms of international trade?
Recommendations...
Grazie!

http://data.gc.ca