



Mission Statement

"Everyone has the right of access to any information held by the state; and any information that is held by another person and that is required for the exercise or protection of any rights."

- South African Constitution (Section 32)

- ① We are founded upon the desire to serve the common good through the advancement of transparency.
- ② We are an open and non-partisan community founded on the belief of equality.
- ③ We seek to open data, both government and non-government in order to improve access to information and promote informed decision-making.

- ④ We are committed to supporting and capacitating civil society in the utilisation of both open data and technology in the pursuit of the advancement of transparency and governance.
- ⑤ We observe that making data freely and widely available to the public, including through easily accessible and available formats online, contributes to an informed and active citizenry as envisioned by the Constitution, and supports an inclusive, transparent, and open democracy. Open data can also support improved service delivery; generate meaningful efficiencies in government and nongovernment operations; and yield tangible economic and social benefits to the population at large.
- ⑥ We subscribe to the principles of openness as the presumption across all sectors, including open source and open contracting.
- ⑦ We are committed to working with Government and the private sector to promote transparency and accountability, specifically in Durban, South Africa.
- ⑧ We are committed to breaking down the silos between organisations and focus on building the open data community as much as is feasible, in preference to building our internal capacity at the community's cost.

- ⑨ We believe that the opening of data is not enough to realise the rights of citizen. Data and information must be made meaningful to citizens if it is to affect social change.
- ⑩ We will uphold the law of South Africa with regard to protection to privacy and access to personal information, and believe in responsibility in this regard with regard to opening data and its use in civic technology.
- ⑪ We believe technology and innovation are fundamental to realising access to information in South Africa, and for the furtherance of transparency and accountability.
- ⑫ We believe that the development of technology and innovation can only help realise constitutional rights if developed with the interests and needs of the citizen, as the user, as the central concern.
- ⑬ We believe in developing partnerships and networks to maximise the efficiency of our functioning, but also build a local, Durban-based open data movement capable of pursuing the aims outlined within these founding principles.
- ⑭ We will advocate for the opening of data, as well as the utilisation of citizen centred technologies for the furtherance of transparency and good governance in the public and private sector.

- ⑮ We will generate knowledge and thought leadership in relation to open data and the utilisation of citizen-centred technologies for the furtherance of transparency and good governance.
- ⑯ We will implement projects that bring about positive social change in the city of Durban, South Africa.
- ⑰ We will share lessons, toolkits, and experience with other organisations seeking to achieve similar goals in other cities and regions in South Africa, the African continent, and internationally.