**Global Legal Interoperability:**

**Who Shares Responsibility in Data Sharing?**

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. This is true of all people, whether they are working in their own jurisdiction or in another one. In many ways, the familiarity with the norms and practices of one’s own areas of research and the data used in that discipline is frequently better than with the laws and policies, even within one’s own locale. Yet, obligations and responsibilities of all parties must be governed by laws and policies, often poorly known. This is especially true in the emerging environment that is often labeled as “open data.” This environment can only be made to foster scientific progress effectively if data providers make their data available and usable to others within the rules, and if data consumers take advantage of all data, thereby made accessible within the rules.

We describe five principal outcomes of discussions by the CODATA/RDA Interest Group focused on these issues. They deal with all members of the research community:

1. Data providers and data users need to be familiar with and understand all relevant rules and policies, or at the least must know how to access up-to-date versions thereof.
2. It is the responsibility of data providers and consumers to understand relevant legal terms (e.g.. “license”, “waiver”), and critical semantic differences (e.g. “public records” ”open access data”, “public domain data”.)
3. It is the responsibility of data providers and users to take effective steps to make data discoverable, accessible and usable.
4. Researchers and research communities should engage in the political processes that lead to laws and other norms ruling the access to and the reuse of research data, explain the needs of legal interoperability of research data, and explore legal frameworks —including enforcement of rules— that will facilitate scientific progress.
5. As part of the responsible conduct of research, and in order to achieve a sustainable set of practices in the long term, a well-conceived educational process should be constructed and adopted at institutional level, that leads to better prepared generations of future researchers.

We will elaborate on these outcomes, and solicit feedback from the various stakeholders.