**10th Meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts,
13-15 April 2016, Paris, France**

Item 5
Decisions on big data by the United Nations Statistics Commission at its Forty-seventh session, 8-11 March 2016

<u>Documentation</u>

Paper: Decision of the UNSC on big data

STATISTICAL COMMISSION, Forty-seventh session
8 - 11 March 2016
DECISIONS (Rapporteur's text 18 March, subject to editing)

Decision 4: Big data for official statistics (Item 3c)

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Appreciated the report of the Global Working Group, and supported the outcome of the second International Conference on Big Data for Official Statisti cs in Abu Dhabi in 2015;

(b) Agreed generally with the conclusions of the 2015 global survey on Big Data strategies and projects, especially regarding the need for training and more pilot projects with participation from developing countries;

(c) Supported the proposed priorities of the work programme of the group and requested the group to:

- complete the package of initiatives to improve access to proprietary data, such as Big Data, including increased political support at the national and international level, improved legislation, and fostering of mutual beneficial partnerships with the data owners, while considering and maintaining the confidentiality of data;

- develop training courses, in cooperation between the European Statistical Training Program and the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and other training institutes and especially targeted at developing countries, on the topics of processing and use of Big Data and of transparent methodologies and estimation methods for Big Data;

- undertake more pilot projects in the use of Big Data for official statistics, including those aimed to support measuring SDG indicators; and in this respect to make use of the Big Data Sandbox in Ireland; and

- Further develop the Big Data quality framework to ensure trust in the compiled official statistics;

(d) Requested adding to the work programme:

(i) a review of web-scraping of proprietary data;

(ii) improvement of the group's website and the Big Data repository;

(iii) advocacy of Big Data in developing countries; and

(iv) linking of the work of the group to the work of High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the Transformative Agenda and to the work of the High-level Group on Modernisation of Statistics.

(e) Agreed that the NSOs play a key role in coordinating the use of big data for official statistics, which needs to be strengthened, especially if not regulated by existing laws governing official statistics.