

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

**Agenda item: 5**

**National accounts and big data**

Introduction

The Statistical Commission created the global working group on big data for official statistics, in 2014. In accordance with its terms of reference<sup>1</sup> the global working group provides strategic vision, direction and coordination for a global programme on big data for official statistics, including indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also promotes the practical use of big data sources, while promoting capacity-building, training and the sharing of experience. The Third IMF Statistical Forum was held in Frankfurt, Germany during November 19-20, 2015 and attracted participation by data providers and users, academics, and policymakers. The use of micro-data in policy formulation and analysis was a focal point of discussions. Participants appreciated the high-level discussion of issues confronting statisticians, including the challenges of “big data” and user demands for “micro data.” They agreed that both “big data” and “micro data” can complement official statistics by supplying more granular and timely views of fast-changing economic circumstances. However, official statistics will remain the gold standard in a growing cascade of Internet-driven economic information. Participants also noted that the statistical community is witnessing a new era of “big data” with the availability of statistics that can be used to provide a more granular view of the macro-economic framework and to address the evolving policy needs.

Documentation

Papers and Presentations on:

- 1.1 Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics and the UNSC decisions
- 1.2 Report on discussion of big data at the Third IMF Statistical Forum
- 1.3 Using big data in the USA

Main issues to be discussed

The AEG is requested to:

- Express their views on national accounts and the use of big data

