



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Tenth meeting – 25 July 2018, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Canada	Eric Rancourt
Colombia	Juan Camillo Barbosa
UAE	Hatem El Sherif
UK	Mark Craddock, Rabia Mitza, Gavin Phillips
UNECE	Therese Lalor
AfDB	Momar Kouta
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Karoly Kovacs, Bogdan Dragovic

Excuses received from Statistics Netherlands and Statistics Denmark

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Minutes of Meeting 9
- Agenda item (2) Open GWG day on 21 October 2018
- Agenda item (3) UN Global Platform
- Agenda item (4) Task Teams
- Agenda item (5) Schedule of GWG Bureau meetings
- Agenda item (6) Other Business

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 9

The GWG Bureau had no comments and thus agreed with the minutes. The minutes will be posted on the GWG website. UNSD informed the bureau about the updated web-site of the GWG which now includes the bureau meeting documents (<https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/bureau>).

AGENDA ITEM (2) – OPEN DAY OF THE GWG ON 21 OCTOBER 2018

The organizing committee met and prepared an agenda for the Open Day of the GWG, which was shared with the GWG bureau for comments. The Open Day is an extension of the regular annual meeting of the GWG which has usually been held the day before the Big Data conference. Given the scheduling of the UN World Data Forum, the 5th Big Data Conference has been postponed until 2019, but the annual GWG meeting will still take place, now on 21 October 2018. Taking advantage of the opportunity of the World Data Forum, the GWG opens its doors and invites those, which work closely with the community of official statistics to see the progress made on the UN Global Platform.

The organizing committee works currently on the following topics:

- Send invitation letters to GWG members, TTs members and the NSOs
- Send further invitations to those who could be potential trusted partners on the platform
- Work on promotion materials (update web-site, brochure)
- Open a registration page

UAE signed the contract with Hotel Armani in Dubai to host the meeting – further information on the details is to come shortly. UK will work on the registration page. UNSD will reach out to partners to seek for support/help developing countries to participate at the meeting. AfDB hinted that they might be able to provide financial support to some countries. The organizing committee will continue its work throughout the summer.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – UN GLOBAL PLATFORM

A Technical Delivery Board was established for the platform consisting of representatives from UK, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands and UNSD. The board had its first meeting on 23 July. A few ongoing activities are:

- Airbus was contacted on providing satellite imagery data and on forming a strategic partnership. Further information is expected by the end of September.
- Alibaba was contacted on possible access to cloud services. Alibaba seemed open for strategic partnership which would provide further benefits.

It was pointed out that the task teams should make better use of the services and data already available on the Global Platform. More promotion within and outside of the GWG should be made on how to practically use the Platform.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – TASK TEAMS

The Task Team on Satellite data formed two subgroups: (1) on agriculture statistics, in particular crop production and land cover and land use; and (2) on SDG 6.6.1 measuring Fresh Water Extent. Statistics Canada as chair of the task team is also taking the leading in both subgroups. Alice Borne will be the new chair supported by Andrea MacMiller.

The Task Team on transactional data (scanner data) moves forward in its cooperation with Nielsen. UNSD and Nielsen exchanged official letters regarding the use of scanner data from Nielsen for training purposes.

In the area of the use of mobile phone data, UAE collaborates with Saudi Arabia in the preparation of a pilot project involving data from two mobile phone operators. They will have discussions with Mark on using the Global Platform for the project.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – SCHEDULE

The GWG Bureau had no comments on the proposed schedule of the fortnightly meetings from 22 August 2018 until the beginning of 2019.

AGENDA ITEM (6) – OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised and the meeting adjourned.