



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Fifteenth meeting – 17 October 2018, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

African DB	Momar Kouta
Canada	Sylvie Michaud
Denmark	Niels Ploug (Chair)
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Fakhariya Hamid, Raef Alghory
UK	Mark Craddock, Rabia Mirza, Gavin Phillips
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Karoly Kovacs, Ivo Havinga, Clarence Lio

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Minutes of Meeting 14
- Agenda item (2) Annual GWG meeting, 21 Oct 2018
- Agenda item (3) Report to the UN Statistical Commission
- Agenda item (4) Other Business

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 14

No comments. Minutes accepted and to be uploaded to the GWG website

AGENDA ITEM (2) – ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GWG ON 21 OCTOBER 2018

The one-page brochure on the work of the UN GWG, which was prepared specifically for the Open Day, was finished and FCSA would print 200 copies. These brochures can be distributed during the Open Day as well as during the UN World data Forum, where the GWG will have a booth to demonstrate the UN Global Platform. UNSD will print some extra copies and bring them to Dubai.

The agenda items of the annual meeting of the GWG were elaborated as follows:

- ⇒ Overview of the work of the GWG; note prepared by Denmark – the draft has been circulated
- ⇒ Status report on the UN Global Platform prepared by UK – Heather will introduce the report in Dubai
- ⇒ Data management of the UN Global Platform; note on the principles of data management has been prepared by Canada – Sylvie will introduce the note in Dubai
- ⇒ Progress report of Task Teams; note prepared by UNSD – Ronald will highlight some topics in Dubai (current projects, Poland’s commitment to lead capacity building TT, the three projects possible in cooperation with Microsoft, the plans for the scanner data TT)
- ⇒ Report of Statistical Commission; note prepared by UNSD – Ronald will shortly explain at the GWG meeting in Dubai the main points to be covered in the Commission report

UNSD pointed out that only a few items of the agenda can be discussed a bit longer given the time limitation of the meeting. Denmark agreed and pointed out that special efforts shall be made to reach out to NSOs for their involvement/commitment in the work of the GWG. UNSD also echoed for trying to get more involvement from NSOs. Denmark expressed that the Global Platform is the place where the countries/NSOs could contribute. UNSD asked the Global Platform team to give an overview of exactly where support will be welcome with some estimates of time involvement by type of task. The following areas were mentioned where support could be used: administration of members for the Platform, operation of support side, technical work, cloud specialists, and marketplace. It was pointed out that Canada, the Netherlands, and UNSD already provide support. The Platform team will have further meetings with Denmark, UAE and UN ESCAP about potential contributions. A task/resource matrix was already drafted in May and will be updated.

UAE suggested that the same approach is to be applied to the TTs, so NSOs could better see their involvement and possible contribution to the work of the TT given the specified tasks and work type.

UNSD pointed out that a longer-term business model needs to be worked on soon. Denmark emphasized that the focus of the business model should always be on the benefits of the Global Platform for official statistics. Whereas the annual GWG meeting would serve as information sharing, but a side-meeting could be organized during the World Data Forum to further discuss the business model.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – REPORT TO THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

As mentioned under Agenda item (2), UNSD will present an outline of the Commission report at the GWG meeting in Dubai. The GWG will need to submit its report by early December.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – OTHER BUSINESS

The 5th International Conference on Big Data in Kigali was discussed with following points:

- ⇒ AfDB discussed the issue with the Deputy DG of NSO Rwanda of the preparation of the conference and expects to receive his reply next week. He will also contact UNECA shortly
- ⇒ Target date of the conference end of April/beginning of May
- ⇒ A short WebEx is to be held by the organizing committee of the conference on 31 October between 8 and 9 am NY time.
- ⇒ UNSD pointed out that the communication task/media team preparing the Open day was very valuable and helpful and suggests that the task team continues, especially in relation to organization of the 5th Conference.