



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Sixteenth meeting – 31 October 2018, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Canada	Alice Born, Andrea Leigh
Denmark	Maciej Truszczynski
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Colombia	Carolina Cancino
UAE	Hatem El Sherif
UK	Heather Savory, Rob Bumpstead, Mark Craddock, Gavin Phillips, Rabia Mirza
UNECE	Taeke Gjaltema
UNSD	Ronald Jansen (Chair), Karoly Kovacs, Ivo Havinga

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Minutes of Meeting 15 on 17 October 2018
- Agenda item (2) Minutes of the GWG Annual Meeting, 21 October 2018
- Agenda item (3) Task Team on Training, Skills and Capacity Building
- Agenda item (4) 5th International Conference on Big Data in Kigali, Rwanda
- Agenda item (5) Satellite event on big data at the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Agenda item (6) Business model
- Agenda item (7) Debrief – GWG Open Day and UN World Data Forum
- Agenda item (8) Report to the UN Statistical Commission
- Agenda item (9) Other Business

Action Points

- ⇒ UNSD will send an official letter to NSO Rwanda regarding the organization of the 5th Big Data Conference
- ⇒ UNSD will send a draft Host Country Agreement to NSO Rwanda
- ⇒ Additional volunteers are sought for the Organizing Committee, the Programme Committee and the Media Team
- ⇒ UNSD to ask NSO Rwanda about Wi-Fi connectivity in the conference venue
- ⇒ All bureau members are requested to review the report and send comments by 9 November
- ⇒ UNSD will circulate the new TOR of the Task Teams on Training, Skills and Capacity Development for comments
- ⇒ UNSD will circulate the TORs of the other Task Teams for reference
- ⇒ UNSD will circulate some initial ideas on the Satellite event in KL for comments
- ⇒ ONS, UK, will work on the outline of the business model for the GWG report to the Commission
- ⇒ UNSD will draft a note on behalf of the co-chairs to FCSA/UAE
- ⇒ UNSD will prepare a first draft of the GWG report to the Commission and circulate it for the next GWG bureau meeting.
- ⇒ UNSD will provide a mailing address to FCSA/UAE for shipping of conference materials

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (4) – 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIG DATA IN KIGALI, RWANDA

At the request of Denmark, item 4 was discussed first. UNSD met with NSO Rwanda and the African Development Bank earlier in the (New York) morning. The main conclusions were:

- i. NSO Rwanda confirmed its commitment to the organization of the Big Data Conference, but urged UNSD to send an official letter, which can be used in discussion with the Government.
- ii. NSO Rwanda was interested to know the target audience. They prefer higher level staff at the main event. Technical experts could participate in workshops or other side-events, if we so decide to organize them.

- iii. NSO Rwanda would like to get a full overview of all cost items, and who will be responsible for covering each of the items.
 - o AfDB committed to cover cost of participants from the African continent. It will also look into supporting the interpretation French-English.
 - o UNSD will as well support some participants costs and could possibly cover the cost of the conference facilities, including coffee and lunch breaks.
 - o UK suggested that through the DFID programme with Rwanda they could also make contributions to covering costs.
- iv. UNSD will send a draft Host Country Agreement to NSO Rwanda, which – once completed – will need to be signed by the Government of Rwanda (through the permanent mission of Rwanda at the UN) and the United Nations (by USG Liu of DESA).

To distribute the tasks in the organization of the Conference, we will – similar to the set-up in Colombia – have an Organizing Committee tasked with all practical issues and a Programme Committee tasked with the substantive issues, including the possible organization of workshops and other side-events. Given the positive effect of the Media Team on the success of the GWG Open Day, we also agreed to have a Media Team for the Conference in Kigali. The initial composition of these three teams are as follows:

- Organizing Committee: Rwanda, AfDB, UNECA, UNSD, UK, Denmark, Colombia
- Programme Committee: Rwanda, AfDB, UNSD, UK, UAE
- Media Team: UK, UNSD, Rwanda, AfDB

UNSD requested all bureau members to consider whether they would like to join any of the above committees.

UK asked whether the Wi-Fi connectivity of the conference venue would be appropriate for providing live demos. This needs to be investigated. UNSD supported the idea to have more live demos than we have had so far at our conferences.

Question was raised how to deal with those institutes (like EU-JRC or Flowminder), which have well-developed applications but are running it on their own platforms. The opinion was to certainly invite them to present, while making sure that they are willing to partner on the UN Global Platform with their expertise, their methods and their algorithms, so these could be tested on the Platform. We expect that the Task Teams will be involved in organizing sessions and side-events at the Big Data Conference, which implies that they will also be in touch with those presenters/institutes like EU-JRC and Flowminder, and that they can discuss with them their engagement with the Platform.

The preparation of the conference should start as early as next week.

UAE stressed that the Conference should showcase new developments and that such intention should be reflected in the themes of the Conference.

UNSD explained that the Concept Note – which would be the first task of the Programme Committee to prepare – would need to describe the themes of the Conference, and it would also have to emphasize that new data sources and new technologies will benefit the statistical community in Africa. It would have to be decided if the themes focus more on the data sources or more on the desired outcomes (statistics and SDG indicators)

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 15

No comments. Minutes accepted.

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

The draft report of the GWG annual meeting was only circulated to the group on Tuesday. Therefore, all bureau members are requested to review the report and send comments by 9 November. Some extra attention would be welcome, since the annual GWG report has a bit more weight than the minutes of our two-weekly bureau meetings.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – TASK TEAM ON TRAINING, SKILLS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Statistics Poland is working on the new Terms of Reference of the Task Team on Training, Skills and Capacity development based on the presentation, which DG Dominik Rozkrut made at the recent DGINS meeting in Bucharest in relation to the new demands for training and skills because of the use of new data sources and new technologies. The new TOR will be shared for comments with the Bureau when it becomes available. UNSD will circulate the TORs of the other Task Teams for reference.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – SATELLITE EVENT ON BIG DATA AT THE 62ND ISI WORLD STATISTICS CONGRESS, 18-22 AUGUST IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

UNSD was approached by the programme committee of the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur to organize a Satellite event on Big Data just ahead of the WSC on 15-17 August 2018. Malaysia committed to make conference facilities available for this occasion. This event could simply be a workshop with statistical offices from the region, but Malaysia would welcome it, if GWG decides to make this into a bigger event.

UNSD will send some initial ideas to the bureau members for reflection. If we want to make this into a larger-size event (larger than a regular workshop), then we will have to make the people available to organize this.

AGENDA ITEM (6) – BUSINESS MODEL

A side-meeting with UK, Canada, UNSD and – partly – Denmark present was held in Dubai, which laid out the main elements to construct the business model for the UN Global Platform, namely

- ⇒ Legal entity and ownership – UNEP-WCMC is an example of such legal construct
- ⇒ Partnership model – Trusted Partners will be providers and users of the GP's products and services
- ⇒ Funding – from development and philanthropic sources

The outline of the business model will be described in the GWG report to the Commission (to be submitted by early December), while a more elaborate version will be provided as a background document by mid-February 2019. It was further proposed to hold a side-event at the time of the 50th session of the Statistical Commission, which would explain the business model and demonstrate the Platform.

AGENDA ITEM (7) – DEBRIEF – GWG OPEN DAY AND UN WORLD DATA FORUM

The feedback on the progress made on the UN Global Platform was positive without exception at both the GWG Open Day and the UN World Data Forum. Several requests for collaboration on the Platform were received. As a matter of procedure, it was agreed that incoming requests to join the Platform would be screened by UK and UNSD, who will subsequently report to the Bureau on those, which seem adequate as partners, and those, which are proposed for rejection.

UNSD will draft a note on behalf of the co-chairs, which will express our gratitude to FCSA/UAE as an excellent host of the GWG Open Day.

AGENDA ITEM (8) – REPORT OF THE GWG TO THE UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The report of the GWG to the UN Statistical Commission for its 50th session will be for information. It must show progress made by the GWG, which would give confidence that the GWG will deliver on its assigned tasks by 2020.

The outline of the report, as reflected in the supporting document to the Bureau meeting, would show the following build-up:

- ⇒ Introduction – Reference should be made to the requests by the Commission in Decision 49/107
- ⇒ The main part of the report should deal with the responses to those requests, including progress on the platform and outline of the business model
- ⇒ Highlights from the GWG Open Day and relevant aspects of the UN World Data Forum
- ⇒ Capacity building activities
- ⇒ Next steps

AGENDA ITEM (9) – OTHER BUSINESS

The materials of the banner, booth and other decoration, which were used in Dubai, are kept by FCSEA, UAE. These materials can be re-used for other events and will be shipped to New York. UNSD will provide the proper mailing address.