UN GLOBAL PLATFORM – BUSINESS MODEL DISCUSSION
23/10/18

In Attendance:

Heather Savory – Co-Chair	Sylvie Michaud – Stats Canada
Niels Plough – Co-Chair	Mark Craddock – ONS
Ronald Jansen – UNSD	Rob Bumpstead – ONS
Ivo Havinga – UNSD	Nikki Shearman - ONS

This note is to bring the UN Global Platform Bureau up to speed with emerging discussions on the path forward for the Business Model for the UN Global Platform (UNGP). Having successfully demonstrated the UNGP Proof of Concept at the UN Big Data Conference in Bogota in November 2017 and launched the Alpha Platform at the World Data Forum in Dubai in October 2018 the Bureau needs to develop a practical, sustainable Business model for the future.

1. Legal Entity and Ownership

A legal entity is needed as a vehicle for overall operation of the UNGP.

The structure and ownership of this entity needs to be agreed.

The entity needs to be able to raise and control funding for the UNGP.

The entity needs to underwrite the risks associated with operating the UNGP.

A model similar to that of the UNEP-WCMC https://www.unep-wcmc.org/ might provide a good solution – this will be investigated.

The UNGP needs to comply with relevant Data Protection legislation. Based on current UK Legislation initial thoughts are that the UNGP Platform will be a Data Processor and the data suppliers will be Data Controllers.

2. Business Model

The proposed UNGP Business Model is a Platform Model; Trusted Partners will be 'providers' and 'users' of products and services. This is like Uber and other web-based platform models.

Different parts of the same organisation may be both providers and users.

There will be a core offering for Official Statistics and their partners.

The rules of engagement for different types of partner need to be established.

The UNGP will initially focus on Open Data – mechanisms to allow differential access to more sensitive data will be developed over time.

The UNGP will need global 24/7 support.

In the future the model may extend to regional hubs, for co-development and capacity building activity.

3. Funding

The UNGP may need substantial finding, it could scale very quickly.

Funding is expected to come from development and philanthropic sources.

An outline proposal will be prepared for discussion with potential 'investors'

Typical investors may include development funding sources (e.g.: DFID, UN Foundation, World Bank), foundations (e.g: Bill Gates, Rockefeller), philanthropic funding from large technology providers (e.g.: Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Cloudera)

4. UNSC March 2019

The GWG needs to report back to the 50th Session of the UNSC in March 2019.

The report at this session will be a background document, for information.

The paper needs to be drafted by the end of November.

A further background note is possible which would need to be prepared by February.

Heather Savory
Oct 2018