



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Seventeenth meeting – 14 November 2018, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Canada	Alice Born, Sylvie Michaud
Denmark	Maciej Truszczynski
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Poland	Dominik Rozkrut
Colombia	Angelica Palma, Carolina Cancino
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Al Shehhi
UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Rabia Mirza
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Karoly Kovacs, Clarence Lio

Agenda

- Agenda item (1)** Minutes of Meeting 16 on 31 October 2018
- Agenda item (2)** Report to the Statistical Commission
- Agenda item (3)** Advisory Board
- Agenda item (4)** Task Team, Workstreams and Project Management
- Agenda item (5)** Other Business

Action Points

- ⇒ UNSD to contact task team leaders for their input to the Commission report
- ⇒ ONS to circulate the draft paper on business model for comments
- ⇒ UNSD to update the role and composition of the Advisory Board, as discussed
- ⇒ Continuation of the preparation of the 5th International Conference on Big Data
- ⇒ TORs of the task Team still need to be circulated

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 16

UNSD gave update regarding the action points mentioned in the minutes:

- UNSD sent an official letter to the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISIR) confirming that NSIR will be hosting the 5th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in Kigali, Rwanda, in the week of 29 April to 3 May 2019. Details on responsibilities will be worked out in a Host Country Agreement between the United Nations and the Republic of Rwanda.
- Netherlands and Denmark expressed interest to join the Programme Committee
- A letter of appreciation was sent to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority of UAE for their support in organizing the Open Day of the GWG in Dubai in October
- An outline of the business model of the UN Global Platform was provided by ONS, UK
- A first draft of the GWG report to the Commission was provided by UNSD

ONS sent some comments on the report of the annual meeting of the GWG, which was held in Dubai, but otherwise agree with it. ONS is working on a paper on business models for the platform and will circulate it to the bureau members in a few weeks.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – REPORT TO THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

ONS supported the structure of the report. UNSD suggested that the text needs further work regarding the sessions and outcomes of the Open Day of the GWG, the progress on the UN Global Platform and on the achievements of the task teams. The task team are requested to provide input. The deadline to have a revised draft is 19 November.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board should be a sounding board for:

- ⇒ Strategic direction of the GWG
- ⇒ Handbooks
- ⇒ Methods
- ⇒ Algorithms
- ⇒ Training materials
- ⇒ IT developments

ONS argued to have different board members for strategy and vision than for more technical issues like reviewing handbooks or methods. The GWG certainly needs technical experts who can review

and help finalize handbooks, methods, and algorithms. ONS underlined that different groups are needed, like Advisory Board and Advisory Fellows. Poland pointed out that the board may also assure that the different handbooks are coherent and follow the official statistics guidelines. UNSD hinted that some funds should be secured for the Advisory Board to cover meetings expenses and underlined the importance of making plans for the short term.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – TASK TEAM, WORKSTREAM AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Statistics Poland is currently redrafting the Terms of Reference of the task team on Training, Skills and Capacity Building. It is expected that this task team will support the training aspects of the various events, which the GWG will execute in 2019. The structure of the other task teams, their work streams and projects may need to be better documented. The task teams should also make the effort to work as much as possible on the UN global platform. In that respect, ONS may contact the task team leaders.

Regarding the availability and access to global datasets on the platform, satellite data is available, AIS flight data and ADB-S flight data also. ONS underlined that the goal is that data stored on the platform should be as much as possible accessible to everybody. In cases of commercial data like the Nielsen price data access may be limited, but this should be more the exception than the rule. UNSD would prepare an overview of the task teams shortly.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – OTHER BUSINESS

Angelica Palma announced her departure from DANE – the bureau thanked her for her valuable contributions and wished her well in her future career.