



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Twentieth meeting – 9 January 2019, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Canada	Sylvie Michaud, Alice Born
Denmark	Maciej Truszczynski, Niels Ploug
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Colombia	Maria Ximena Correa
UAE	Hatem El Sherif
UK	Mark Craddock, Gavin Phillips, Rabia Mirza
UNSD	Ronald Jansen (Chair), Ralf Becker, Karoly Kovacs

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Minutes of Meeting 19 on 12 December 2018
- Agenda item (2) Sustainable Business Model
- Agenda item (3) Upcoming GWG events
- Agenda item (4) Other Business

Action Points

- ⇒ All to add/modify the ONS-GP paper on business model (using the circulated version with track changes); please send changes by Friday 18 January.
- ⇒ Deadline for finalizing the paper is 15 February
- ⇒ Organization of the UNSC side event on 6 March 2019
- ⇒ Organization of the 5th Conference on Big Data in Rwanda on 29 April – 3 May 2019
- ⇒ Organization of the project meeting on human mobility on 25-29 March 2019

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 18

No comments received on the minutes, which will be posted on the GWG website.

Regarding the actions pointed of the minutes of the 19th meeting:

- ⇒ The organizing committee of the 5th Conference on Big Data in Rwanda met on 9 January 2019
- ⇒ ONS / UNSD made available a first draft of the background document on the business model for the UN Global Platform for this GWG Bureau meeting

AGENDA ITEM (2) – SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

The draft paper was sent only on 8 January, which gave insufficient time for a thorough review by the bureau members. At this meeting some initial reactions were collected. The bureau members are requested to provide comments in writing with a deadline of Friday 18 January.

UNSD gave a short overview of the draft document, which was prepared jointly by ONS, UK, and UNSD. The draft document consists of 7 parts, namely Introduction, Principles and vision, Data, methods, applications and services, Partners, Platform business model, Preliminary conclusions and two Annexes. The introduction provides a background to the mandate of the GWG and its organization of work and then makes the case why a collaborative environment for development and testing is necessary. The other sections of this document work out what the platform is, what assets it needs and what assets it will produce. In practical terms, the UN Global Platform most urgently needs project cases to be executed on the platform and in that way prove the usefulness and relevance of the cooperative environment.

Several points were made.

- Add a global perspective to the UN Global Platform (choice of Charity partner could be not too UK centric)
- Develop more partnership models
- Add a separate section on regional hubs in addition to the global hub in the UK.
- Add other international initiatives (like UNECE HLG-MOS),
- Add Bogota declaration
- UN-GP could provide additional services

The background document should be finalized by mid-February. Therefore, contributions (comments, amendments or additions) should be sent soon.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – UPCOMING GWG EVENTS

- ➔ Side event at Statistical Commission – New York
- ➔ Project meeting on measuring Human Mobility in Tbilisi
- ➔ Big Data week in Kigali

UNSD informed about the developments regarding several upcoming GWG events:

- UN Statistical Commission side event on the sustainable business model for the UN-GP is expected to be held on Wednesday morning 6 March 2019 (8.15 – 9.30). The bureau should decide soon: who should be introducing the background document, who will moderate the discussion, and who would otherwise be on the panel.
- The preparations of the project meeting on measuring Human Mobility (using mobile phone data) are ongoing with a focus on migration and tourism statistics. The event will take place in Tbilisi, Georgia, in the week of 25-29 March. The national mobile network regulator (GNCC) and the national statistical office (GeoStat) will jointly host the event, at which further national agencies, like the Ministry of Justice (for Migration) and the Ministry of Economy (for Tourism), will also be represented. Internationally, UNSD, IOM, Eurostat and EU-JRC will be present, plus several national statistical offices of Indonesia, Colombia, Egypt, Italy, the Netherlands, Oman and the Philippines. The project will use the UN Global Platform to communicate and execute the project, which will cover the processing of the raw mobile phone data, processing of algorithms and developing / testing of methods and algorithms, where statistical concepts are estimated using Big Data sources.
- The Organizing Committee of the 5th international conference on Big Data for official statistics (and its pre-events) just had a video conference at which issues regarding the venue, the set-up, the workshops (pre-conference), the meeting of the GWG and the Conference programme were discussed. Given that the 1st of May is a public holiday in Rwanda it was suggested that the conference should start on the 2nd of May so the high ranking local officials would be able to join the opening sessions. The minutes of the meeting will be made available to the GWG Bureau.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – OTHER BUSINESS

UNSD asked if Bureau members are participating in the upcoming NTTS 2019 conference organized by Eurostat. ONS, UK, and the Netherlands indicated their participation.

The Netherlands asked about the GWG plan for 2019 on engaging with the private sector. Microsoft is still expected to work closely with the human mobility project. Furthermore, private companies will be invited to join and exhibit at the Conference in Kigali.