



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the 5th Big Data Conference in Kigali, Rwanda

13 December 2018, 08:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

AfDB	Momar Kouta, Christophe
Denmark	Niels Ploug
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Alshehhi
UNSD	Ronald Jansen (Chair), Karoly Kovacs

Topic of discussion

The organizational side of the 5th Conference on Big Data for official statistics was for discussion, except that the substantive program of the conference may also determine to a degree, how many and which training workshops, we may want to organize in the margins.

Some points which need to be considered:

- The main event of the Big Data Conference will take place over 3-days
- One extra day is needed for the annual meeting of the full membership of the Global Working Group on Big Data
- Several 2-day training workshops can be organized in the margins of the Big Data Conference

The scheduling in Bogota, which could be followed in Kigali, was as follows:

Monday - Tuesday	Parallel training workshops
Tuesday	Annual GWG meeting
Wednesday - Friday	Big Data Conference

The attendance at the training workshops (or similar activity) is expected to be about 20 participants per activity; the attendance of the Annual GWG meeting is between 40-50 persons; the attendance of the Big Data Conference is expected to be about 250-300 persons (most on opening day).

Action Points

- ⇒ All to comment the ONS-GP paper on business model
- ⇒ The Netherlands to try to receive information on governance of Flowminder
- ⇒ UNSD to try to receive information on governance of UN Global Pulse and the UN Universities
- ⇒ The Netherlands is exploring their interest to test the crops data
- ⇒ UNSD to give further information on the developments in organizing the 5th Conference on Big Data in Rwanda

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 18

UNSD gave update on the actions pointed out at the 18th meeting:

- ⇒ The report was submitted
- ⇒ GWG website will be updated during December

AGENDA ITEM (2) – REPORT TO THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The report was submitted however it was agreed that a background document will be given as a supplement on the sustainable business model (which shall be finalized by mid February focusing on its feasibility).

AGENDA ITEM (3) – SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

UNSD gave information about the visit to ONS last week during which they paid a visit to the WCMC office and concluded that their business model could be serve as an example for the GP. ONS hired Phil who is currently working on the scenarios on the business model. It is expected that NSOs from all over the world could provide their staff to work with/for the GP.

GP/ONS added that the new body needs to be a legal entity, it could be a charity so it could receive money from private organizations, it can be an existing charity or a new charity it to be created.

Legal issues would influence the choice. The introduction was followed by comments, questions as it follows:

Canada would like to have some discussion on the governance/management issues as currently there is a lot of discussion in Canada about the role of private parties. UNSD replied that a steering committee is to oversee what the charity to do. If ONS and UN governance is applied for GP than the rules are too tight, so it would be easier to do it with forming a charity. GP/ONS added that trustees would oversee the work and private donations to be received meanwhile the public benefit is to be determined. UNSD asked whether GWG would oversee the new entity. GP/ONS replied that control would be majority from private entities as of the legal requirement for a private charity

which provide much more flexibility. The Netherlands suggested that further investigation is done on the formats of existing charities, like Flowminder and UN Global Pulse as he know Flowminder is a non-profit, not-governmental organization and he offered to get more details about Flowminder. UNSD will contact UN Global Pulse and also the UN universities and provide more details about them too. UNSD underlined that there are three part are determining the format: UN's involvement, charity and NSO wants to be co-owner and it seems that currently ONS-GP was focusing only on the first two parts and also added that China is to set up a Chinese Planform and it is important to find the correct jurisdiction given that further regional initiatives could come up. UNSD suggested that a step by step approach is followed and we find the solution for the ONS GP case. ONS GP pointed out that we are discussing the non-governmental charities as options. UNSD added that experts from different NSOs are seconded to the ONS GP. Canada asked about the current structure in the board. UNSD replied that detailed discussion with UNEP but promised to request further information which will be shared with the bureau. If charity wants to deal with intergovernmental issues than UN Environment needs to approve it which is very similar to the current ONS-GP case. He suggested that the focus would be on ONS-GP. UNSD also requested that ONS-GP would check what happens if they need to employ people from other countries. ONS-GP replied that it is quite complicated and added the UN can rather make separate agreements with other entities in the region(s). UAE asked about the existing governance models. UNSD promised to circulate the information about the different existing governance models. Denmark asked about the set-up of the public vs private charities. ONS-GP pointed out the if the financial support comes mostly from the public sector then it is a public entity meanwhile if the support comes from the private sector then it is a private entity. Much more flexibility in the latter. The chair concluded that information will be circulated to members and asked members to review the document sent and the information they will receive together and announced that the next meeting of the bureau will be in the beginning of January 2019. ONS-GP asked also all members to study the other documents sent to the bureau too. UNSD had one comment about the language which needs to be adjusted (like replacing “must” with “recommended” following the usual UN protocols. UNSD hinted that a draft of the UN Statistical Commission background document will be ready in mid January (for comments) and he pointed out that ONS and UNSD had a meeting with the Executive secretary of UN ESCAP last week who appraised the development work with UN GP and assured them that UN ESCAP is to use the GP in the future.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – ONE SOIL – COOPERATION ON CROP YIELD ESTIMATES

ONS-GP informed the bureau that OneSoil is ready to share their soil data and UN GP is to help with testing models but he underlined that they are in the very early stage of the discussions but will inform the bureau as they are advancing further. Canada hinted that some crops data is confidential (like field yields in Canada). UNSD asked whether the data can be tested in Columbia and the Netherlands. The Netherlands promised to check. UNSD concluded that the data could be used by countries and they could make tests for their own countries.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – OTHER BUSINESS

UNSD informed the bureau that the 5th Conference Organizing Committee is to meet on Thursday morning and promised to send invitation to the UAE and Denmark who expressed interest to be part of.