



UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics**

**GWG Bureau meeting**

**Twenty first meeting – 23 January 2019, 09:00 EST**

**By video conferencing**

**Minutes**

### **Participants**

Canada	Sylvie Michaud, Alice Born
Colombia	Maria Ximena Correa
Denmark	Niels Ploug
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Al Shehhi
UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Mark Craddock, Phillip Gruneberg, Rabia Mirza, Rob Bumpstead
AfDb	Momar Kouta
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Karoly Kovacs, Gerardo Guzman, Harpal Shergill

### **Agenda**

- Agenda item (1)** Minutes of Meeting 20 on 9 January 2019
- Agenda item (2)** Sustainable Business Model
- Agenda item (3)** Big Data Week in Kigali
- Agenda item (4)** Other Business

### **Action Points**

- ⇒ Update of the draft Background document
- ⇒ Announcement of the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference on Big Data in Rwanda on 29 April – 3 May 2019
- ⇒ Organization and announcement of the UNSC side event on 6 March 2019

## Minutes

### **AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 18**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM (2) – SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL**

ONS, UK, is still in the process of further developing the longer-term business model for the UN Global Platform. The model, which seems to come on top as the preferred one, is the UN-UK model, in which the UN side is characterized by the global aspects of GWG partners, global governance and global data policy framework and in which the UK side is characterized as a joint venture between ONS, UK, and a UK Charity, where the Charity is majority owner, so the institute would not have to obey the public sector regulations. The global aspects of the model also include common data sets, common methods and algorithms and global Cloud computing services with global billing. Regional hubs of the UN Global Platform are possible, if these hubs operate within the global data policy framework. If regional hubs do not want to follow that policy framework, they are not part of the UN Global Platform, but they could still cooperate with the platform in one way or another.

Several other points were made in the discussion:

- Further discussion needed on a possible cooperation with Project 8 (data collaborative, advise on model)
- Within the description of the business model further clarity should be provided on the long-term funding of the global platform
- Further clarity is also needed on what regional hubs of the platform are, and what they are not.

The side-event on the Business Model for the UN Global Platform at the UN Statistical Commission will take place on Wednesday morning (6 March 2019) from 8.15 AM till 9.30 AM. This side-event will provide a forum for Chief Statisticians to discuss the issue. Heather chairs the event with Mark Craddock and Ronald Jansen as panelists. Mark and Ronald will introduce the business model background paper presenting just a few options, which are preferred by the GWG. To have the discussion, a few more panelists could be invited, who will give their views on some questions prepared and given to them by the GWG beforehand. These additional panelists could be from the important stakeholder groups, such as one or two Chief Statisticians (for example, Canada and Rwanda), DFID, UN Foundation or Global Partnership for SD Data. Potentially, a Director of the UN University System could be invited to explain how they operate.

### **AGENDA ITEM (3) – BIG DATA WEEK IN KIGALI**

The Organizing Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> international conference on Big Data for official statistics met just before the Bureau meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. That Committee made progress on the following points of the organization of the various events in the week of 29 April – 3 May 2019.

1. Agreed on the pre-conference workshops and seminar.
  - workshop on agricultural crop statistics using satellite data
    - Hands-on training for up to 30 participants, 2 per country
    - Trainers similar to the workshop in Bangkok in June 2018
  - workshop on measuring human mobility using mobile phone data
    - Hands-on training for up to 24 participants, 2 per country
    - Trainers similar to the workshop in Bogota in Nov 2017
  - workshop on measuring the consumer price index using scanner / transactional data
    - Hands-on training for up to 24 participants, 2 per country
    - Trainers to be determined by the Task Team on Scanner data
  - seminar on Data Science Campus, which will show a variety of hands-on initiatives
    - Working together on the UN Global Platform
      1. Overview of services for data, methods, algorithms
      2. Creating groups and projects with GitLab
      3. Demonstrating a number of projects taking place in Africa
      4. working with AIS data in the Trade data lake on the global platform
      5. how to work with the African Data Cube
    - Learning together
      1. session on ONS / Rwanda Data Science Campus
      2. session on training activities on Big Data (ESTP program and others)
      3. session on Big Data Center of Statistics Netherlands
    - Information session on the Inclusive Data Charter
2. Agreed on the schedule of the pre-conference events, namely
  - Monday morning plenary session on the use of the UN Global Platform
  - workshops and seminar run from Monday afternoon until Wednesday 12 noon
  - Closing of the pre-events on Wednesday from 12 noon until 12:45 PM in plenary session
3. Agreed on main theme for the 2-day Big Data Conference, namely
  - "Working Together - Learning Together" with main sub-themes "Moving statistics in Africa forward" and "Active collaboration on the UN Global Platform".

The announcement will contain the above elements, and will be circulated to the GWG Bureau and the organizing committee as soon as possible. The announcement will thereupon be broadcasted widely.

After the announcement has been sent further refinement of the agenda and invitation of speakers and participants can start.

In conjunction with the preparation of the Kigali Big Data week, the Task Team on training, skills and capacity building is being revitalized. A WebEx meeting on Monday (28 January) has been set up with the main players: Poland, Switzerland, Denmark and ESCAP. This Task Team should be active in the preparation of sessions of the Conference.

Finally, the preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> international conference is also a good moment to update the GWG website. Not only should webpages be developed for the Big Data week, but at the same time the two sites, which currently exist (the GWG website and the UN Global Platform website) should be integrated. For this we need the GWG media team, which was established for the activities during the World Data Forum. This team, which consists of staff from ONS, UK, UNSD and UAE, should be reinforced with staff from Rwanda and the African Development Bank (and possibly UNECA as well) to support in preparing the conference would be very useful. The Media team will handle the websites, the on-line registration of the event and the social media promotion.

#### **AGENDA ITEM (4) – OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was raised at the meeting.