



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Twenty second meeting – 6 February 2019, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Canada	Alice Born
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Al Shehhi
UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Mark Craddock, Phillip Gruneberg, Rabia Mirza,
UNECE	Taeke Gjaltema
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Karoly Kovacs, Ralf Becker, Gerardo Guzman

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Minutes of Meeting 21 on 23 January 2019
- Agenda item (2) Sustainable Business Model
- Agenda item (3) Big Data Week in Kigali
- Agenda item (4) GWG annual meeting – 1 May 2019
- Agenda item (5) Other Business

Action Points

- ⇒ Website for the 5th Conference on Big Data in Rwanda on 29 April – 3 May 2019
- ⇒ Preparation of the UNSC side event on 6 March 2019

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 21

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

AGENDA ITEM (2) – SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

In the update of the Business Model for the UN Global Platform, ONS interviewed a variety of institutes, which could possibly serve as models for the Platform institute, namely UNEP-WCMC, UN Global Pulse, the Demand Institute, the UNU System, Flowminder and Paris21. Those inputs will be reflected in the final draft, which will be circulated to the GWG Bureau members for comments, then submitted as a background document to the UNSC. The report of the GWG is not for discussion at this UNSC, but the UNSC is invited to discuss the background document at a side event, which will be held in Conference Room 4 on Wednesday, 6 March starting at 8.15 am. Information about the event is available on the UNSC website. The panelists of the event are ONS, UNSD, Rwanda, UNEP and Nielsen and there will be room for questions/comments at the end.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – BIG DATA WEEK IN KIGALI

The Organizing Committee of the 5th international conference on Big Data for official statistics met just before the Bureau meeting on February 6th. The bureau discussed the following points of the organization of the various events in the week of 29 April – 3 May 2019.

- ➡ Opening ceremony: Minister of Finance and Planning or the PM will open the meeting – as it is in the works the agenda that will be published on the web will have “high level government official of Rwanda” for the opening.
- ➡ UNSD proposed the chief scientist of UNEP as the keynote speaker. The three reasons why he is very well placed to give the keynote address are:
 - UNEP is actively using new data sources, especially Satellite data, for estimating official statistics and SDG indicators, and is willing to do this on the UN Global Platform
 - UNEP headquarters is located on the African continent and UNEP collaborates therefore more easily and more frequently with African countries than other international agencies in this domain, and
 - UNEP is very successful in bringing Science, Policy and Business together, and the GWG can learn from this experience.Other proposals for keynote speakers are welcome for consideration.
- ➡ Some clarification is needed on the role and uses of the African Data Cube and Digital Earth Africa, and how they could be used on the UN Global Platform.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – GWG ANNUAL MEETING – 1 MAY 2019

The meeting is a standard format: will discuss

- the progress report of the group,
- the business model will be discussed in details,
- the last part will focus on the report of each Task Teams.

ONS pointed out that as the meeting will be held after the UNSC there will be a better defined business case.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – OTHER BUSINESS

UNSD informed the bureau about the restart of the **Task Team on Training, Competencies and Capacity Development**. The team is now lead by Dominik Rozkrut, who has drafted new Terms of Reference with the following objectives:

The general objectives of this task team are to:

- (a) Develop methods and tools (including coordination and facilitation) for
 - (i) a baseline needs identification of “Big Data” competencies in NSSs; and
 - (ii) an assessment of institutional readiness of NSSs in using Big Data.
- (b) Build a competency framework for the Big Data acquisition and processing in current data landscape of NSSs.
- (c) Identify and analyze the existing supply of training of data scientists in academic and other centers.
- (d) Facilitate establishing global network of institutions for training and capacity building on Big Data.
- (e) Provide guidance on the development of a program of training that addresses the gaps and mismatch identified in the skills analysis.
- (f) Coordinate training plans in line with Global Survey on Big Data for Official Statistics and other outcomes from tasks teams formulated within GWG.
- (g) Review of experiences and lessons learned from different organizational structures and data science governance across NSSs.

The deliverables of the Task Team are in accordance with these objectives. The TOR will be presented to the Bureau once agreed by the Task Team, which now consists of the following institutes and members:

Institute	Name
Statistics Poland	Mr. Dominik Rozkrut
FSO Switzerland	Mr. Bertrand Loison
Statistics Denmark	Mr. Niels Ploug
UNSD	Mr. Ralf Becker Mr. Ian Rutherford
UNESCAP	Ms. Gemma van Halderen
UNECE	Mr. Steven Vale
UNECA	Mr. Tinfissi-Joseph Ilboudo Mr. Molla Hunegnaw Asmare
UNECLAC	Mr. Xavier Moncero
UNESCWA	Mr. Juraj Riecan
	Mr. Rami Zaatari
	Mr. Fouad Mrad
	Mr. Marvan Khawaja
African Development Bank	Mr. Momar Kouta

Eurostat	Ms. Martina Hahn Mr. Albrecht Wirthmann
ONS Data Science Campus	Mr. Tom Smith Mr. David Johnson
GCC-STAT	Ms. Elham Salah
FCSA / UAE	Mr. Hatem El Sheriff Ms. Latifa Al Shehhi
World Bank	Mr. Trevor Monroe
Indonesia	Mr. Moh Ari Nugraha Mr. Muchammad Romzi
CARICOM	Ms. Philomen Harrison

ONS thanked Ronald Jansen for all the work he has done so far for the GWG, such as preparing for the 5th International Conference and its workshops.