



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Twenty-sixth meeting – 4 April 2019, 09:00 EST

By video-conferencing

NOTE ON KIGALI DECLARATION

Building blocks of the declaration

- The United Nations Statistical Commission created the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (GWG) at its 45th session in 2014.
- The GWG provides strategic vision, direction and the coordination of a global program on Big Data for official statistics, including for compilation of the SDG indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Working together

- The GWG saw a need for a collaborative environment for the global statistical community to work together (including working with other stakeholder groups) on data innovation and modernization of methods and services.
- The GWG therefore developed a global Cloud-based collaborative platform (called UN Global Platform) to use new data sources (such as satellite data, mobile phone data, transactional data and social media data), develop and test new methods, and prepare and host training courses and materials.
- The capabilities of the platform include digital services to support the development, sharing and publishing of trusted data, trusted methods and trusted learning by trusted partners. The more activity the platform orchestrates the more it can learn and the better it can evolve.
- The platform gives access to and supports the global statistical community and all its partners, which includes the UN system agencies as well as private sector companies, research institutes, academia and civil society organizations.

Learning together

- The platform reduces the infrastructure hurdle for all UN Member States, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to access global data sets and use state of the art tools and services.

- The platform will also be used as an environment for capacity development activities.
- The development and maintenance of the platform are performed under the auspices and guidance of the Statistical Commission

Establishing the UN Global Platform Institute

- An independent institute will need to be established to deliver the UN Global Platform.
- The institute must be able to generate and accept funding, plan and deliver the platform as it evolves and undertakes operation and commercial activities such as hiring staff, contract negotiation and platform evolution.
- UN mechanisms, led by the GWG, will define and ensure the overall governance for the UN GP Institute.
- A Governance Board needs to be established which would decide on the data policies, ethics, security and assurance policies and principles. The board would regularly report to the Statistical Commission.
- Maintaining public trust is essential to statistical production. Data providers and individual data owners need reassurance about where their data is stored and who is accessing it for what purposes.

Working together around the World

- The regional hub option is proposed as a solution to solve some of the local issues regarding different legal and regulatory frameworks for access to data.
- Regional hubs will be able to be part of the UN GP Institute under a well-defined data policy framework.
- The UN GP Institute will have to meet the requirements of the UN and the global community of official statistics.

Working together in Africa

- A UN GP Institute Africa could be established to drive data innovation on the continent
- Data innovation in Africa can draw upon the following initiatives:
 - Digital Earth Africa
 - GRID3
 - Innovation Lab AfDB
 - UN Global Pulse Africa
 - Data Science Campus Rwanda
 - Data Science Campus UNECA