Kigali Declaration

Recalling the mandate[1] of the United Nations Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination for a global program on Big Data for official statistics, including for the compilation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and to promote practical use of Big Data sources, while building on existing precedents and finding solutions for the many existing challenges;

Recalling the adoption of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data[2] (CTGAP) by the Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda[3] for Sustainable Development, which requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at local, national, regional and global levels and by multiple stakeholders.

Highlighting that the CTGAP calls upon the global statistical community to take action on the strategic area of modernizing and strengthening the national statistical systems with a focus on modernizing the governance and institutional framework; on applying statistical standards and new data architecture for data sharing, exchange and integration; and on facilitating the use of new technology and new data sources in statistical production processes;

Reiterating the Bogota Declaration[4] of the GWG that the implementation of the global data collaborative as a federated system will place the community of official statistics at the heart of modern trusted data usage and information technology, which will offer both developed and developing countries opportunities to realize the benefits of multisource data, including Big Data, administrative data, census data and survey data, to better understand economic, environmental and societal changes without investment in expensive technologies;

Reemphasizing the recommendation of the Bogota Declaration that global collaboration, facilitated by the global platform with the potential to accommodate many different types of trusted data, trusted services and trusted applications, should (a) make it easy for all nations to gain value by participating in the global network; (b) deliver a marketplace and a flexible cloud-based technology infrastructure to allow trusted data, methods, services and applications to be shared as a public good where useful and legally possible; and (c) develop transparent partnership agreements with private- and public-sector organizations so that network partners contribute and derive value through a business model which is individually sustainable for all stakeholders and ensures access to trusted data;

---

[1] See Annex I of the Report of the GWG to the 46th session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2015 (E/CN.3/2015/4)
[2] See https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/cape-town-global-action-plan/
[3] See https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
[4] See Annex II of the Report of the GWG to the 49th session of the UN Statistical Commission in 2018 (E/CN.3/2018/8)

The GWG at its 5th Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics in Kigali

Recommends:
- the establishment of an independent entity under the UN umbrella, which plans and delivers the UN Global Platform as it evolves, which is able to generate and accept funding, and undertakes operational and commercial activities such as hiring staff, running projects, contract negotiation and platform evolution;
- the establishment of a Governance Board for the UN Global Platform, which will decide on the overarching policies and principles, and will report to the UN Statistical Commission;
- that the UN Global Platform should have multiple hubs in various regions of the world to build capacity and deliver regional support including for official statistics, working under a well-defined governance framework;

Underlines in this regard that the UN Global Platform:
- should support and connect the global statistical community and all its partners, including the UN agencies as well as government agencies, private sector companies, research institutes, academia and civil society organizations;
- should be based on networking and marketplace principles, to facilitate the exchange, development and sharing of data (especially global data sources), methods, tools and expertise, and accelerate data innovation for official statistics and for the compilation of SDG indicators;
- should provide technological infrastructure as a service for all UN Member States, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to facilitate their access to global data sets and state of the art tools and services;
- should engage with the global statistical community and all its partners to provide an environment for capacity development activities to teach and develop new competencies in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, data science, machine learning and privacy-preserving techniques;

Recommends specifically for the African context:
- that one or more hubs of the UN Global Platform is established in Africa, which:
  - will support the work of the international and regional agencies in Africa, especially the pan-African institutes, to innovate and build capacity in national statistical systems;
  - will support and enable international collaboration on existing and new data innovation projects for official statistics and the SDG indicators in Africa; and
  - will facilitate capacity development activities in Africa for data innovation using global data sets, state-of-the-art methods and the latest technologies.

The Government of Rwanda has offered to host a hub of the UN Global Platform in Rwanda at the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda Training Centre and Data Science Campus. The hub will support capability development work of international and regional agencies in Africa in Big Data for official statistics.

United Nations Global Working Group assembled for the 5th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, Kigali, Rwanda, May 2019.