



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Twenty eighth meeting – 9 May 2019, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Denmark	Niels Ploug
Poland	Dominik Rozkrut
Rwanda	Yusuf Murangwa, Jean-Claude Nyirimanzi
Canada	Alice Born
Indonesia	Titi Kanti Lestari
Mexico	Gonzalo Cruz
Colombia	Raul Ospina
UK	Mark Craddock
UAE	Hatem ElSherif, Latifa Alshehhi
AfDB	Momar Kouta
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Ralf Becker, Karoly Kovacs,

Agenda

- Agenda item (1)** Minutes of Meeting 27
- Agenda item (2)** Big Data Week in Kigali
- Agenda item (3)** Kigali declaration
- Agenda item (4)** Upcoming events – ISI Symposium, 6th conference and UN WDF 2020
- Agenda item (5)** Other business

Action Points

- ⇒ Finalizing the records of the Big Data week in Kigali, including the report of the annual meeting of the GWG

- ⇒ Explicit thank-you notes will be sent to trainers, presenters and panelists; to NISR; to the Rwanda Mission to the UN; and to the UN resident coordinator
- ⇒ Highlights of the conference should be reported to the UN Statistical Commission in the main GWG report and in more detail in a background report to the Commission.
- ⇒ The UN Global Platform team should report in some detail on the increase in traffic, participants, etc. as an outcome of Kigali.
- ⇒ Task Team leaders should evaluate the various presentations given in Kigali for the work of their teams.
- ⇒ GWG Bureau needs to urgently work on the Governance Board (and its responsibilities) for the UN Global Platform
- ⇒ GWG Bureau needs to work also on the Scientific Advisory Committee (and its responsibilities) for the GWG
- ⇒ Preparatory work for the GWG Symposium in Kuala Lumpur in August 2019
- ⇒ Preparatory work for the 6th International Conference on Big Data for official statistics in Korea in the first half of 2020
- ⇒ Preparatory work for a session of the GWG at the WDF 2020 in Bern, Switzerland

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 27

No comments were received on the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – BIG DATA WEEK IN KIGALI

Discussion on the Big data week in Kigali

- The conference was a great success (conference, seminar, workshops and the Kigali declaration). The meetings were well organized; all logistics worked very well; the catering was excellent; and the multiple buffets and coffee/tea counters facilitated the timing very well. Above all, the support from the local organizing team was excellent
- Explicit thank-you notes will be sent to trainers, presenters and panelists; to NISR; to the Rwanda Mission to the UN; and to the UN resident coordinator
- Some notes on the programmatic side:
 - Presentations were of high quality and good participation of the audience
 - The program was dense, maybe too dense; the number and format of panels in future conferences can be adapted
 - Evaluation forms will still need to be analyzed (during the workshops, seminar and conference)

- Regarding Social media: Twitter (#UNBigData2019) was actively used – More video messages and statements from participants could have been useful
- Video message from UN DSG is available on UNSD homepage, the GWG Conference event page and on the marketplace – Rwanda praised the quality of the video as well as the content
- Follow up actions
 - Highlights of the conference should be reported to the UN Statistical Commission in the main GWG report and in more detail in a background report to the Commission.
 - The UN Global Platform team should report in some detail on the increase in traffic, participants, etc. as an outcome of Kigali.
 - Task Team leaders should evaluate the various presentations given in Kigali for the work of their teams.

Meeting of the Global Working Group

- More than 30 participants at the meeting, including observers
- The Task Teams reported on their progress of work (Earth Observation, Scanner data, Mobile phone data, Social media, Privacy preserving techniques, Training)
- A new (revived) Task Team on Big Data for SDGs was proposed by Denmark and Rwanda, and was agreed by the GWG
- GWG Bureau has several actions to be taken in the short term, of which a Scientific Advisory Committee is an urgent one. Other action points will be indicated in the GWG annual report.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – KIGALI DECLARATION

- The draft Kigali Declaration was discussed and amended at the GWG annual meeting with some further amendments received at the conference:
 - The declaration would need to stay general/vague about the exact business structure of the UN Global Platform, which was therefore just indicated as an entity
 - This entity would need to be financially independent (no financial obligation for the Member States). ONS is working out the details.
 - One or more hubs of the Global Platform could be created in Africa
- The Declaration clearly indicated that the Government of Rwanda supports a hub of the Global Platform in Rwanda

- In respect to the UN Global Platform, the GWG Bureau needs to urgently work on the Governance Board and its responsibilities

AGENDA ITEM (4) – UPCOMING EVENTS – ISI SYMPOSIUM, 6TH CONFERENCE AND UN WDF 2020

- Symposium on data science and official statistics, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-17 August
 - It is planned to be a similar style than the Seminar in Kigali; with more time for the presenters
 - It will showcase the UN Global Platform and relation of Data Science to Official Statistics
 - China will be invited to present their commuter pattern project (with the use of mobile phone data); Malaysia will present on its projects
 - UN ESCAP is part of the Organizing Committee; ADB could also be invited
 - UNSD will financially support some NSOs of the region to participate
 - The registration to the Symposium is open; more information is available at the ISI website
- Next international conference in 2020
 - Korea Republic is officially on record to host the 6th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics
 - It is planned to be organized in the first half of 2020 (April-May-June)
- World Data Forum 2020 will take place in October in Bern, Switzerland
 - There will be a GWG annual meeting in Seoul so no need to have another annual meeting during the WDF
 - It is desirable to have a session of the GWG during the WDF – we need to get support from the Programme Committee

AGENDA ITEM (5) OTHER BUSINESS

- NSO of Palestine requested to be part of the GWG – there was no objection. UNSD will accept the request on behalf of the GWG Bureau
- More generally, GWG Bureau needs to have a discussion on the expectation for new members; and on current activity level of the members
- Statistics Canada: Andre Loranger will replace Sylvie Michaud.
- UNSD will provide write-up for the GWG Annual Meeting in Kigali shortly.