



UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

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

**GWG Bureau meeting**

**Twenty ninth meeting – 22 May 2019, 09:00 EST**

**By video conferencing**

**Minutes**

### **Participants**

Denmark	Niels Ploug, Maciej Truszczynski
Canada	Alice Born
Indonesia	Titi Kanti Lestari
Netherlands	Bert Kroese
Switzerland	Bertrand Loison
UK	Heather Savory, Mark Craddock
UAE	Hatem ElSherif
Eurostat	Albrecht Wirthmann
UNECE	Taeke Gjaltema
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Ralf Becker, Karoly Kovacs,

### **Agenda**

- Agenda item (1)** Minutes of Meeting 28
- Agenda item (2)** MoI between NBS China and UN/DESA
- Agenda item (3)** Action points of Meeting 28
- Agenda item (4)** Other business

### **Action Points**

- ⇒ Finalizing the records of the Big Data week in Kigali
- ⇒ Finalizing the business model of the UN GP
- ⇒ Putting together the Scientific Advisory Board
- ⇒ Preparing the GWG Symposium on Big Data in Kuala Lumpur (August 2019)

## Minutes

### **AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 28**

No comments were received on the minutes and the action points are to be discussed under agenda item (3).

### **AGENDA ITEM (2) – MOI BETWEEN NBS CHINA AND UN/DESA**

#### Discussion on the Memorandum of Intent for Big Data center in China

- The current proposal is based on an earlier agreement on a geospatial center of excellence between NBS China and UN/DESA in March
- The signing of the MoI is planned to be held in early June (USG of UN/DESA will sign) marking the successful cooperation between NBS China and UNSD over the past 10 years -- Ivo/UNSD and Mark/UN GP will be present
- MoI will focus on training and developing tools and methods
- The center will be linked to UN GP; it will collaborate with private sector (like Alibaba) and it will support the work of the GWG
- There might be an additional Big Data center in China in addition to the one in Hangzhou
- ONS suggested that some edits are made in the text for clarification, particularly on paragraphs 2 and 3. Given the current political climate the Global Platform Institute should not be linked too closely to any particular country but should be carried by a number of countries. The Netherlands and Denmark supported ONS. The MoI should also support the SDG indicator framework.
- UNSD explained that in the MoI trusted learning is referred to courses that have the quality stamps from GWG.
- Eurostat suggested that reference is made in MoI to openness of methodologies, to quality assurance and to the fundamental principles of official statistics

### **AGENDA ITEM (3) – ACTION POINTS OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

- ⇒ Finalizing the records of the Big Data week in Kigali, including the report of the annual meeting of the GWG
  - Annual report will be delivered before the next bureau meeting
  - Follow up on video recording and other materials from Rwanda
  - Follow up with session organizers
  
- ⇒ 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.
  - UNGP is working on two reports on outcome for the marketplace (will be ready next week)
- ⇒ Task Team leaders should evaluate the various presentations given in Kigali for the work of their teams.
  - Make a review on the effect of the conference on the work of the TTs
  - The ToR on SDGs is ready and need to be circulated
- ⇒ GWG Bureau needs to urgently work on the Governance Board (and its responsibilities) for the UN Global Platform
  - It is an urgent work to finalize not only the business model including the governance structure but also make a proposal how to set it up (central hub and the regional hubs), particularly in the light of the preparation of the MoI between NBS China and UN/DESA
  - UNSD will work closely with the co-chairs on the drafting
- ⇒ GWG Bureau needs to work also on the Scientific Advisory Committee (and its responsibilities) for the GWG
  - Niels has started preparing a proposal and would continue working on it
- ⇒ Preparatory work for the GWG Symposium in Kuala Lumpur in August 2019
  - Duration: 2 and a half days
  - More information is available at the ISI website (Ronald circulated the programme) – details are being worked out
- ⇒ Preparatory work for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Big Data for official statistics in Korea in the first half of 2020
  - UNSD received a confirmation from Statistics Korea offering to host the 6<sup>th</sup> conference in mid May 2020
  - Preparatory work is to start shortly
- ⇒ Preparatory work for a session of the GWG at the WDF 2020 in Bern, Switzerland
  - A separate session for the GWG would be very desirable at the WDF
  - Denmark suggested that Switzerland reserves a room before/after the WDF for a formal meeting of the GWG

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

- Denmark suggested to organize a side event at the UN Statistical Commission in 2020
- An ITU/UN event on AI for Good is organized shortly in Geneva and it was suggested that GWG is to be involved in the event