



UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

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

**GWG Bureau meeting**

**Second meeting – 5 April 2018, 09:00 EST**

**By video-conferencing**

## **Minutes**

### **Participants**

UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Mark Craddock, Lloyd McDonald
Denmark	Niels Ploug, Maciej Truszczyński
Canada	Eric Rancourt
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Colombia	Maria Correa, Juan Camillo
Mexico	Andrea Fernandez
UAE	Latifa, Hatem
UNECE	Therese Lalor
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Karoly Kovacs, Catheryn Tajon

### **Agenda**

- Agenda item (1) Meeting schedule
- Agenda item (2) GWG membership and GWG Bureau
- Agenda item (3) Future Big Data Conferences
- Agenda item (4) Meetings with Microsoft, Alibaba, Google, Nielsen and IBM
- Agenda item (5) Update of the GWG website
- Agenda item (6) Work on the legal, ethical and funding considerations
- Agenda item (7) TOR template for Task Teams
- Agenda item (8) UN WDF

# Minutes

## AGENDA ITEM (1) – MEETING SCHEDULE

The schedule has been set for meetings 2 through 5 as follows:

2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	5 April 2018	9 AM NY time
3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting	19 April 2018	9 AM NY time
4 <sup>th</sup> meeting	2 May 2018	9 AM NY time
5 <sup>th</sup> meeting	16 May 2018	9 AM NY time

## AGENDA ITEM (2) – GWG MEMBERSHIP AND GWG BUREAU

Obtaining membership of the GWG should be a formal process with approval from co-chairs and bureau and through official exchange of letters with the UN Statistics Division, as the secretariat of the UN Statistical Commission. For most current GWG members the exchange of letters occurred. In those cases where formality was lacking, this will be regularized as soon as possible.

The composition of the GWG Bureau had been agreed with the co-chairs and secretariat as follows: UK (co-chair), Denmark (co-chair), Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, UAE, African Development Bank, UNECE and UNSD. The role of the Bureau is to direct and manage the work of the GWG under leadership of the co-chairs.

## AGENDA ITEM (3) – FUTURE BIG DATA CONFERENCES

The GWG Bureau had agreed at its first meeting that it would resume an annual cycle for the Big Data conferences, beginning with the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference in April/May 2019 in Africa, followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference in April/May 2020 in Korea Republic. Consultation with UNECA/Rwanda still needs to take place.

## AGENDA ITEM (4) – MEETINGS WITH MICROSOFT, ALIBABA, GOOGLE, NIELSEN, IBM

The GWG actively discusses partnerships with private sector companies. An update of the discussions is as follows. This update should be read in conjunction with the document “Agenda item (3) - Note by UNSD on Projects and Partnerships”, which was submitted at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Bureau.

Microsoft Meeting on Thursday 22 March 2018 at the Microsoft office on Time Square in Manhattan.

### Participants:

- Justin L. Spelhaug, General Manager, Tech for Social Impact, Microsoft Philanthropies
- Jennifer Mary Brooks, Director of UN relations, Microsoft Philanthropies

- Alexandre Pinho, Global Lead for UN, Tech for Social Impact, Microsoft Philanthropies
- Steven Lough, Account Manager US Public Sector, Microsoft
- Erik Arnold, CTO, Tech for Social Impact, Microsoft Philanthropies
- Brant Zwiefel, Managing Architect, Strategy and Innovation, Worldwide Industry, Microsoft
  
- Bert Kroese, Statistics Netherlands
- Matjaz Jug, Statistics Netherlands
- Marcel van de Steen, Statistics Netherlands
- Sylvie Michaud, Statistics Canada
  
- Ivo Havinga, UNSD
- Ronald Jansen, UNSD
- Michael Smedes, UNSD

## Summary

Microsoft's Technology for Social Impact group is targeting three areas in their work: grants, training, and innovation (capabilities). Microsoft expressed an interest in developing a joint vision and general collaboration framework with UNSD for *AI for Good* under the Microsoft Philanthropies. The purpose of vision and related framework would be to allow for a better coordination and coherence of the requests from UN agencies and other not-for-profit organizations.

Microsoft initially suggested that the vision and related collaborative framework could be organized around three main pillars or work streams with social impact: a) Environment, b) Accessibility (including disabilities) and c) Human rights, including children and migration, and gender equality. However, Microsoft was open to the idea of aligning the pillars with the three founding pillars of the United Nations: (a) development, (b) human rights and (c) peace and security.

Each of these pillars could be organized by broad thematic areas such as women and youth; climate and environmental resilience; equality and social equity; sustainable growth; migration; governance; drugs; and human trafficking that may encapsulate multiple SDGs.

This vision and related collaborative framework would recognize the mutual strengths and benefits of Microsoft as global technology and proprietary data owner and UNSD as global UN coordinator for trusted data and official statistics governed by UN principles and standards, and as the secretariat of the global statistical community through the UN Statistical Commission.

Under these pillars, high social impact research projects using AI will be undertaken in partnership with UN and other agencies and countries. An initial set of projects for 2018 will cover:

- Development pillar: land cover and use mapping, agricultural crop production
- Human rights pillar: access and dissemination of data and information; use of social media to understand migration and sentiment issues

These projects will undertake research and development in trusted methods and techniques, curation of trusted data sources, and trusted learning in the transfer of skills and technology in collaboration with trusted partners.

Microsoft expressed the need for an early announcement of the outreach programme on *AI for Good* and its global partnership with UNSD and the global statistical community. Options to be considered are side events during the High-level Political Forum (9-18 July 2018) with the theme *Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies* (with a focus on water and sanitation, energy, cities and human settlements, sustainable consumption and production, and terrestrial ecosystems) and panels of the UN World Data Forum in Dubai, 22-24 October 2018.

Following this update, it was mentioned that we need to work out how to prioritize the potential projects. We have to scope the projects first and then elaborate on project details

#### AGENDA ITEM (8) – UN WORLD DATA FORUM

The Bureau was informed that we are still waiting to hear about the acceptance of the proposals, which was originally given a deadline of 31 March 2018.

- ✚ The GWG Platform task team led by ONS, UK, will develop the platform on the ONS server under a more generic URL. This URL will be subsidiary to the URL of the main portal. One way to achieve this is via unchecking of the Google search indexing of the ONS URL.
- ✚ The navigation between the main portal and the GWG platform should be seamlessly and easy.

**Action Point:** Ronald and Mark will work out the details and report back to the GWG Bureau; Mark will also provide the TOR of the platform task team; for 3rd meeting

#### AGENDA ITEM (5) – PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF THE INFOTEC SEMINAR, 4-5 SEP 2018, MEXICO CITY

Andrea informed the Bureau of the INFOTEC seminar on 4-5 Sep 2018 in Mexico City. The program, which is still in an early stage, focuses on the best practices to safeguard the confidentiality of statistical information to generate geographic, environmental, economic, demographic and social information, in the digital era. The Bureau noted that the work of the task team on Privacy Preserving Techniques could be of interest to the seminar.

**Action Point:** Bureau Members to consider whether they will attend INFOTEC (all)

#### AGENDA ITEM (6) – CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

This agenda item was not discussed. It can be brought on the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting