



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Thirty second meeting – 3 July 2019, 09:00 EST

By video conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Denmark	Niels Ploug
Canada	André Loranger, Alice Born
Netherlands	Bert Kroese, Matjaz Jug
Indonesia	Titi Kanti Lestari
UK	Heather Savory, Mark Craddock
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Al Shehhi
Eurostat	Albrecht Wirthmann
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Karoly Kovacs

Agenda

Agenda item (1)	Minutes of Meeting 31
Agenda item (2)	UN Global Platform
Agenda item (3)	Task Teams
Agenda item (4)	Past and future events
Agenda item (5)	Other business

Action Points

- ⇒ Circulate minutes of Meeting 31
- ⇒ Finalizing the brochure on the UNGP and circulate it to the bureau for comments
- ⇒ Circulating the governance structure of the UN Global Platform
- ⇒ UNSD to send the past and present TORs of the Task Teams to the co-chair
- ⇒ Denmark is to draft a template on the work and outputs of the Task Teams

- ⇒ Ensuring good communication between the Task Forces on Data Access and Skills, and on Machine Learning under the Conference of the European Statisticians with the related Task Teams under the UN GWG
- ⇒ Preparation of the upcoming events (Symposium, workshops, side-event at UNSC 2020, preparation of the 6th International Conference and the sessions at the 2020 WDF)

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING #31

The minutes of the meeting will be sent shortly.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – UN GLOBAL PLATFORM

UN Global Platform gave the following information:

- The UNGP team had a team-day discussing delivery plan and the set-up of the platform and the Institute
- They are working on a brochure and prospectus – a short, focused version and a more detailed one about the Platform
 - It is important that they include case studies (need more users and cases on the platform and also reflections on the use),
 - They had a meeting with potential investors (received useful feedback)
 - Brochure will be ready on Monday for comments and it is planned to be published on the website
 - Prospectus is for limited circulation

Comments:

- UNSD – The governing structure of the UNGP needs to be clarified (GPI is an independent institute in the UK and is the main technical hub of the UN Global Platform; the GWG is governing the UN Global Platform and will report about it to the UN Statistical Commission; talks with several regional hubs have been initiated (MoI with China, commitment from Rwanda during the Kigali conference [and the help of UN ECA and Statistics South Africa], and initial talks with UAE).
- UNGP: will send slide deck on the governance structure to UNSD who will send to the GWG bureau members
- UAE: started discussion with management on the preparation of the UNGP regional hub in UAE

- Netherlands reported that it had noticed an uptake of the visibility of the UNGP in the statistical community, even though we still have to make efforts to advocate the platform in all communities.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – TASK TEAMS

Denmark gave an overview of the current work and outputs at the different Task Teams:

- Satellite and Scanner Data TT are steadily progressing
- Training TT has been revitalized
- Statistics Denmark is working with NISR to start the work of the TT on SDGs

Comments:

UNSD: has gathered 20 TORs of all current and past Task Teams, which could be useful evaluating the work of the TTs as well as for improving the workplans – Suggests a separate meeting with all TT leaders to discuss the progress made and the issues they are facing – Looking at the Zoho platform to manage contacts

Canada: close to finalize the TOR for the two Satellite Data Task Teams and supports that the TT leaders will have a separate meeting

AGENDA ITEM (4) – UPDATE ON PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Past events

- Conference of the European Statisticians (CES)
 - 2 days seminar on new data sources, new skills and new role of NSOs (about 20 papers presented that are available on UNECE website)
 - The CES agreed to create an informal task force on data access and new skills (Poland expressed concerns about the overlap between the newly formed informal task force and the UN TT on Training but hoping for good communication between the two)
 - High level group on modernization of official statistics started a Machine Learning project, which we will try to link to the UN Global Platform
 - The CES Satellite data team lead by Mexico will be invited to work closely with the GWG Task Team in this area – Canada will make efforts to bridge the work of the teams
 - Eurostat would like to set up a meeting with the UN Global Platform team to find areas of collaboration

Upcoming events

- High level political forum (9 – 18 July 2019, New York)
 - Reviewing the progress on sustainable development and the implementation of SDGs including side events on indicators – several side-events will be set up with Heather, Niels, Yusuf, Risenga and others
- Symposium on data science and official statistics (15-17 August 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
 - Finalizing the time allocation of various sessions on the agenda (see
 - There will be a large delegation from the Netherlands taking part in the ISI WSC given that the next ISI conference will be hosted by the Netherlands in 2021. The Dutch will be invited to participate in the Symposium as well.
- Workshop on the use of Big Data for official statistics (16 – 18 October 2019, Hangzhou, China)
 - It seems that an MoU is to be signed during the workshop on the regional hub in China
 - Draft MoU text is to be circulated to the bureau soon
- Workshop on modernization of official statistics, Doha, Qatar
 - Regional workshop with invitations to some GWG members
- Next international conference (mid May 2020, Seoul, Korea)
 - UNSD has written to Statistics Korea but has not received any reply yet.
- World Data Forum 2020 (18 – 21 October, 2020, Bern, Switzerland)
 - UNSD and Denmark had a meeting with the Swiss delegates on the side of the meeting of the European Statisticians and were requested to run a separate session on the GWG as well as a pre-WDF event showcasing the UNGP (half or full day).

Comments:

The GWG should think about organizing a side-event during the UNSC in March 2020 along with the report on the establishment of the UNGP and that the missions should be involved.

AGENDA ITEM (5) OTHER BUSINESS

Because various agreements are being setup between UN and regional hubs, which also requires agreements between the hubs, it was proposed to create an Advisory Board, which will advise on the various arrangements which need to be establish in the setup of the UN Global Platform and its hubs. This Board would consist of senior managers of ONS UK, NBS China, NISR Rwanda and FCSEA UAE and ex-officio GWG co-chairs and UNSD. The GWG Bureau agreed with this proposal. The Terms of Reference of this group need to be drafted shortly and be endorsed by the GWG Bureau.