UNITED NATIONS
United Nations Statistical Commission
Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics
GWG Bureau meeting

Thirty fifth meeting – 29 August 2019, 09:00 EST
By video conferencing
Minutes

Participants

Canada Alice Born
Netherlands Matjaz Jug
UAE Latifa Al-Shehhi, Hatem El-Sherif
Mexico Gonzalo Cruz
Colombia Raul Ospina
Indonesia Titi Kanti Lestari
UK Heather Savory
Eurostat Martina Hahn
UNECE Taeke Gjaltema
UNSD Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Karoly Kovacs

Agenda

Agenda item (1) Minutes of the 34th meeting
Agenda item (2) Update on the UN Global Platform – Background document on the UN Global Platform
Agenda item (3) Recent and upcoming events
Agenda item (4) GWG network and Zoho
Agenda item (5) Other business

Action Points

⇒ Co-chairs and UNSD is to work on a note on approaching NSOs on the UN GP
⇒ Set up a teleconference with DG of UAE Statistics on the preparation of the regional hub in Dubai
Preparation for the 1st meeting of the Advisory board on 9 September

Continue discussions with the listed opportunities in country NSOs and private sector

Minutes

Martina Hahn, the new Chief of Unit of Methodology and Innovation in official statistics at Eurostat, gave an overview of the main area of work by her team: big data, supporting the innovation in the ESS, providing training within ESTP, implement experiments, working on UNGP utilizing mobile phone data.

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF THE 34TH MEETING

The language of the minutes (under Agenda item 2) will be slightly modified to indicate that the GWG has an oversight function on the UN Global Platform activities of the Global Platform Institute but does not have oversight over activities of the GP institute, which are outside of the scope of the UN Global Platform. The Board of Trustees has oversight over all activities of the GP Institute.

As a follow up to the minutes, UNSD will call the first meeting of the Advisory Board on Tuesday 10 September. Members of the board are the Global Platform Institute, NBS China, NISR Rwanda, FCSA UAE, IBGE Brazil (to be confirmed), ONS, UK (Chair), Statistics Denmark as lead of the GWG Task Teams, the lead of the GWG Technical Delivery Board and UNSD. The Advisory Board will give recommendations to the bureau of GWG, which could have an impact on – for example – UN Global Platform background document.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – UPDATE ON THE UN GLOBAL PLATFORM – BACKGROUND DOCUMENT ON THE UN GLOBAL PLATFORM

UNSD gave some overview of the draft document sent to the bureau members:

✔ Background document:
   ◦ The background document gives details on the construction of UNGP
   ◦ It will be updated after receiving feedback/advise from the Advisory board
   ◦ It is informative for the global statistical community
   ◦ It raises awareness of UNGP and its potential use

✔ In addition to this background document, there also exists the Global Platform Brochure, which will be circulated to the bureau members for information

✔ The Global Platform Institute is an independent institute
   ◦ It has been officially registered in the UK
- It will take over global services and will coordinate closely with the regional hubs
- Currently there is an outreach for donors for the sustainable funding of the Institute
- Work is going on (by all of the GWG) to expanding the traffic and the network on the UN Global Platform

The co-chairs and UNSD will prepare a note, which sets out how and when the background document will be distributed to all NSOs.

Heather informed about her meeting with the Chair of the Board of Trustees of WCMC, in which she obtained valuable information on how an independent institute can operate with the UN community. In addition, further cooperation on possible hosting of WCMC data on the platform was discussed.

UAE also gave information on the preparatory work for the regional hub and a meeting with their director general. It was concluded that a teleconference would be useful with the director general on the topic.

**AGENDA ITEM (3) RECENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

UNSD gave an overview of the organization and execution of the Symposium on the use of big data for official statistics which was attended by 150 participants and was organized at the Central Bank of Malaysia with support of the Department of Statistics of Malaysia. The Symposium took place just before the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress 2019. During ISI there were many presentations on big data. Ronald was thanked for the successful organization and running of the Symposium.

**AGENDA ITEM (4) GWG NETWORK AND Zoho**

Under this agenda item many possible partners and projects were mentioned. “Zoho” is used as a tool to administer all these opportunities, and in the future, the GWG Bureau should receive Zoho reports, on which it can take decisions regarding which opportunities are worthwhile further exploring and which ones should not be followed up on.

- Cooperation with Esri – Statistics Canada is to follow up
- FAO communicated that they would be interested to work closely on the agricultural crop estimates – Statistics Canada and UNSD needs to set up a teleconference
- Satellite data for Africa – NSI Rwanda is eager to implement – further discussion is needed
- Planetary health covering environment statistics and health statistics – further discussion is needed
- Timor Leste would like to be involved with the work on the use of mobile phone data
✓ Malaysia is interested in the work of the GWG in tourism statistics
✓ Samoa and Fiji would like to work with UNGP on tourism statistics
✓ Jordan is interested on the use of satellite data
✓ Private sector group (Data Provider) would like to work with UNGP (currently they are working with Statistics Netherlands).
✓ Cap Gemini is interested to work with UNGP. Currently they are working on a data portal for the European Commission.

**AGENDA ITEM (5) OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business.