To the Task Teams and the Task Team leaders of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (GWG)

The work of the GWG is now moving fast in a new and very promising direction with the creation of the UN Global Platform, consisting of the Global Platform Institute (a not-for-profit institute based in the UK) and Regional Hubs (in China, Rwanda, UAE and Brazil).

This calls for a discussion in the Bureau with Task Team Leaders on how this will influence the work of the Task Teams. There is a need to discuss and describe the future relationship between the Task Teams on the one hand and the Global Platform Institute, and Regional Hubs on the other hand.

Task Teams should continue to be the mechanism that integrates and supports the active work of the NSO’s and partners on Big Data for Official Statistics. However, Task Teams should in the future also be working in such a way that they actively use the services provided by the Global Platform Institute and the Regional Hubs.

The Bureau therefore calls for a discussion on:

- How best to align the work of the Task Teams in support of the Global Platform Institute and the Regional Hubs.
- Workplans for the Task Teams, proposing that in the future each Task Team should set out a yearly work plan with deliverables that will be used as input into the yearly work plans of the Global Platform Institute and of the Regional Hubs.
- How to streamline the TORs of the Task Teams in order to clarify the relationship between the work of the Task Teams and the work of the Global Platform Institute and the Regional Hubs.

The goal of this discussion is to produce a document so all NSOs and partners active in Task Teams agree on the role of the Task Teams in relation to the Global Platform Institute and the Regional Hubs. This document will be reflected in the report to be submitted for discussion by the Statistical Commission in March 2020. The deadline for such a document is no later than the end of November 2019.

This discussion will begin at the Bureau meeting on September 26th and continue in a Bureau working group chaired by Denmark, with the participation of the Task Team leaders. The working group will report to the Bureau at it’s meeting on November 7th – and based on the comments received from the Bureau Denmark will finalize the document on the role of the Task Teams in the future organization of the work of the GWG, the Global Platform Institute and the Regional Hubs.