



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Third meeting – 19 April 2018, 09:00 EST

By video-conferencing

Minutes

Participants

Denmark	Niels Ploug (Chair)
Canada	Eric Rancourt
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
Colombia	Carolina Ronseros
Mexico	Andrea Fernandez
UAE	Latifa Alsehhi, Hatem El Sherif
AfDB	Momar Kouta
UNECE	Therese Lalor
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Karoly Kovacs, Catheryn Tajon

Agenda

- Agenda item (1) Update on events and activities
- Agenda item (2) TOR for the advisory groups
- Agenda item (3) Work on the legal, ethical and funding considerations
- Agenda item (4) TOR template for Task Teams
- Agenda item (5) UN WDF
- Agenda item (6) Calendar of activities

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – UPDATE ON EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- (i) Indonesia and African Development Bank (AfDB) were approached to join the GWG bureau and both replied positively. At this moment, the bureau is complete: UK (co-chair),

Denmark (co-chair), Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, African Development Bank, UNECE and UNSD.

- (ii) 5th International Conference on Big Data for official statistics. In consultation with UNECA and UNSD, Rwanda fully committed to take charge of the local facilities and local costs. AfDB expressed support for the conference as well. The conference will take place end April or beginning May 2019; Rwanda is looking into the exact week.
- (iii) Rati Skhritladze of ITU is enthusiastic to take on the leadership role in the mobile phone task team. Rati is the Chief Statistician of ITU and was previously working for a mobile operator and for the regulatory authority in Georgia. ITU is custodian for a number of SDG indicators, and Rati will look into making the link between use of Big Data and compilation of SDG indicators.
- (iv) Frank Lazcko, Chief Statistician of IOM, officially requested if IOM could become a GWG member. IOM is interested in Migration statistics and the use of mobile positioning data for that purpose.
- (v) Poland, which was accepted as GWG member at the 2nd meeting, submitted the names of three persons to participate in the various task teams, which is in addition to one person, who already participates in the EO task team.
- (vi) To underscore the momentum, which exist for the topic of Big Data, I am referring to the following:
 - As part of the high-level ECOSOC forum on Partnerships, a segment was organized on “Big Data for Public Good” at UN headquarters in New York on 4 April 2018. The panel consisted of Anil Arora, Chief Statistician of Canada, Joann .. of Master Card, Ann Marie .. of GSMA and a representative of the civil society and was moderated by Robert Kirkpatrick of UN Global Pulse. Stefan Schweinfest, Director of UNSD, was the discussant. The forum was opened by the Deputy Secretary General and the day was overall chaired by the ECOSOC president.
 - At the World Bank-IMF spring event in Washington DC, an afternoon session on the 19th of April was devoted to “Big Data and the SDG”, where Ms. Amina Mohamed, the Deputy Secretary General, held the keynote speech, which was in large part prepared by UNSD and brought out the important role of official statistics in this context.
- (vii) Statistics Canada organized a high-level seminar on Strategic Partnerships on 11-12 April 2018 at UNECE in Geneva. This is important with respect to the engagement of the GWG with the private sector and other important partners.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – TOR FOR THE ADVISORY GROUPS

Postponed to next meeting

AGENDA ITEM (3) – WORK ON THE LEGAL, ETHICAL AND FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Postponed to next meeting

AGENDA ITEM (4) – TOR TEMPLATE FOR TASK TEAMS

Postponed to next meeting

AGENDA ITEM (5) – 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 decisions have been postponed until mid-May

AGENDA ITEM (6) – CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

The members were requested to submit information on upcoming events to UNSD.

ANNEX – A quick update on the developments from the UK by Mark Craddock

1. Recruitment
 - a. We have advertised a support/admin role to support the team in the UK
 - b. We are also recruiting a Marketing/Comms person and Delivery Manager to support the team
2. We've registered officialstatistics.org for all development websites
3. Methods Library/Service
 - a. Joni Karanka has joined us this week and is leading the development of the Methods Library/Service
 - b. We should deploy the Proof of Concept (PoC) with Algorithmia early next week
 - c. ACTION: If you have any algorithms that you could make available for testing, please contact Joni (joni.karanka@ons.gov.uk).
 - d. The service should be deployed to <https://methods.officialstatistics.org>
4. I will be attending the FOSS4G NA conference in May (<https://2018.foss4g-na.org/>)
5. Earth Observation Service
 - a. We have a PoC up and running with Azavea (<https://www.azavea.com/>) for the Earth Observation Service
 - b. This provides access to most satellite open data (Landsat, Sentinel) with the ability to run common NDVI, NDWI, etc algorithms against satellite images
 - c. @Ronald I've checked and we may be able to make the Public Authority ONLY data available from Copernicus available (Sentinel data is already there)
 - d. ACTION: If you require access, we can setup an account. Please contact me.
6. Global Platform Marketplace
 - a. We've been experimenting with building a Marketplace using Magento open source. <https://marketplace.officialstatistics.org/>
 - b. We have been working with the Netherlands on the data model for the Marketplace

- c. ACTION: If you would like any of your local services, applications listed, please contact me
7. Application Service
 - a. We are working on the 'Apps' support for the global platform
 - b. We have proven that we can support container (Docker/Kubernetes) deployed applications across the large cloud providers (Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Alibaba)
 - c. ACTION: If you have any locally developed applications that we can use for testing. Please contact me
 - d. Experimental site that runs across all cloud platforms, <https://dwm4ih6p26hu1.cloudfront.net/index.html>
 8. Collaborative Coding/Development
 - a. We have a PoC running with Anaconda (<https://www.anaconda.com/enterprise/>)
 - b. ACTION: If you would like to be part of the trial, please contact me
 9. Training Capability - We are about to start to look at how we can provide online training via the global platform
 - a. We have had conversations with the Netherlands on how we can work together on this
 - b. Our current thinking is to use Moodle for the online training (<https://moodle.org/>)
 - c. ACTION: If you'd like to be involved in the technical development, please contact me
 - d. ACTION: If you have some training that we could put into the global platform, please contact me
 10. We have been experimenting with an SDG Data Hub with ESCAP
 - a. <http://ec2-34-248-98-17.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com/about>
 - b. It is possible to deploy a data Hub per country using the global platform applications service and consolidate all data into a common global data hub
 11. We are trying to keep our GitHub repository up to date <https://github.com/UNGGlobalPlatform>
 12. Privacy Preserving Techniques Task Team
 - a. The first official meeting will be held on April 30th and every first Monday in each month, there after
 - b. We are working online in the global platform community (see link below)
 13. We have an active online community
 - a. We have 50+ members discussing/working on the global platform
 - b. This includes Alibaba, Microsoft, Google, Azavea and Amazon

You can join the global platform community here:

https://join.slack.com/t/ungp/shared_invite/enQtMzUxMTE5MzI4NDcwLWE3MjY4MDI4ODNlMmMzYTExYzhhNDE3NzhkYTBhYmZkYWw3NjFmN2JiNmEwMjAzMzk0ODIzNzY4ODZjY2JhYTE