



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Fourth meeting – 2 May 2018, 08:30 EST

By video-conferencing

Minutes

Participants

UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Mark Craddock, Mirza Rabia
Denmark	Maciej Truszczynski
Canada	Eric Rancourt
Colombia	Maria Correa
UAE	Latifa, Hatem
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Catheryn Tajon

Agenda

- Agenda item (1)** GWG membership and GWG Bureau
- Agenda item (2)** Minutes of meetings 2 and 3
- Agenda item (3)** Note and TOR template for Task Teams
- Agenda item (4)** Work on the legal, ethical and funding considerations
- Agenda item (5)** Other business

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – GWG STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP AND BUREAU

UNSD provided orally an overview of the structure of the GWG. The full membership of the GWG is shown in Annex 1 of the 2018 report of the GWG to the Statistical Commission. Meanwhile, Poland and IOM requested formally for membership and have been accepted. The full GWG meets in person once a year in connection with the Big Data Conference. Occasionally, the full membership is consulted on specific topics.

The GWG Bureau has the role to direct and manage the work of the GWG under leadership of the co-chairs. 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 work of the GWG is executed through two branches; one led by UK on the development of the global platform (further broken down in three workstreams plus the task team on privacy preserving techniques) and a second one led by Denmark on the work of the task teams, including the task teams on satellite data, mobile phone data, scanner data, social media data and training, skills and capacity building.

AGENDA ITEM (2) – MINUTES OF MEETINGS 2 AND 3

The GWG Bureau had no comments and thus agreed with the minutes. The minutes will be posted on the GWG website.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – NOTE AND TOR TEMPLATE FOR TASK TEAMS

The GWG has active task teams on the use of satellite imagery data, mobile phone data, social media data and scanner data and on training, skills and capacity-building. Some task teams are no longer active, like the teams on Big Data and SDGs, on access and partnerships, on advocacy and communication and on cross-cutting issues. An overview of all task teams is given in the reference document.

New task teams have been created, notably a task team on the Trade Data Lake led by UNSD and a task team on Privacy Preserving Techniques led by ONS, UK. Others are being considered, like a task team on multi-source data possibly led by Statistics Denmark. It is also under discussion to explore the creation of additional teams according to thematic issues such as economic and financial statistics, the digital economy or climate change.

Because of the restructuring of the GWG governance, the need to clarify the relation between the task teams and the global platform, and the fact that task teams have to operate more from a thematic than a data source perspective, it is time to revisit the Terms of References and clarify the purpose, objectives, functioning and deliverables of the task teams.

The question was posed if a task team on Big Data and SDGs is still needed. It was agreed that this was not needed, as long as SDGs are taken on board by each of the task teams under their themes. Regarding access and partnerships, advocacy and communication, and other cross-cutting issues, it was agreed that these topics will be dealt with by the GWG bureau at the policy level and by the global platform at the applied and technical levels. Since the video-conference was unfortunately short-cut after exactly 60 minutes, **the bureau members are requested to give further comments by email** on the Task Team note, including TOR template and MOU membership template.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – WORK ON THE LEGAL, ETHICAL AND FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Given that the video-conference was short-cut after exactly 60 minutes, agenda item (4) on the note of the co-chairs could not be discussed. **The bureau members are requested to give comments by email** on the note of the co-chairs.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – OTHER BUSINESS

This agenda item was not discussed.