



UNITED NATIONS

**United Nations Statistical Commission**

**Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics**

**GWG Bureau meeting**

**Fifth meeting – 16 May 2018, 09:00 EST**

**By video-conferencing**

## **Minutes**

### **Participants**

UK	Heather Savory (Chair), Mark Craddock, Mirza Rabia, Robert Bumpstead
Denmark	Maciej Truszczynski
Canada	Sylvie Michaud (difficulties connecting)
Colombia	Angela Palma
Netherlands	Matjaz Jug
UAE	Hatem El Sherif
AfDB	Momar Kouta
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Ivo Havinga, Michael Smedes, Ralf Becker, Karoly Kovacs, Catheryn Tajon

### **Agenda**

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

### **Minutes**

#### **AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 4**

The GWG Bureau had no comments and thus agreed with the minutes. The minutes will be posted on the GWG website. It was noted that the GWG website needs updating.

#### **AGENDA ITEM (2) – NOTE AND TOR TEMPLATE FOR TASK TEAMS**

Under this item, progress was reported on activities and TORs of the various Task Teams.

- The Task Team on Satellite (Earth Observation) data will execute a 5-day workshop in Bangkok on 18-22 June led by Kerrie Mengersen and Jacinta Holloway (Queensland University of Technology, Australia), Michael Schmidt (Department of Science Information Technology and Innovation, Australia), Michael Smedes (UNSD, New York), Statistics Canada, UNESCAP as well as representatives of FAO, UNEP and Microsoft. Participants (2 per country) come from about a dozen countries across Asia. (Lead: Statistics Canada)
- The Task Team on Scanner Data works on a Handbook, algorithms and a project with Nielsen, in which currently solutions are discussed how to access Nielsen's price data. The TOR are being updated. (Lead: Statistics Canada)
- The Task Team on Mobile Phone data has a new leader in Mr. Rati Skhirtladze, Director of Statistics of ITU. UNSD and ITU are working on updated TOR and its deliverables. A workshop on Mobile Phone data is in the planning; and a collaborative data project on human mobility is foreseen with Microsoft.

Mark Craddock indicated the priorities for the UN Global Platform: (1) Algorithms (for scanner data, satellite data and more); (2) E-learning materials and tools; and (3) Storing of Satellite data (Landsat or UK Satellite data) – Could we use Satellite data from partners like Copernicus or NASA?

ONS, UK, arranged training for the maintenance of the platform, which was taken by staff of UNSD and UNESCAP, with the purpose of establishing around the clock surveillance and service of the system.

UAE indicated that it was interested to participate in the work of the global platform. It also indicated that UAE partnered with Microsoft in the development of an e-learning course on Machine Learning. Follow-up on this point is needed between ONS, UK, and UAE, FCSA.

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

The note by the co-chairs highlights some main points of attention and action for the GWG Bureau, namely on (1) Legal and Ethics issues, (2) Commercial Partnerships and Data supply, (3) Data Access via the Global Platform, (4) Communication, (5) Advocacy, and (6) Funding.

Rob Bumpstead will help on putting a document together regarding the Legal and Ethics issues; and UNSD is committed to draft a note on Communication.

#### AGENDA ITEM (4) – OTHER BUSINESS

African Development Bank pointed out that activities are taking place on the African continent. As a point of action: maybe AfDB can provide a note on what is happening in Africa. This would be useful leading gradually up to the next Big Data Conference in Rwanda in April/May 2019.