



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Statistical Commission

Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

GWG Bureau meeting

Seventh meeting – 13 June 2018, 09:00 EST

By e-mail exchange

Minutes

Participants

Denmark	Niels Ploug (Chair), Maciej Truszczyński
UK	Mark Craddock, Rabia Mirza, Rob Bumpstead, Heather Savory, Lloyd McDonald
Canada	Sylvie Michaud, Eric Rancourt
Colombia	Angela Palma, Carolina Cancino, Sandra Moreno
Indonesia	Setia Pramana
Mexico	Andrea Fernandez
Netherlands	Bert Kroese, Matjaz Jug
UAE	Hatem El Sherif, Latifa Alshehhi
AfDB	Momar Kouta, Louis Kouakou
UNECE	Therese Lalor
UNSD	Ronald Jansen, Karoly Kovacs, Ivo Havinga, Michael Smedes, Catheryn Tajon

Agenda

- Agenda item (1)** Minutes of Meeting 6
 - Minutes prepared by UNSD
- Agenda item (2)** GWG website revision
 - Note prepared by UNSD
- Agenda item (3)** TOR and profiles for advisory group and its members
 - Note prepared by UNSD
- Agenda item (4)** Big Data activity in Africa & 6th Big Data Conference
 - African Development Bank
- Agenda item (5)** UN World Data Forum – GWG day on 21 October 2018
 - UNSD and FCSA
- Agenda item (6)** Availability of data, methods and algorithms on the global platform
- Agenda item (7)** Other Business

Minutes

AGENDA ITEM (1) – MINUTES OF MEETING 6

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

AGENDA ITEM (2) – GWG WEBSITE

As mentioned in the prepared note, UNSD has now started the update of the GWG website and the first results will be shown shortly. However, a website needs attention and frequent updating to be useful, and therefore all members of the bureau or of the full GWG membership need to help in achieving a well-functioning and attractive website. We should establish a routine process for exchanging information, which includes News items related to the broad spectrum of innovation, new data sources, new methods, new technologies, which could be of interest to our community; Blogs on the same themes; recent events as News items and upcoming events, as input to our Calendar; and finally, any news about projects, in which your office is involved.

DANE kindly offered to contribute with some articles on satellite data use and also probably on some of the most recent developments for our current Population and Housing Census. These news items should become available in about a month.

As mentioned in the note, it is proposed to post the information of the Bureau meetings on the GWG website and to encourage the task teams to actively update their parts of the website with their latest developments. UNSD can support the website technically to some extent, but would really like to build on the expertise of other offices. ONS, UK, can link the global platform to the GWG website; and INEGI is invited to add further functionalities to the GWG website (maybe more infographics and videos). Other NSOs are also encouraged to help. Statistics Netherlands is looking into providing such assistance.

ONS, UK, suggested that we should also consider other channels for getting news out, such as an email newsletter or social media (Twitter). Further, we could implement some simple bi-weekly reporting to gather news items.

AGENDA ITEM (3) – PROFILE OF EXPERTS FOR ADVISORY GROUP

Bureau members were asked to have a critical look at the note and give comments and views, especially regarding the proposed fields (which ones are missing? which ones can be deleted?) and the required qualifications. Netherlands suggested to an expert on data ethics, privacy and legal issues. This item comes back on the agenda for the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM (4) – ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA

The African Development Bank (AfDB) provided a note with planned activities. Regarding the organization of these activities, the objective is to have a capacity building session on Big Data for official statistics for African countries before the next Big Data Conference.

What AfDB expects from the GWG is technical assistance in the organization of the workshops in the form of trainers and training materials. Those training materials may already exist and could be re-used, for example those materials, which were used during the 2 days training workshops at the last Big Data Conference in Bogota.

AGENDA ITEM (5) – WORLD DATA FORUM

The GWG had the intention from the beginning to meet in the margins of the UNWDF. This could be a formal meeting as we have done in the past in the margins of our Big Data Conferences. We had hoped that we could showcase the work of the GWG during the UNWDF with some live demonstrations on use of satellite data, use of mobile phone data and the work of the privacy preserving techniques group. However, none of these sessions were approved by the programme committee of the UNWDF. Therefore, we are now considering making this pre-event into a showcasing of the work of the GWG to a broader audience, instead of having a formal meeting.

UAE/FCSA and UNSD spoke early last week, and FCSA informed that they are looking for a venue, which can hold at least 100 people. What this implies is that we have to establish a small organizing committee for our pre-event, which has to put the program together, promote the event, reach out to potential participants and do some sort of pre-registration, so FCSA will know how many people to expect. We could call the event "Open Day of the UN Global Working Group on Big Data", but other suggestions for a title of the day are still welcome. Who would like to volunteer for this organizing committee. Further details will be worked out between FCSA and UNSD for the next meeting.

Given the experience DANE has had for organizing the last big data conference, DANE offered to be part of the organizing committee.

ONS, UK, also offers help, as they are recruiting a marketing/communications/stakeholder person for the platform, who could help pull together the news and the Open Day at the WDF. In particular, ONS offers that Jane Harris would support the Open Day at the WDF; Jane has experience with EventBrite and can support the registration process

AGENDA ITEM (6) – AVAILABILITY OF DATA, METHODS AND ALGORITHMS ON THE GLOBAL PLATFORM

ONS, UK, circulated an Excel spreadsheet with availability of data, methods and algorithms on the global platform. Very good progress with the task teams on the platform could be reported. ONS, UK, will also be visiting UNSD and Statistics Canada in the second week of July to do technical and project workshops.

AGENDA ITEM (7) – OTHER BUSINESS

In our email exchange, no other business was brought up.