



UNITED NATIONS  
**United Nations Statistical Commission**  
**Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics**  
**Annual meeting**

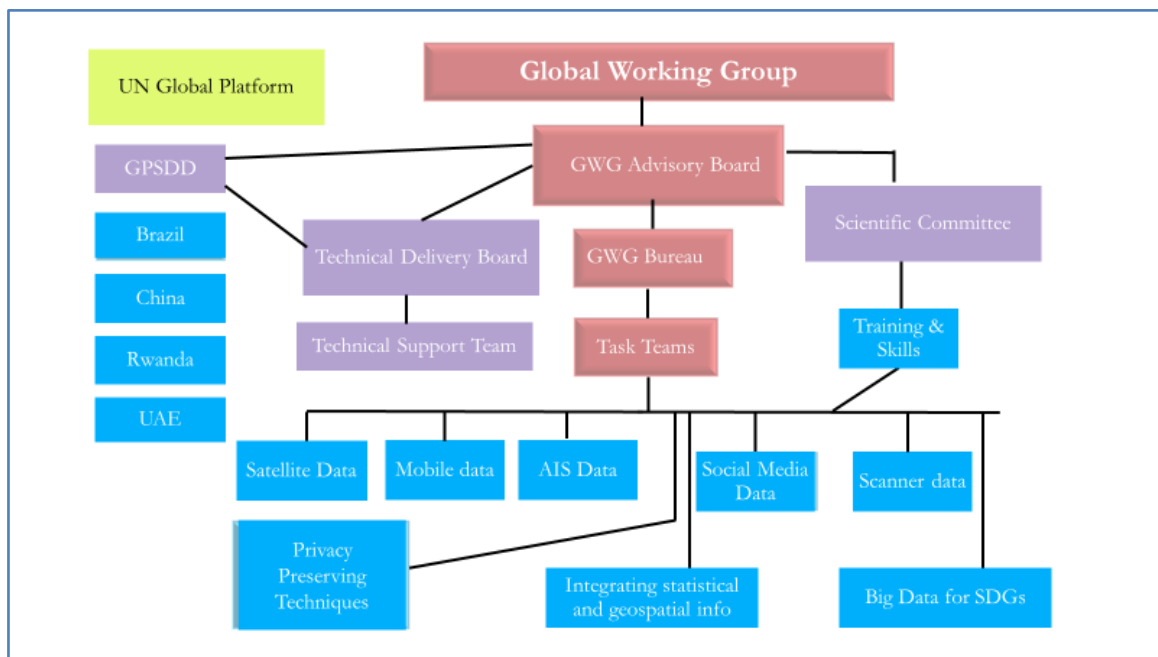


11 November 2020, 07:00 EST  
**Agenda item (2) – Organizational Structure**

**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**  
**OF THE UN GLOBAL WORKING GROUP ON BIG DATA FOR OFFICIAL STATISTICS**

**Background**

The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics was created in 2014 with Australia as its first Chair. In 2016, Denmark took over the Chairmanship. With the development of the UN Global Platform at the end of 2017, the GWG created an additional chair. At that point, Denmark was leading as co-chair the task teams and UK as co-chair leading the development of the UN Global Platform. Aside from changes in leadership, the management bodies evolved as well. When the Regional Hubs were created in 2019 a management board was needed to oversee the UN Global Platform and the Regional Hubs. This led to installing the Advisory Board for the UN Global Platform chaired by the UK. Having the GWG Bureau and the Advisory Board as two management bodies of the GWG led to some confusion about where decisions were taken. Therefore, further changes were made, which have been described in the GWG report to the Statistical Commission in 2020. The membership of the Advisory Board was expanded, and this board was given the role to provide more strategic direction, whereas the GWG Bureau was reduced in size and was taking charge of more day to day operational issues. The current structure is show in below diagram.



## Organizational structure

This section describes the various groups, which are active under the umbrella of the GWG.

Overall, the GWG is now led by one Chair (South Africa) and two vice-Chairs (Denmark and UK).

Denmark is coordinating the work of the Task Teams; and UK is overseeing the developments of the UN Global Platform and the Regional Hubs. The Chair will represent the GWG in any official function, such as the Statistical Commission, will lead the GWG plenary meeting and will lead the Advisory Board. The vice-Chairs take turn leading the GWG Bureau meetings.

**GWG plenary meeting.** The GWG consists of 30 member states and 16 international organizations (see Annex 1). A plenary meeting of the full membership will be organized once a year, usually in conjunction with the annual Conference on Big Data for official statistics. During this meeting the GWG membership can review and comment on all the activities and initiatives of the GWG.

**Advisory Board.** As mentioned, the Advisory Board is the management body of the GWG. It is scheduled to meet about 4 times per year to review the work of the GWG and give strategic direction. The Advisory Board has the following members: South Africa (Chair), UK, Brazil, China, Rwanda, UNECA, UAE, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico, Netherlands, African Development Bank, Eurostat, UNECE, UNESCAP and UNSD. It has been further proposed to add OECD to the Advisory Board, given increased involvement of OECD with the Technical Delivery Board and some of the projects on the UN Global Platform.

**GWG Bureau.** The Bureau takes care of the ongoing operations of the GWG and has the following members: UK, Denmark, Canada, Indonesia, Netherlands, South Africa, UAE and UNSD. The Bureau meets every two weeks. Meetings are alternated with focus on developments of the UN Global Platform, led by the UK; and with focus on the work of the task teams, led by Denmark.

**Technical Delivery Board.** The TDB is composed as follows: Canada (Chair), Netherlands, UK, UAE, China, Rwanda, UNECA, UNESCAP, OECD and UNSD. The TDB reviews and approves all project proposals for the UN Global Platform and advises the Bureau and the Advisory Board on the IT architecture and continuation or addition of services on the UN Global Platform.

The **Technical Support Team** does the operational support of the UN Global Platform and reports back to the Technical Delivery Board. Currently, UNSD, UK and the Netherlands are part of the technical support team. The UN Global Platform needs more support than currently available, and GWG members are asked for additional IT support.

**Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.** (<https://www.data4sdgs.org/>) GPSDD has teamed up with the UN GWG to manage the UN Global Platform. GPSDD has also been tasked with an evaluation and review of the platform.

**Task Teams.** Seven Task Teams are currently active under the GWG. A description of the work of the task teams is provided as document under agenda item (5) and is also available on the GWG website (<https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/>).

**Scientific Committee.** This committee is being set up and will be tasked with the quality control of all outputs of the GWG.

## Annex 1 – Members of the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics

### States

Australia  
Bangladesh  
Brazil  
Cameroon  
Canada  
China  
Colombia  
Denmark  
Egypt  
Georgia  
Germany  
Indonesia  
Ireland  
Italy  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Netherlands  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Poland  
Republic of Korea  
Rwanda  
Saudi Arabia  
South Africa  
Switzerland  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United Republic of Tanzania  
United States of America

### Organizations

African Development Bank  
Caribbean Community  
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe  
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Eurostat  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Global Pulse  
International Telecommunication Union  
International Monetary Fund  
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  
GCC-STAT  
United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Statistics Division  
Universal Postal Union  
World Bank