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 (6) – Report to the Statistical Commission

GWG Report to the Statistical Commission

The structure of the report of the GWG to the 52nd session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2021 is as follows:

I. Introduction

II. Progress of the GWG
    a. Organization of work
    b. Task Teams

III. UN Global Platform and the Regional Hubs

IV. Co-funding and co-development of the UN Global Platform

V. Events organized by the GWG
    a. 6th Conference on Big Data
    b. Seoul Declaration
    c. Other GWG events

VI. Next steps

VII. Points for discussion

Annex 1 – The Organizational Structure of GWG

Annex 2 - The Seoul declaration (full version)

An early draft of the report is annexed.

Possible Points for Discussion

The community of official statistics has shown during the COVID-19 pandemic, that it can effectively use Big Data and data science to support the Government response. In the following Points for Discussion, the GWG would like to acknowledge this fact, that our community has significantly progressed in finding new data solutions, and to emphasize that continuation of collaborative efforts with many stakeholder communities is essential for further improvement of the relevance of official statistics and indicators.

The Commission is invited to:

(i)   Support the use of Big Data and data science for compilation of official statistics and indicators by establishing new partnerships with multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, international agencies and other actors, and mobilizing necessary resources;

(ii)   Promote the UN Global Platform for the compilation of fast indicators to inform policies on emerging issues and key priority agendas in real-time, making swift course adjustments possible

(iii)   Encourage all statistical institutes, especially those from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to use the capabilities of the UN Global Platform in their own service delivery;

(iv)   Increase support to the UN Global Platform through in-kind and financial contributions together with partner organizations, to ensure sustainability of the collaboration platform for the longer term;

(v)   Promote the use of the Regional Hubs of the UN Global Platform for training and project activities; and

(vi)   Urge the swift implementation of a global program on training and certification in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics.

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Item 3 (xx) of the provisional agenda*
Items for discussion and decision: big data for official statistics

Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

DRAFT

I.   Introduction

In Decision 51/122 at its session in 2020, the Commission endorsed the United Nations Global Platform (UNGP) as a collaborative environment for data innovation by the global statistical community and all its partners, including a broad spectrum of stakeholder communities; and endorsed the governance structure and business model of the platform under the overall auspices of the Commission, while requesting further work on the funding aspects of the business model and coordination of the activities of the regional hubs with those of existing initiatives at the regional level. In this regard, the Commission also urged the UNGP network, including the global statistical community, the private sector, civil society and academia, to promote and mobilize resources and support for the UNGP and for the related training activities

The Commission also supported the planned data solutions projects and methodological guidance on the UNGP through the UN Global Working Group (GWG) task teams, and

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* E/CN.3/2020/1.

requested that the GWG focus on developing guidance for the harmonization of methods and the development of appropriate quality assurance frameworks for the use of big data for official statistics and Sustainable Development Goal indicators, in conformity with national laws and regulations.

Section II reports on the organization of work of the GWG and on the progess made by the GWG Task Teams. The developments of UNGP, its Regional Hubs, its Technical Delivery Board and the collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data are described in Section III, whereas Section IV explains the funding model of UNGP. Section V highlights the GWG events over the last year and Section VI describes the next steps advance the GWG work programme. Section VII concludes with the Points for Discussion.

II.   Progress of GWG

A.   Organization of work

Last year's report described the organization of work of the GWG through its Bureau, Advisory Board, Technical Delivery Board, Task Teams and Scientific Committee. 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.

[Coordination of the work of the task teams; and the role of the scientific committee]

[Coordination of the work on the UN Global Platform and its relation with the Regional Hubs; and the role of the Technical Delivery Board].

Annex 1 provides further details.

C.   GWG Task Teams

The GWG delivers most of its work through Task Teams, which develop methods, prepare handbooks, conduct capacity building activities and collaborate actively on the UN Global Platform. The GWG has active Task Teams on the use of satellite imagery data, mobile phone data, scanner data, AIS (vessel tracking) data and a Task Team on training, skills and capacity building. Progress of each of these Task Teams is reported in this section. A more detailed overview of their work is given in the background document.

C.1.   The Task Team on Satellite imagery data

[Item (5) - EO Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.2.   The Task Team on Mobile phone data

[Item (5) - MPD Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.3.   The Task Team on Scanner data

[Item (5) – Scanner data Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.4.   The Task Team on AIS vessel tracking data

[Item (5) – AIS Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.5.   The Task Team on privacy preserving techniques

[Item (5) - PPT Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.6.   The Task Team on Training, Competencies and Capacity Development

[Item (5) - Training Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.7.   The Task Team on Big Data and SDGs

[Item (5) – Big Data and SDGs Task Team - Achievements and Objectives]

C.8.   Other Task Teams

The GWG would like to further develop the task teams on integrating statistical and geospatial information, on Rural Access Index and SDG 9.1.1 and on Mapping Informal Settlements and SDG 11.1.1

III.   UN Global Platform and the Regional Hubs

At its 51st session in March 2020, the Commission endorsed the UN Global Platform as a collaborative environment for data innovation by the global statistical community and all its partners, including a broad spectrum of stakeholder communities.

To facilitate collaboration on data projects across many geographies and involving multiple stakeholder communities, the Office for National Statistics of the UK developed and maintained on behalf of the GWG the UN Global Platform (UNGP) from 2018 to 2020. UNGP is a Cloud-base collaboration environment for the global statistical community. It offers technology infrastructure for data innovation and the ability to scale, connect, and work with many partners, including private sector, civil society and academia, both virtually and physically in a shared state-of-the-art technology and institutional environment for official statistics.

To fulfil its global reach, the ownership of UNGP was transferred from the UK to the UN community on 1 June 2020. This means that the UN community is now fully responsible for operating, maintaining and funding UNGP. Funding has been found so far through some of the capacity development funds of UNSD, but more funding is needed from all GWG members. A separate document under agenda item (3) deals with the funding model for UNGP. The GWG has been able to partner with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (https://www.data4sdgs.org/), which is managing UNGP on behalf of the UN since July 2020.

UNGP allows access to several global data sets such as AIS data on vessel tracking (and similar data on planes) that can help develop timely indicators of trade; and detailed satellite imagery for agricultural and environment statistics. A global community of users and colleagues has been brought together, with regional hubs establishing around the world. Successful outputs are being produced using UNGP, including rapid economic indicators of shipping, published weekly. An overview of data and services is shown in the picture below.

Projects on UNGP include satellite data for agriculture and environment statistics, scanner data for CPI calculation, open street map and World Pop data for estimation of rural access index and .STAT technology for data dissemination. All of these projects have involvement of developing countries. An overview of the ongoing projects is presented in Annex 1.
The expected long-term outcomes of the UNGP include increased capacity of national statistical systems to produce more relevant statistical data and improved dissemination of data to policy makers and other users. Knowledge transfer will also be an outcome, including sharing of experiences in South-South collaboration.

Regional Hubs in support of the UN Global Platform

To facilitate in-person training and project activities using the UN Global Platform at the regional level, four regional hubs have been established, in Brazil, China, Rwanda and UAE, which aim to bring the community of official statisticians together at regional level for projects using Big Data and data science for the estimation of statistics and SDG indicators, for sharing knowledge on newly developed methods, algorithms and tools, and for providing training in the use of Big Data and data science.

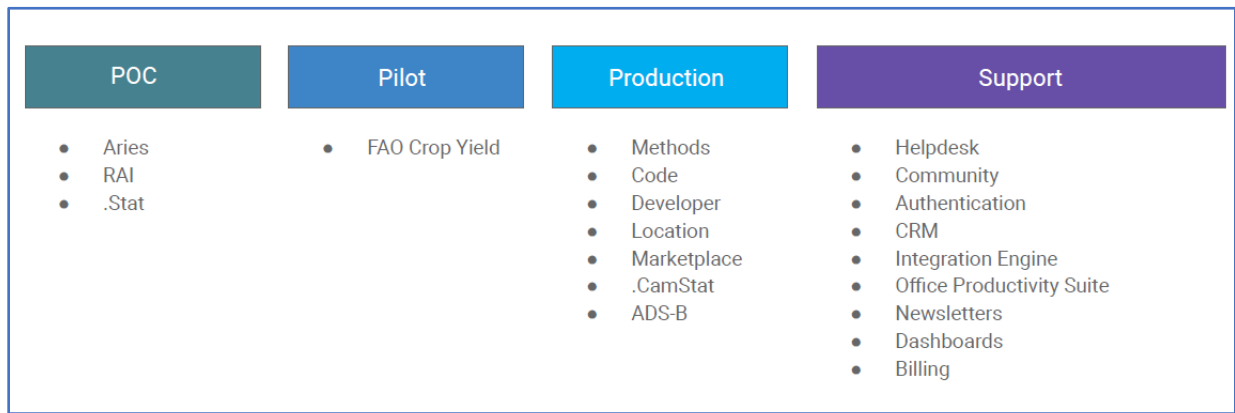The Regional Hub will generally encompass the following activities:
- research on the use of Big Data and data science for the development of new statistical methods and techniques;

- capacity-building and training of statisticians and data scientists from national, regional and global statistical offices;

- international seminars and workshops on data science and modernization of official statistics;

- further development and maintenance of the United Nations Global Platform - in collaboration with other regional hubs - for the sharing of trusted data, trusted methods and trusted learning among the community of official statistics and its stakeholders;

During 2020 it has not been possible to hold in-person activities, such as workshops, seminars or project meetings, at these Regional Hubs. If the pandemic continues into most of 2021, the Regional Hubs should engage more in virtual events, such as webinars or on-line training. GWG members organized a successful Hackathon in September 2020 using AIS data to build applications for COVID-19 response or Climate Action. Such Hackathons could also be organized with the Regional Hubs.

Technical Delivery Board

Current membership includes Canada (Chair), Netherlands, UAE, OECD, UK, China, Rwanda, UNECA, UNESCAP and UNSD.
The Technical Delivery Board (TDB) of the UN Global Platform provides strategic direction and oversight regarding the development of UNGP and its relation to the Regional Hubs. TDB reviews and approves proposals of the project phases from Proof of Concept through Pilot to Production. Several projects are currently running on the platform and are described in Annex 1 and by phase in the diagram below.

POC	Pilot	Production	Support
• Aries • RAI • .Stat	• FAO Crop Yield	• Methods • Code • Developer • Location • Marketplace • .CamStat • ADS-B	• Helpdesk • Community • Authentication • CRM • Integration Engine • Office Productivity Suite • Newsletters • Dashboards • Billing

A COVID-19 dedicated page has been created in UNGP website for collaboration and information sharing. For example, several dashboards are shown with high-frequent indicators for trade, travel and transportation. UNGP could be used more actively by GWG members and partners with a role of connecting people, data, and methods to contribute to COVID work. A key strength of UNGP is bringing together experts, services, and data – in a collaborative space, together with the ability to take algorithms and methods and turn them into services quickly.

TDB and the UNGP operational support team encourage the GWG task teams and GWG members to put forward further project proposals. These proposals need to be accompanied with indications on how the project will be supported both with human and financial resources. As explained in the other document under this agenda item, the business model of UNGP is a community model with co-investments and co-developments. The core Cloud-services of UNGP will be financially protected first from core funding, so projects can be initiated. Further growth of projects with additional commercial data and services will need to be financed with project funding.

TDB will support the platform marketing efforts by highlighting the key values of the platform: its network of experts working together; a ready-built platform that manages collaboration, learnings, projects, data, services and algorithms; and the quality focus of NSOs on coherence, interpretability and repeatability. UNGP presents opportunities for NSOs to complement and enhance their innovation activities, which may be "trapped" by internal provisioning and limits. These are differentiators from other data platforms.

Finally, TDB wants to increase its interaction with task teams through more regular meetings with the task team leads. Those meetings will help to better explain the potential of platform and its services, and how UNGP can help with task team activities. The platform provides an important sandbox for exploration, with low barriers to entry. Fundamentally, the platform model of UNGP implies that the value of UNGP increases exponentially with the level of participation, contribution and expert networking.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development data

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data[1] (GPSDD) is an initiative of the United Nations Foundation[2]. GPSDD strives to create a world where good data is used to achieve just and sustainable societies. By improving the production and use of data through collaboration, GPSDD wants to help create a critical part of the infrastructure for a better world. By focusing attention on where the need is greatest, GPSDD wants to ensure that the world's best expertise is brought to bear on the world's worst problems, to transform people's lives for the better. GPSDD wants to actively achieve better data for better decisions and better lives by, among others, forging collective action by driving global collaboration to improve the production and use of data in critical areas; communicating the value of investing in data and of multi-stakeholder collaborations on data; bringing together multiple data communities at global and national level to spur innovation and collaboration; and by helping ensure the interoperability of technology platforms for assembling, accessing, and using data. As is evident from the above, GWG and GPSDD are well aligned in their objectives, and collaboration on the UN Global Platform fits with all the aspirations.

IV. Co-funding and co-development of the UN Global Platform

At its 51st session in March 2020, endorsed the governance structure and business model of the UN Global Platform presented under the overall auspices of the Commission, while requesting further work on the funding aspects of the business model, requesting coordination of the activities of the regional hubs with those of existing initiatives at the regional level and requesting regular reporting to the Commission, especially on the activities of the regional hubs.

The UN Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics initiated the development of the UN Global Platform (UNGP) in November 2017 at its annual meeting in Bogota. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) of the UK then actually established a dedicated team inside of ONS to develop and maintain the first version of UNGP in 2018.

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[1] See http://www.data4sdgs.org/whatwedo
[2] See https://unfoundation.org/what-we-do/initiatives/ for more details

UNGP facilitates collaboration on data projects across many geographies and involving multiple stakeholder communities (more information on UNGP is given in the overview document under this agenda item).

ONS invested in the initial phase of UNGP, but to support scale-up of use across the global statistics community, the next phase should be led by the UN community. This required transfer of UNGP from ONS to the UN Statistics Division (UNSD). Therefore, on 1 June 2020 the ownership of the platform was transferred to the UN community, which will from here on be responsible for:

- Setting-up arrangements with suitable suppliers for the continuation of services,

- Providing continued support for UNGP from 1st June 2020, as set out in the letter from the GWG to heads of offices of the national statistical offices (see more info in the next section), and

- Operating UNGP from 1st June 2020, including making decisions on services and development guided by the Technical Delivery Board.

UNSD was very happy to secure collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), which is managing UNGP on behalf of the UN since July 2020. GPSDD interacts with the service providers and evaluates the user needs on UNGP.

Contributions to the UN Global Platform

A joint letter signed by the Chief Statisticians of South Africa, Denmark, and the UK, and by the Director of the UN Statistics Division was sent to all members of the global statistical community on 21 April 2020 (see letter attached). An accompanying short survey inquired about possible contributions, financially or in-kind, to the UN Global Platform. In total, 44 institutes (40 countries and 4 agencies) responded. About 50% of the institutes were willing to contribute technical staff, and about 45% were interested to contribute in-kind to project and training activities. Only 25% indicated that they could contribute financially to specific activities.

The responding institutes also provided valuable comments. The national statistical view the use of new data sources and of data science as important positive developments. It was also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to show the benefits of collaboration on new data solutions, but it also had put pressure on institutes to generate funds. As shown in the table, countries are willing to make in-kind contributions, but have difficulties to directly contribute funds. Funding via projects or training could be more successful.

The Community Model of the UN Global Platform

The strength of the UN Global Platform is the in-kind contributions of about 275 active experts through the GWG task teams and the projects on UNGP. They are experts in areas of use of satellite data (and modelling) for agriculture and environment statistics; experts in methods for compiling indicators on human mobility based on mobile positioning data; experts on scanner data and price statistics; experts on AIS data and maritime transport; experts on privacy preserving techniques; experts on SDG indicators and use of Big Data; and experts on building capacity for use of Big Data and data science. All these experts generate value in terms of methods, guidance and training materials.

The projects and other activities on the UN Global Platform are driven by task teams. The task teams should ensure that a larger community of experts is supporting the development and maintenance of a project. They should ensure that support is provided by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of subject-matter experts, data scientists and IT experts. The UNGP team will provide some of the back-end IT support, but the operation and maintenance of applications will mostly be done by the project group.

Besides the substantive contributions, value on UNGP is also generated through the in-kind IT support. For the Sen2Agri, the .STAT and the ARIES projects the major advantage/strength of the UN Global Platform is the availability of in-kind back-end IT support. The IT systems support by the UNGP technical team provides stability and reliability for the projects on UNGP, which is costly if acquired from the commercial market. In fact, for the growing number of projects on UNGP more IT support is needed than what is currently available. GWG members will be approached with the questions to make IT staff available for support of projects on UNGP.

Sustainable funding

The weakness – at this moment – is the lack of sustained funding to pay for the necessary services of UNGP. From the beginning of 2018 until June 2020, the Office for National Statistics of the UK invested significant amounts of funding to stand up and maintain the UN Global Platform. From 1 June 2020 onwards the UN community has taken over the maintenance of the platform, which consists of in-kind IT support and funding for the acquisition of data and services.

So far, it has been the UN Statistics Division which has redirected some of its capacity development funding to financially support the UN Global Platform for the second half of 2020. As of 1 January 2021, the financial burden of the maintenance of the platform should be shared by the statistical community. It is proposed to set up a Finance Committee for the

UN Global Platform, which will be task with fund raising and with developing plans to secure longer term funding for UNGP.

At this moment the services, which are absolutely needed for UNGP, are the Cloud services and support services, including user access, document and management services. At current usage this amounts to about $300,000 per year. This would be the base funding of UNGP. The AIS task team has been very productive in 2020, including a handbook, training materials, an application with fast transport indicators and a Hackathon with 17 competing teams. The AIS related services on the platform are, however, relatively expensive and amount to over $300,000 on a yearly basis. Some other services, like the methods service and the web development services are services, which are needed to grow the platform, but are not part of the basic UNGP services.

Split between Base funding and Project funding

Most of the ongoing projects on the UN Global Platform only consume Cloud services as a cost. This implies that if the GWG is able to cover the Cloud cost, then the UN Global Platform will be able to execute most of its projects (including, for example, running the production environment of some .STAT databases). This availability of the Cloud services is a must; so the funding needed for the Cloud service is the base funding of the platform, which should be arranged on a longer term contract.

Any additional funding can come from projects, which will be initiated at different times and do not necessarily guarantee a steady flow of funds. If we make the distinction between base funding (about $300k annually) and project funding (any additional amount), then the GWG can sustain the platform and gradually grow it. As a target for the growth of the UN Global Platform, we aim for 20% base funding and 80% project funding. As of 1 January 2021, specific services need to be covered from project budgets. This implies, for example, that AIS services will have to be paid from project funds.

Co-investment and co-development: recommendation from the Friends of the Chair group on Economic Statistics

The FOC group on Economic Statistics is proposing in its upcoming report to the UN Statistical Commission various key activities including collaborative actions on co-investment and co-production for global statistical infrastructure, operations, and data solutions; and through the prioritization of global use cases for co-investment and co-development. This could be achieved among others through common technological solutions (for the integration of geospatial data, the use of data science, the use of nowcasting techniques, and the production of high frequency statistics). The FOC recommends using the UNGP for this purpose.

V.   Events organized by the GWG

A.   6th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, 31 August – 2 September 2020, virtual

This Conference[3] was held virtually and was organized by Statistics Korea, UNSD, UNESCAP and other members of the GWG.

[more text]

The Conference showcased many successful projects, using alternative data sources and new technologies, as part of the COVID-19 response.

[more text]

B.   Seoul Declaration

[main points from the Seoul Declaration]

C.   Other events

Due to COVID-19 no physical events have taken place since early this year. There have been several virtual events organized by GWG in addition to the 6th Conference on Big Data, namely

- AIS Hackathon
- The GWG Road to Bern webinar

Data innovation and use of Big Data have been topics at the Statistics Committee meeting for Asia and the Pacific, 2020 Asia Statistics week, the IOC Statistical Commission, and the Statistical Commission for Africa.

VI.   Next steps

A.   Task Teams

[main points going forward]

Training and Capacity building

B.   UN Global Platform

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[3] See https://unstats.un.org/unsd/bigdata/conferences/2020/

Innovative data solutions

[Project information]
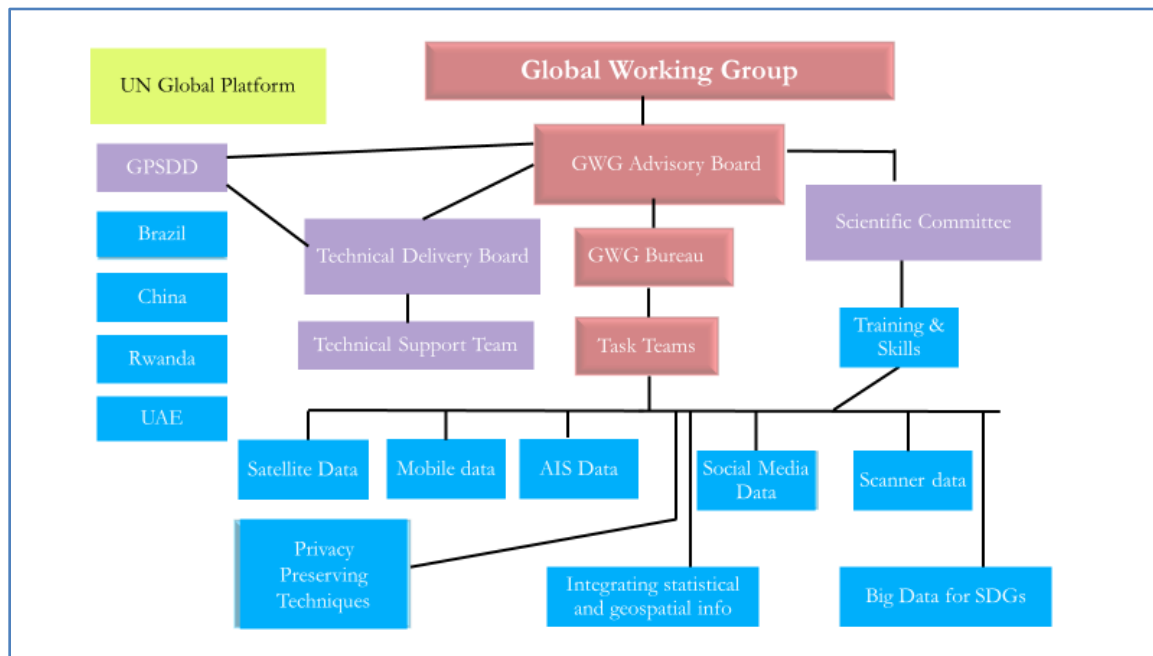
Outreach and fund raising

[Finance Committee]

VII. Points for discussion

The Commission is invited to:

(i) Support the use of Big Data and data science for compilation of official statistics and indicators by establishing new partnerships with multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, international agencies and other actors, and mobilizing necessary resources;

(ii) Promote the UN Global Platform for the compilation of fast indicators to inform policies on emerging issues and key priority agendas in real-time, making swift course adjustments possible

(iii) Encourage all statistical institutes, especially those from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to use the capabilities of the UN Global Platform in their own service delivery;

(iv) Increase support to the UN Global Platform through in-kind and financial contributions together with partner organizations, to ensure sustainability of the collaboration platform for the longer term;

(v) Promote the use of the Regional Hubs of the UN Global Platform for training and project activities; and

(vi) Urge the swift implementation of a global program on training and certification in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics.

ANNEX I – Organizational structure of the GWG

Leadership: 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.

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 II –

Seoul Declaration

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for Official Statistics to provide strategic vision, direction and coordination for a global program on the use of Big Data and advanced technologies in the compilation of official statistics and of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including the developing necessary capacity and skills in national statistical systems.

Recalling the adoption of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data by the Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017 to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which requires the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of an unprecedented amount of data and statistics at local, national, regional and global levels and by multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing necessary resources

Reiterating the Kigali Declaration of the GWG that the UN Global Platform

- should provide technological infrastructure as a service for all UN Member States, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to facilitate their access to global data sets and state of the art tools and services;

- should also connect all its partners, including the UN agencies as well as government agencies, private sector companies, research institutes, academia and civil society organizations, to work jointly on common goals;

- should facilitate the exchange, development and sharing of data, methods, tools and expertise, and accelerate data innovation for official statistics and SDG indicators; and

- should provide an environment for capacity development activities to teach and develop new competencies in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, data science, machine learning and privacy-preserving techniques;

Reiterating the Kigali Declaration of the GWG that the UN Global Platform should have multiple hubs in various regions of the world to build capacity and deliver regional support including for official statistics, working under a well-defined governance framework;

The UN Global Working Group at its 6th International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics is

- Calling on the statistical community to embrace the use of Big Data for compilation of official statistics and SDG indicators by establishing new partnerships with multiple stakeholders, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing necessary resources;

- Calling on the statistical community and its stakeholder communities to increase support to the UN Global Platform through in-kind and financial contributions, to ensure sustainability of the platform for the longer term;

- Calling on the statistical community to promote the use of the Regional Hubs of the UN Global Platform for training and project activities;

- Encouraging all statistical institutes, especially those from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States, to use the capabilities of the UN Global Platform in their own service delivery;

- Calling on the statistical community and its public and private sector partners to continue their efforts in finding secure and trusted solutions for data sharing using appropriate privacy preserving techniques;

- Encouraging all stakeholder communities, including private sector, to share data, methods, technology and learning materials on the UN Global Platform for social good;

- Promoting the use of the UN Global Platform for the compilation of fast indicators to inform policies on emerging issues and key priority agendas in real-time, making swift course adjustments possible; and

- Moving forward quickly on the implementation of a global program on training and certification in the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics;