

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;