

Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST)

Founding Members' WebEx Meeting; May 24, 2018, 7:30 - 9:30am (New York Time)

Chair: Helen MacGillivray

Participants: AITRS, EASTC, ENSEA, Eurostat, ISI, PARIS 21, SESRIC, UNITAR, UNSD, World Bank, Brazil (IBGE), China (International Statistical Training Center), India (National Statistical System Training Academy), US Census Bureau, Republic of Korea.

Summary of discussions

1. Welcome

- The Chair described the **work conducted since the Statistical Commission**. After identifying logistics and practical interpretation of meeting discussions, a report was drafted which outlined various work streams and activities. Alongside, a survey was sent to founding members soliciting preferences for work streams they wanted to be part of. A suggestion of task teams was also circulated.

2. Introduction to the work streams and activities

- The Chair summarized the various activities of the **five work streams**, highlighting that the implementation of each work stream would be led by a task team consisting of approximately 5 founding members. This approach of working in parallel teams was chosen for pragmatic and practical reasons. A team of 5-6 members facilitates electronic work and meetings, in-depth discussions and progression of work.

Leaders of these task teams, along with the Chair of GIST and the GIST Secretariat, would form an **executive board** which will coordinate and oversee GIST's overall activities. This board would meet electronically every 2-3 months.

- Discussions:
 - **Task teams will be able to further define and detail the scope/type of work** they will undertake (for example: focus on e-learning, or other types of learning) and the timeline. The teams will consider work streams as living entities that will evolve and mature over time.
 - The **executive board will play a key role** in ensuring that activities are kept informed, coordinated, with collaborations encouraged across work streams. This executive board of 5-6 members allows for **more in-depth discussions** and allows the board to consider strategic issues while also being informed of overall progress.



3. Suggested task teams; finalize teams

- The Chair informed the group that the suggestions for the task teams were **based on the responses received from the survey and giving respondents their top preferences as much as possible**. 3 founding members—IMF, UNECA, and SPC—have not indicated their preference yet.
- Discussions:
 - **Tasks teams should consult with relevant founding members outside the team** while conducting their work, particularly if there are founding members who specialize in the topic but are not part of the group. The executive board will facilitate this process. Consultation at appropriate times with specific external expertise, particularly with respect to statistical literacy, could also occur.
 - **Finalization of task teams**: Secretariat will reach out to IMF, UNECA and SPC to solicit their preference on the work stream they want to be part of. Task teams will be **finalized by 5 June**.

4. Identification of representatives for teams, leaders of task teams, and working modalities moving forward

- **Task teams, once finalized, will select a team leader**. The teams will decide on the modality of their work and the frequency in which they will meet.
- Discussions:
 - Members agreed on **selecting the team leaders** *after* the team composition are finalized.
 - **UNSD will organize individual initial meetings for the task teams**. Team members will choose a leader during this meeting and will also discuss the scope of their work, and the modalities in which they will advance the work stream's activities.
 - Once team leaders are selected, the **first meeting of the executive board** is expected to take place before mid-July.

5. Identification of resource needs and possible sources

- UNSD informed members that it will use resources from the China Trust Fund to **recruit a consultant** who will help in assembling information and other relevant work for input to work stream 1.
- Discussions:
 - There are many **interlinkages between work stream 1 and others**. The work of the consultant will therefore be available to other work streams and the consultant will include some information-gathering relevant to other work streams.
 - UNSD will share the proposed **Terms of Reference** for the consultant with members who are interested suggesting potential consultants.



Action points

- i. If founding members have any **comments on task team composition** (for example: be part of an additional team, or change teams), they will provide them to the Secretariat by June 5. They will also provide the names of focal points representing them in the task teams by the same date.
- ii. **IMF, SPC and UN ECA to indicate their preference for task teams**, and the names of the focal points representing them in the task teams by June 5.
- iii. Individual **task teams will meet electronically** for the first time in June. UNSD will provide support in organizing these meetings.
- iv. **Executive Board's** first meeting to be conducted by July.
- v. UNSD will proceed with **recruiting a consultant** to advance work, particularly for work stream 1. ToRs for the consultant will be shared with founding member organizations who have expressed interest in providing feedback.

