

Statistical Commission
49th session
6 – 9 March 2018

Item X of the Provisional Agenda

Big Data for official statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. As requested, the Global Working Group (GWG) provides in this report the business case for a global platform for data, services and applications with proofs of concept. The report describes global data collaboratives with technology companies, data providers and academia, giving due attention to the formulation of standards and guidelines for data governance and information management, addressing issues of trust, privacy, confidentiality and security of data. These global data collaboratives address the need to exchange ideas and methods for processing, analyzing and visualizing of Big Data among official statisticians, data scientists and domain experts from the public and private sectors; to store, share and exchange Big Data, related processing, analytical and visualization methodologies, and services and applications for continuous development and reuse; and to share resources for training materials and workshops on Big Data for official statistics. The GWG reports on several training workshops it already developed for the use of satellite data for crop statistics, mobile phone data for tourism statistics, social media data for sentiment analysis and scanner data for price statistics. The Commission is invited to comment on the proposal for global data collaboratives facilitated by a global platform for data, services and applications.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics