COLOMBIA STATEMENT
3e- Big Data for Official Statistics
March 07 - 2017

Colombia, as a member of the Global Working Group, approves the work of the Working Group and thanks all its members for the efforts to promote the use of alternative sources of information, such as big data, for generating official information in an innovative, timely and consistent way; and to also promote the use of information exchange and information management mechanisms.

Last year we had the opportunity to host the IV Global Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics, which had the Bogotá Declaration as a result. The conference, co-organized with the United Nations Statistics Division and the GWG country members, with support of other stakeholders, came across as an exhibition space and an environment for exchanging innovative exercises and concrete results. Also, this version of the Conference contemplated more active participation from the countries of the region and set, as a clear priority, knowledge sharing and management, evident in the 4 successful workshops on big data application.

The recent global experiences, and the experiences of Colombia itself, show the vast range of options to make the most of alternative sources of data; these are as vast as data itself. Although it is clear that the use of big data demands refinement and well-defined standards, it is also clear that big data represents an enormous opportunity for the continuous improvement processes us, as NSOs, face.

Nevertheless, and for these purposes, we make a strong call on the statistical community to promote capacity building to make the most of these opportunities.

Finally, we reaffirm our support and invite the GWG to continue its work, and also invite the statistical community to keep and strengthen its support to the exploration of methods and alternative data sources to enrich our daily processes.