Evening Event

COLLABORATING ON NEW DATA SOLUTIONS:

UN Global Platform and its Regional Hubs

- Wednesday, 4 MAR 2020

- 6:15 – 7:45 pm

- UN Church Center, 2nd floor, 777 UN Plaza (corner of 1st Ave & 44th St, entrance on 44th St)

Meeting organized by the UN Global Working Group on Big Data

Snacks and refreshments are provided by Statistics Denmark

This evening event is an information session given by those who are directly involved in the management and maintenance of the UN Global Platform. This is a unique occasion to meet those persons who are the drivers behind the UN Global Platform.

As early as 2014, the Commission officially acknowledged that the statistical community needed to seriously explore the benefit and challenges of use of Big Data for official statistics. Could we improve timelines, frequency and granularity of our statistical outputs by including new data sources, new technologies and new skills in our production processes? Should we engage in longer term partnerships with private sector and academia to achieve these goals?

Over the last 5 years, the Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data responded by delivering handbooks and training on topics, such as use of Earth Observations for agricultural crop statistics, use of mobile phone data for tourism and migration statistics, scanner data for CPI and on privacy preserving techniques. For such active collaboration on data innovation it is necessary to have a digital environment, which can be accessed from anywhere at any time; which is technically supported by our community; and which contains large data sets, advanced technology and corresponding services (including training), which would be difficult and inefficient, if acquired by each of our institutes individually.

We are grateful that the Office of National Statistics (ONS) of the United Kingdom stepped forward in 2018 to lead on building a digital environment for the whole statistical community. This platform, named **the UN Global Platform**, offers the possibility to share data, methods, tools and algorithms, and to connect to a broad network of experts. It is currently being used by more than 400 staff from various institutes, mostly government but also from private sector, civil society and academia. We can now indeed actively collaborate. Satellite data and earth observation services are in place for our project with FAO and the World Bank regarding estimation of crop yield. AIS vessel tracking data are being used to

nowcast trade and transport statistics. Most recently, global air traffic data on the platform have been used to track the possible spreading of the coronavirus.

Agenda

Introduction by Risenga Maluleke, Statistician General, Statistics South Africa

Presentations (6:20 to 7:15)

- **Mark Craddock, Technical lead of the UN Global Platform, ONS, UK**
- **Tom Smith, Director of Data Science Campus, ONS, UK**
- **Niels Ploug, Lead of GWG Task Teams, Statistics Denmark**
- **Regional Hub for Africa**
- **Regional Hub in the United Arab Emirates**
- **Ronald Jansen, Data Innovation and Capacity Development, UN Statistics Division**

Networking (7:15 to 7:45)