

United Nations Statistical Commission

Fifty-second session

1–3 and 5 March 2021

Item 3 (j) of the provisional agenda

Items for discussion and decision: big data

Document E/CN.3/2021/14 – Report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics

Statement provided by:

The State of Kuwait

Statement:

Unofficial translation:

The State of Kuwait welcomes and supports the work undertaken by the task forces, including manuals, methods, projects and training courses, and supports the establishment of a new task force on obtaining global data on the private sector.

The State of Kuwait encourages the use of the United Nations global platform and regional centers for training and project activities, including grouping, rapid indicators to guide policies on emerging issues, and in particular to encourage statistical institutes in the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to utilize the capabilities of the Global Platform to provide their data.

The State of Kuwait agrees on the societal model as a financing strategy for the global platform to ensure its sustainability in the longer term.

The State of Kuwait encourages and supports the timely implementation of a global program for training and accreditation in the use of big data and science data for official statistics purposes.

The State of Kuwait agrees to change the name of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics to become a Committee of the United Nations experts on big data and data science for official statistics.

After coordination with the ESCWA group:

Kuwait welcomes the establishment of the Regional Center of Excellence for Big Data Applications and Capacity Building in the United Arab Emirates as one the three centers of the United Nations in the world. The potential benefits of a center are essential to official national statistics in the Arab countries, and to localize best practices and experiences from different regions as part of the UN global big data platform.

The launch of activities in 2021 is an opportunity to harness practical applications of big data to help Arab countries in building statistical evidence better and more sustainably while recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic with the urgent need for timely data - to supplement and, in some case, also replace traditional data collection due to lockdown health risks, security constraints, or high cost burdens. Kuwait also emphasises the importance of making use of the potential applications of big data to track the progress of the SDG indicators.

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