

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:

MEXICO

Statement:

(a) Acknowledge and support the task teams' work, including the handbooks, methods, projects, and training courses, and support creating a new task team to acquire global private-sector data.

Mexico welcomes and recognizes the work done so far, since it contributes to the development of capabilities in many ways, as a guide by providing a common framework for developing effective practice and the opportunity to share experiences and collaborate in practitioner's communities.

(b) Promote the use of the UN Global Platform and the Regional Hubs for training and project activities, including the compilation of fast indicators to inform policies on emerging issues; and especially encourage statistical institutes from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States to use UN Global Platform's capabilities in their service delivery.

Mexico supports the call to promote the use of the UN Global Platform and the regional hubs.

(c) Endorse the community model as a funding strategy for the UN Global Platform to ensure its sustainability for the longer term, and in this regard:

Mexico thinks it is essential to be explicit about the proposed business model of the UN Global Platform. It must be clear what the commitments are and the benefits for the participants. We consider that it is crucial to guarantee long-term sustainability and relevance.

(i) Encourage all members of the global statistical community to make in-kind contributions by making experts available:

Mexico considers that in-kind contributions may be the only feasible alternative to contribute for developing countries; it is essential that experts find easy ways to enrol in these activities.

(ii) Encourage all members of the statistical community and its partners to contribute financially to the platform either directly or through project funding.

Mexico would like to point out that financial contribution is not always easy for some countries, not only for the scarcity of financial resources but also for national legislation constraints, so we think that the participation of experts in activities related to the platform development must be equivalent to project funding.

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

(iii) Support the creation of a Finance Committee to further develop a strategic funding approach.

We support the creation of the Committee as a formula to analyse alternatives to raise funds.

(d) Encourage and support timely implementation of a global program on training and certification in using Big Data and data science for official statistics.

Mexico thinks that this training and certification program could consider the limitations and drawbacks of Big Data and Data Science for official statistics. It should be precise when it is appropriate to take advantage of these alternative data sources and techniques. Moreover, in the training program, it is desirable to include a track that determines under which conditions the results obtained from Big Data and Data Science could be considered official statistics on a regular or experimental basis.

(e) Endorse the change of name of the global working group to UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD).

Mexico endorses the change of name of the global working group to UN-CEBD.

Submitted on:

2/19/2021