

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:

Rwanda

Statement:

Rwanda would like to express on behalf of the Africa Group a contribution to the subject matter

We underscore the key role and contribution of ECA and the African Development Bank to the UN Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics since 2017 including capacity building to regional member countries and collaboration with the UN Global working group and its regional hub in Kigali.

Africa group commends the Global Working Group (GWG) task teams work that developed methods, handbook and organized capacity building activities.

Appreciates the establishment of the Global platform and particularly the Regional Hub in Kigali.

Appreciates the GWG for keeping on organizing events virtually, specifically the 6th International Conference on Big Data for official statistics, in late 2020, and,

Also endorses the change of name of the global working group to UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics.

Africa group would like to recall the establishment of the Data Science Campus at ECA:

- to take a coordination role and lead the promotion of data science methods and techniques for use within member states. A key to this ambition will be encouraging and coordinating collaboration and knowledge exchange, plus leading on the development of good practice, standards and guidance, including an ethical framework for the application of data science;
- To undertake research, to coordinate member state partnerships, to assist with the building of prototypes, the provision of demonstrations, and the packaging and dissemination of solutions for all member states;
- To use its convening powers to provide various capacity building activities that build data science knowledge and skills for its Member States through knowledge exchange. Through the work of the UN Task Team on Big Data in Training, Competencies and Capacity Development, the Centre will also assist with the development a network of data science training providers across Africa, maximizing the role of academia.

In this regard, in 2021 the planned activities include:

- Organizing a webinar of the “African Art of the Possible” for data science for National Statistical System in Africa

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Organizing training workshops for data science tools and techniques for National Statistical Offices in Africa- Overseeing two cross-member state research projects that are of pan-African interest on SDGs that will include further research into the use of new data sources and methodologies, and through the collaboration and use of the Regional Hub and the UN Global Platform that will be made more widely available for others to adopt.- Data visualization: Developing dashboard techniques using new coding tools and techniques for the adoption of other countries. |
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Submitted on:	February 17, 2021
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