

VG Governance and Bureau Representation

Historical Background

- ▶ Recognizing that technical expertise and practical experience resides in national statistical offices, city groups were originally formed by national statistical agencies to address selected problems in statistical methods.
- ▶ City groups were seen as an innovative way to use country resources to improve and speed up international standard development process because these small groups work effectively, free from bureaucratic interference.

Historical Role of VG Bureau

- ▶ Strong and stable leadership is required for the VG to be effective and make progress on its mandate.
- ▶ Over the last 10 years, VG bureau membership has been relatively stable and considerable progress has been made. Increased turnover in bureau membership in recent years, however, is an increased risk to the stability of the bureau and effectiveness of the VG.
- ▶ Steps taken last year to begin to address risks – revisit this year

Other reminders

- ▶ City groups are now under the umbrella of the UN Statistical Commission which reviews their accomplishments and approves their terms of reference.
- ▶ City groups determine their own working agendas and mechanisms of work. Membership to city groups is voluntary.
- ▶ They do provide periodic reports to the UNSD; last one provided in December 2012 for 2013 UNSC meeting:
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc13/2013-19-VoorburgGroup-E.pdf>

Role of VG bureau

- ▶ VG group is managed by a small number of VG members (including Chairperson)
- ▶ Membership to bureau is determined through a nomination process
- ▶ To deliver on its mandate and ensure progress, the VG bureau (under the leadership of the Chairperson) must:
 - Identify and choose host cities
 - Prepare and chair the annual meetings (identify topics, presenters, session leaders and discussants, document proceedings, assist with host-city preparations, work with webmaster of permanent VG website)
 - Liaise with UNSC (UNSD), prepare progress reports
 - Obtain feedback from Group members as needed

Current VG bureau membership

- ▶ Chair: David Friedman, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- ▶ Host country: Hideo Ishihara, Statistics Bureau of Japan
- ▶ Former host country: Renata Rechnio, CSO–Poland (replaces Agnieszka Matulska–Bachura at VG 2013 meeting)
- ▶ Michael Morgan, Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ▶ Alain Gallais, INSEE–France
- ▶ Derek Bird, ONS, U.K. (replacing Liam Murray at VG 2013 meeting)

Review of the criteria agreed to at VG 2012 meeting for the selection of bureau members

- ▶ 7 member bureau (Chair, 2 host country reps, 3–4 other members)
- ▶ Fixed terms with staggered nominations to ensure continuity and stability of bureau
- ▶ Selection of members through open nomination process managed by bureau (what we did prior to VG 2012 too)
- ▶ Chair selected from within the existing Bureau if possible
- ▶ Balanced representation if possible (North America, Europe, Asia, Other)

Additional guidelines for selecting bureau members

- ▶ When selecting a bureau member, consideration should be based on the individual and also the country
 - Participation on the bureau should be related to personal and/or country contribution
 - Appointment should maintain or improve balanced representation within the bureau where possible
- ▶ Flexibility is required; need for designated backups made vivid by this year's events
- ▶ Nominations/proposals for bureau membership are encouraged
 - VG members are encouraged to propose candidates to existing VG bureau members

Target VG bureau structure endorsed at 2013 meeting

Member	Suggested Duration of term (number of meetings)	Geographic representation
Chairperson	4+	Rotation
Host country	3*	
Former host country	3*	
Regular member	4	Europe, Asia, Americas, Other
* = host participates for meetings before & after year of being host as well in host year; overlap between current and former hosts		

Next steps

- ▶ Finalize membership for next year
 - ▶ Status of chairmanship
 - ▶ Feedback for current leadership
 - ▶ Agenda for VG 2014 is solid (relatively)
 - ▶ Determine when next report to UNSC is needed and plan accordingly (it does appear to be an annual requirement)
 - ▶ Provide update for UN website
 - ▶ Begin planning for VG 2015
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