



## Economic and Social Council

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### Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

#### Second session

New York, 13 – 15 August 2012

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

#### Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

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13. Report of the Committee on its second session.

## Annotations

### 1. Election of officers

In accordance with resolution 2011/24 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), specifically the terms of reference contained in the annex of this resolution, the Committee of Experts on GGIM, at the commencement of each session, shall elect, from among its members, two co-chairs, respecting geographical balance and representation. Furthermore, in line with the provisional rules of procedure adopted at its first session, the Committee shall elect a Rapporteur.

### 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation are based on the decision of the Committee at its first session and have been further reviewed by the Bureau. The organization of work is proposed by the Secretariat as a guide to assist in the management of time. At the outset of the session the Committee will receive an oral report by the Secretariat on the status of the documentation. The set of provisional rules of procedures adopted by the Committee at its first session was reviewed by the United Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), with a view to bring them in line with the rules and general practices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). OLA made a number of recommendations which have been incorporated into the revised set of rules of procedures before the Committee. The Committee may wish to adopt the agenda, the organization of work for its second session as well as the revised rules of procedures.

#### Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/C.20/2012/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session (E/C.20/2012/L.1)

Rules of procedure (E/C.20/2012/2)

### 3. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision

The Committee will have before it a report on future trends in geospatial information management. At the first session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the topic of “Strategic considerations of technological and substantive advances in geospatial and interrelated information infrastructure” was identified as an agenda item for the Committee and a visioning group was encouraged to document the future trends and development in geospatial information management. At the invitation of the co-chairs, the group has received written inputs from the Member States and a number of experts of the geospatial community. A summary of the future trends was presented and discussed during a workshop at margin of the Geospatial World Forum in the Netherlands in April 2012. The Committee is invited to discuss the trends highlighted in a background paper “Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the Five to Ten Year Vision”. Final editing of the paper will be based on the discussion of the Committee and a final paper will be presented at the Second High-Level Forum on GGIM in Qatar in 2013.

#### Documentation

Report by the Secretary-General on future trends in geospatial information management (E/C.20/2012/3)

#### **4. Contribution of the Committee to Rio+20 – United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – and implications of the outcomes of Rio+20**

The Committee will have before it a report on the Committee's contribution to the Rio+20 Conference, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. During the discussion of this item at the first session, the Committee stressed the need for an appropriate geospatial information infrastructure at all levels (local, national, regional, global) as a basis for accurate description, sound analysis and evidence-based decision making on the state of the environment and ecosystems. It was also stressed that the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is in a unique position to act as a coordinating point to ensure all Member States benefit from the value of geospatial information in the assessment and monitoring of sustainable development and other global challenges. The report describes how these positions were communicated to the participants of the Rio+20 Conference during a GGIM sponsored side event. The Committee is invited to take note of the geospatial information-related outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference and express its views on the follow-up activities to the Rio+20 Conference.

##### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary General on the preparations of Rio+20 and the contribution of the Committee as well as on the implications of the outcomes of Rio+20 (E/C.20/2012/4)

#### **5. Inventory of Issues to be addressed by the Committee**

The Committee will have before it a report on the inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions. Prepared at the request of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its first session, the report draws upon detailed submissions through a process of global consultation and describes the inventory of issues collated and consolidated within nine thematic groups. The inventory will serve as a useful reference document to inform the scope and possible timing of the work plan of actions for the Committee in the next five years. The Committee is requested to express its views on the adoption of the inventory of issues, and identify key priority issues and associated activities for consideration of its future work programme.

##### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary General on the inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee in future sessions (E/C.20/2012/5)

#### **6. Consideration of a statement of ethics for the endorsement by the global geospatial information community**

The Committee will have before it a report for consideration on the starting of a process to draft a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community. In various discussions, the need for a "statement of ethics" and supporting code of conduct for the global geospatial information profession has been raised. Within the geospatial profession, there are few established guidelines, ethics, or codes of conduct to provide assurances on professional practices to enhance the trust placed by the public on publicly available geospatial data. With the development of practices such as crowd sourcing and open access to information, there are acknowledged gaps in the current legal and social frameworks to provide effective regulation or guidance for the capture, use, and dissemination of much of this new geospatial information. A statement of ethics will help to

fill this gap. The Committee is invited to consider the need for a statement of ethics for the global geospatial information community and express its views on the process of its formulation.

#### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary-General on the consideration of a statement of ethics (E/C.20/2012/6)

### **7. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information**

The Committee will have before it a report on the development of a GGIM knowledge base to be located at the United Nations. A main function of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM is to compile and disseminate best practices of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information aspects in support of the establishment of geospatial infrastructures. During the consultations on an inventory of issues, the topic of “Resources and Knowledge Base” was identified as one of the major issues. Building on the existing resources on the GGIM website maintained by the GGIM Secretariat at the UN Statistics Division, the report proposes the creation of a searchable and continuously updated repository, providing information on current practices in managing geospatial information around the world. The Committee is invited to express its views on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information.

#### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary-General on the development of a GGIM knowledge base (E/C.20/2012/7)

### **8. Study on the status of mapping in the world**

The Committee will have before it a preliminary report on the status of mapping in the world. In pursuance of resolution 3/IX of the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas, held in 2009 in New York, tasking the United Nations to prepare a study on the status of mapping in the world, a survey-based study has been carried out with the support of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) involving all official national mapping agencies in the world. The report presents the main content of the questionnaire, the status of the responses and the timeline of the completion of data analysis and dissemination. The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the survey-based study and possible options of reporting on the status of mapping in the world.

#### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary-General on the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) study on the status of mapping in the world (E/C.20/2012/8)

### **9. The Global Geodetic Reference System**

The Committee will have before it a report by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) on the Global Geodetic Reference System. The report considers the growing demand for and use of positioning technology, and the importance of consistent geodetic reference frameworks and positioning, including enabling infrastructure such as Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS), Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and Global Positioning System (GPS). In the Asia-Pacific region the infrastructure is comparatively sparse, inaccurate, and difficult to access when compared to other parts of the world. In general, the networks are not linked together, or to the global reference frame, while the lack of data sharing impacts on

the accuracy and type of geodetic analysis that can be performed. The Committee is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the different options for improved positioning infrastructure to support the Global Geodetic Reference System.

#### **Documentation**

Report by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific (PCGIAP) on the Global Geodetic Reference System (E/C.20/2012/9)

### **10. Developing a Global Map for Sustainable Development**

The Committee will have before it a report on developing a ‘global map for sustainable development’, a geospatial portal to pool available information to meet urgent needs. Recognising the Committee’s commitment to the importance of managing geospatial information globally, the report considers the concept that an operational global geospatial information platform of authoritative and consistent geospatial data and information should be developed to serve the needs of the global community in the areas of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian aid, and the monitoring of sustainable development. Such a platform would also enable national geospatial institutional arrangements, policies, frameworks and standards to be tested and progressed in conjunction with the Member States, other international organisations, and the Committee’s programme of work. The Committee is invited to express its views on the different options for developing a global map for sustainable development.

#### **Documentation**

Report by the Secretary-General on the development of a global map for sustainable development (E/C.20/2012/10)

### **11. Special Reports on Regional and Thematic Activities**

The Committee will have before it for information five special reports on regional and thematic activities. The regional reports are presented by PCGIAP, PCIDEA, CODIST/UNECA and Eurogeographics with input from Eurostat. The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies will submit a report on behalf of the professional associations and groups. The Committee is invited to take note of the reports.

#### **Documentation**

Reports by the regional entities and thematic groups (E/C.20/2012)

### **12. Provisional Agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee**

The Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its third session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item. The Committee will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the third session. The Committee is invited to discuss and adopt its provisional agenda and entrust the Bureau with its finalization.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee (E/C.20/2012/L.2)

**13. Report of the Committee on its second session**

The Committee will receive a draft summary on the key decisions taken during the second session to be reflected in the report on its second session. The Committee is invited to entrust the Rapporteur with the finalization of its report on its second session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.