

Terms of Reference (TOR):

UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

1. Vision of the Working Group

Accurate, timely and reliable geospatial information and services are available, in a coordinated way, to decision makers and operational leads prior to, during and post disasters.

2. Scope of the Working Group

Based on Decision 5/110: Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management adopted by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) on 7 August 2015, Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (hereafter “WG-Disasters”) will develop a strategic framework that brings all stakeholders and partners involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and/or Emergency Management together to ensure for the necessary geospatial information and services to be available, of quality and accessible in a coordinated way to decision making and operations prior to, during and post disasters.

3. Goals of the Working Group

Foster emergency management and therefore Disaster Risk Reduction across UN-GGIM activities as a priority area of focus. The recommendations, actions, guidelines and standards from the Working Group will address and support the needs of the humanitarian and response communities.

Following the requirements of Decision 5/110, by the sixth session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts (August 2016), the WG-Disasters will have successfully:

- (1) Engaged with the main stakeholders and partners from the humanitarian and response communities as well as the key governmental institutions involved in the provision of geospatial information and services to review, complement and improve the draft framework and flowcharts presented during the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August 2015;
- (2) Conducted a review of frameworks, laws, rules and regulations already existing among the Member States when it comes to the provision of geospatial information and services prior to, during and post disasters;
- (3) Developed the final strategic framework for consideration by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts at its sixth session (August 2016) with recommendations for further referral to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations General Assembly (GA).

4. Working Group Members and their Roles

- (1) The WG-Disasters will comprise experts from the Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the private sector. Geographical balance and representation will be considered for the selection of members from the Member States. The WG-Disasters will elect two Co-chairs from the experts from the Member States.
- (2) The Working Group members are to contribute to the discussions and the preparation of Working Group reports to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, taking advantage of their own available resources.

5. Meetings

- (1) The Working Group will convene a meeting in conjunction with UN-GGIM meetings, High Level Forums, and other relevant international events.
- (2) The Working Group will operate primarily through online collaboration tools (e.g., email, remote meeting, document sharing systems, etc.)
- (3) Decisions of the Working Group will be made by consensus.

6. Secretariat

The UN-GGIM Secretariat will provide secretarial support to the WG-Disasters.

7. Reporting Procedure

The Working Group will report to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meetings.

8. Modus Operandi

The Working Group will prepare a road map and take necessary actions accordingly to achieve its goals.

