

The United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (UN-EG-LAM) Terms of Reference

1. Mandate

- 1.1. The establishment of the *United Nations Expert Group on Land Administration and Management* was endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Fifth Session in August 2015.

2. Objectives

The major objectives of the Expert Group of are to:

- 2.1. Play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for timely and fit for purpose land administration and management and;
- 2.2. Encourage the use of geospatial information tools and systems to improve the legal certainty of all citizens in the world with respect to the registration of the relation between people and land.

3. Functions

3.1. The functions of the United Nations Expert Group of will be to:

- (a) Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among global experts from the land administration and geospatial communities with a view to advance the activities related to the administration and management, and strengthening the use of geospatial information for good land governance;
- (b) Propose work plans, informed by broad global consultation, to address the main areas of focus identified by Member States while ensuring that there are no overlaps or duplication with other initiatives;
- (c) Address governance, data management, institutional and technology adoption and sustainability issues related to the implementation and management of efficient and effective land administration and management systems, and transparent, functioning land markets and;
- (d) Undertake work that is able to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN and other areas as appropriate including, access to land, property rights, ownership, land degradation, rapid urbanization, and climate change, in coordination with other expert entities;

4. Specific Activities

4.1. To achieve these objectives, the Expert Group's programme of work will focus on the following:

- (a) Support the convening of the fourth UN-GGIM High Level Forum to be held in April 2016, in Addis Ababa, Africa, focused on land administration and management, and with particular emphasis on sharing experiences, including benefits and challenges, considering fit for purpose aspects, digital land registers, cadastres, and other land data needs, in addition to demonstrating practical examples of land administration success stories;
- (b) Increase advocacy and raise political awareness for policy makers of pertinent land governance and management issues;
- (c) Undertake activities that foster collaboration within the land management/governance and geospatial communities within the United Nations, and at national and international levels, including identification and addressing common issues of land management and governance in support of sustainable development;
- (d) Take the leadership role in addressing land administration issues with the focus on education, training and awareness, in addition to developing institutional capacity to implement the appropriate methodologies;
- (e) Demonstrate the 'fit for purpose' approach by defining methodologies for different scenarios;
- (f) Document, share and promote a variety of experiences/case studies showing the application of geospatial information to land administration;
- (g) Examine existing land management tools and models and encourage use and access to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences in their application;
- (h) Explore the use of crowd sourcing and neighbourhood mapping to assist in assessments and;
- (i) Emphasize the use and importance of a national cadastral map and geodetic framework as key contributors to land administration and a national spatial data infrastructure which supports other sectors – health, planning, infrastructure management, security and disaster management etc.

4.2. The Expert Group will bring to the attention of United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Statistics Division, new developments relating to the application of geospatial and land information, as well as other developments coming from the Expert Group's programme of work.

4.3. The Expert Group will stimulate and facilitate the cooperation between governmental organizations, NGO's, private sector parties and scientific bodies in order to achieve its objectives.

5. Membership, Composition and Terms of Office

- 5.1. The Expert Group will comprise high-level experts from national governments and international organizations from both the land management and geospatial communities. In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the fields of land management/governance and geospatial information. Where only one representative is appointed, Member States will encourage collaboration between representatives at the national level. Member State representatives would also be selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation.
- 5.2. The Expert Group will elect two co-Chairs, one from a developing and the other from a developed country. Each will serve for a 3-year period, renewable once for an additional 3 years.
- 5.3. If considered appropriate, the Expert Group will establish sub-groups to work on particular aspects of the programme under its oversight.
- 5.4. The Expert Group will liaise as required with other international groups and non-government organizations that may have an interest in the application of geospatial information to support land administration and management, including: the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), HABITAT-GLTN, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), FAO, Land Tenure and Management Unit, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Committee on Housing and Land Management - Working Party on Land Administration, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Africa Land Policy Initiative, the World Bank, the International Federation of Surveyors and members of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.
- 5.5. The Expert Group will review, and if appropriate, revise its terms of reference every three years, and in conjunction with a change in co-chairs.

6. Reporting Procedure

- 6.1. The Expert Group will report to the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM.

7. Frequency of Meetings

- 7.1. The Expert Group will normally operate virtually and try to meet in concurrence with related global geospatial meetings.
- 7.2. The UN-GGIM website, Skype, WebEx and DropBox, in addition to other relevant telecommunication tools will be used by the Group of Experts for communication, collaboration, knowledge management and information sharing and dissemination.

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8. Secretariat

8.1. The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will serve as the permanent Secretariat of the Expert Group. It will provide the day-to-day management and coordination, host and maintain the Expert Group website, and undertake all internal and external communication on behalf of the Group of Experts. In cooperation with the co-Chairs, the Secretariat will coordinate, monitor and report on the activities of any sub-groups, coordinate and prepare the agenda for the Expert Group meetings, and issue notices from the Expert Group and any other support activities deemed necessary.