

Oral statement in connection with the draft resolution E/2016/L.28, entitled "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management"

1. This statement is made in accordance with Rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council.
2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution E/2016/L.28, the Council would "Decide to broaden and strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of Government experts, in a cost-neutral manner, with any additional costs to the Committee of Experts offset by the cessation of UNRCC-AP and UNRCC-Americas mandates".
3. Pursuant to the request contained in operative paragraph 7, it should be noted that the current meeting entitlements are as follows:
  - a. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management does not have any meeting entitlements. However, the Committee meets annually and can hold its annual session in New York only during the "low activity" periods, i.e., either in early January or in August with full interpretation services. If an annual session is held outside the "low activity" periods in New York, interpretation services can be provided only on an "as available" basis;
  - b. The UN-Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas meets every four years with the next meeting scheduled in New York in 2017. The entitlement of the Conference includes five days of ten meetings with interpretation in three languages; and
  - c. The UN-Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific meets every three years with the next meeting scheduled in 2018. The entitlement of the Conference includes five days of ten meetings with interpretation in four languages.
4. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its sixth session, to be held on 3 to 5 August 2016, will discuss its operation procedures from 2018 onwards. Should there be a proposal to change the working methods of the Committee, the budgetary implications for the biennium 2018-2019 will be reviewed at that time, taking into consideration the possible transfer of entitlements from UNRCC-AP and UNRCC-Americas to the Committee of Experts, if necessary.
5. Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution E/2016/L.28 would not give rise to any financial implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.