

UN-GGIM and the Geospatial Industry

Working Together

to Advance a Global Agenda

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United Nations Initiative on
Global Geospatial Information Management

<http://ggim.un.org>

Contributions from Geospatial Industry

- Commercial success has led to rapid growth in industry;
- Provides technological platforms, applications, solutions;
- Establishes new geospatial services based on privately sourced information, analytical tools;
- Develops new sources of data and technology - open data, crowd sourcing, VGI, outer-space, UTM;
- Enhances availability of global geospatial information, forcing governments to face new paradigm;



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Key Questions

- Could the 'industry' be sole producer of geospatial data?
- What is the role and responsibility of the Government?
- What is the relationship between the private sector and Government? As regulator? As competitor?
- Do we need a collective voice among the Governments?
- How do we work together in a joint effort to build a global geospatial information system and a community of practice?



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The Forgotten Role of the Government

- No clear direction, coordination, ownership, policy, or institutional arrangements;
- The value of reliable, credible and authoritative geospatial information not fully realized by many Governments;
- Geospatial capabilities have evolved in fragmented and inconsistent manner, and with duplication of effort;
- Governments are struggling to deal with privately sourced information - credibility, accuracy, legitimacy, status;
- Governments, not the private sector, have the mandate and accountability to maintain and deliver the national geospatial information base;



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GGIM: A Global Initiative

- An Inter-Governmental Mechanism to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks;
- Working with Governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks;
- Addressing global issues and contributing collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns;
- Developing effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in the developing countries;



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Four Critical Tasks

- Evolving a shared vision for the future in management of geospatial information nationally and globally;
- Evolving an inclusive platform for improving, sharing and disseminating national and global geospatial data;
- Evolving a global 'Statement of Ethics' and supporting code of conduct to enhance public trust;
- Evolving a mutually beneficial relationship between the Government and the non-Government entities;



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Realizing a Vision

- Private sector has an important role, but cannot do it all. Similarly, Governments cannot do it all either;
- Need a global regulatory framework to safeguard the interests of Governments and the public, and to promote continual investment by the private sector;
- Need to work together - GGIM, Governments, international organizations, and the private sector - to improve technology, quality, and management;
- **Realizing a Vision:** To make accurate, authoritative, reliable geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development.....



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