

**Third Meeting**  
of  
**Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information**  
Kunming, China  
8 – 10 May 2017

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Background**

The establishment of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information (IAEG-SDGs: WGGI) acknowledges the demand from the 2030 Agenda for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support implementation at all levels, including “to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observations and geospatial information” (A/RES/70/1. Paragraph 76)

The primary objective of the Working Group is to ensure from a statistical and geographic location perspective that the key principle of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind is reflected in the Global indicator framework.

The Working Group agreed that its initial task was to review the global indicator framework through a ‘geographic location’ lens, inclusive of reviewing the metadata compiled for the indicators, identifying existing geospatial data gaps, geospatial methodological and measurement issues, and considering how geospatial information and statistical data can contribute to the production of indicators.

*Mexico City Expert Group Meeting*

The second physical meeting of the Working Group, an Expert Group Meeting, was hosted by the Government of Mexico through Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI) at its premises in Ciudad de México. It was attended by 30 participants that included invited national and international experts with a couple of observers. The Mexico City meeting was a substantive technical and working meeting of the Working Group, held from 12-14 December 2016. The Working Group focused and worked to identify, prioritize and begin to consider the “how” to address identified geospatial information contributions and issues to the global indicator framework.

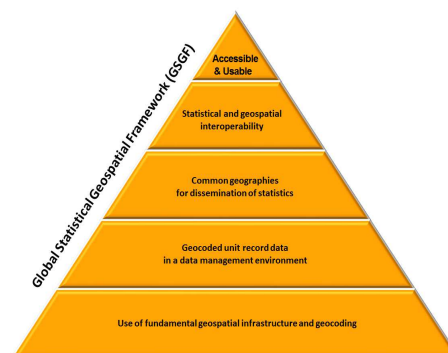
The Working Group agreed to form six task teams to further advance the task before the Working Group. Three task teams focused on working through three identified indicators, namely Indicator 6.6.1, 9.1.1 and 15.3.1 and another three task teams sought to address three identified cross-cutting issues, namely data disaggregation by geographic location, alternative data sources and international (global) geospatial dataset.



### Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework

The five guiding principles of the Global Statistical and Geospatial Framework was adopted by the United Nations Committee of Expert on Global Geospatial Information Management at its sixth Session in August 2016 and subsequently endorsed by the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2017. The Secretariat conducted a global consultation on the proposed Framework in 2016, involving both the statistical and geospatial communities, and received a very encouraging number of responses ranging from full support to support with comments, recommendations and adjustments. There was strong consensus around the five guiding principles which anchor the framework.

- ❑ Principle 1: Use of fundamental geospatial infrastructure and geocoding;
- ❑ Principle 2: Geocoded unit record data in a data management environment;
- ❑ Principle 3: Common geographies for dissemination of statistics;
- ❑ Principle 4: Interoperable data and metadata standards; and
- ❑ Principle 5: Accessible and usable geospatially enabled statistics.



These five guiding principles will be the foundation for the integration of statistical and geospatial information essential to support and augment the production of indicators.

### Shortlist of Indicators

There was consensus around an initial shortlist of 15 Indicators (4 Tier I, 3 Tier II, 8 Tier III) where geospatial information and earth observation together with statistical data can contribute directly to the production of the identified indicators.

- ❑ Tier I 9.c.1 14.5.1 15.1.1 15.1.2
- ❑ Tier II 11.2.1 11.3.1 15.4.1
- ❑ Tier II 2.4.1 6.3.2 6.5.2 6.6.1 9.1.1 11.7.1 14.2.1 15.3.1

There is an additional shortlist of 9 additional indicators (1 Tier I, 3 Tier II, 4 Tier III and 1 that has multiple classification for its sub-indices) where geospatial information and earth observation can significantly support the production of these indicators.

- ❑ Tier I 1.1.1 (4.5.1)
- ❑ Tier II 5.2.2 5.4.1 15.4.2 (4.5.1)
- ❑ Tier III 1.4.2 5.a.1 5.a.2 11.7.2 (4.5.1)

## **Participation**

This Third Meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information is a closed meeting and all the current 23 members of the Working Group comprising representatives of either national statistical offices or national mapping and geospatial information agencies, United Nations System and other international organizations are invited to participate. In addition, a number of representatives and resource persons from member states who are not members of the Working Group, United Nations System, international organisations and research institutions may seek approval and be invited to participate and contribute in this meeting. The host country may also nominate national representatives and resource persons to the meeting.

This meeting is organized in conjunction with the Kunming Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management from 10 – 12 May 2017. Participants are also invited to the Forum that has “Cities of the Future: Smart, Resilient and Sustainable” as its theme. The Forum will also consider “urban” and “resilience” targets and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable in its technical program.

## **Objective**

The third meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information is a technical and working meeting where members of the Working Group and invited participants are expected to further advance the objectives and tasks of the Working Group. The meeting will continue to work on identifying, prioritising and developing the "how" to address identified geospatial information gaps, issues and contributions to the global indicator framework and also associated geospatial methodologies, data sources and data availability.

This third meeting will seek to develop advice and guidance to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) on how geospatial information, earth observations and other data sources can reliably and consistently contribute directly or support the production of indicators, particularly the shortlisted indicators, and will –

- ❑ Review its progress to date;
- ❑ Review the outputs of the six task teams and determine any next steps;
- ❑ Consider modality and process to engage indicator custodian agencies to better understand and to support the process and progress in development of definition/classification, methodological approaches and data sources particularly for identified Tier III indicators within the shortlist;
- ❑ Consider modality and process to effectively, collaboratively and expertly work either as a work group or as task team to generate the desired outputs in between physical meetings; and
- ❑ Review work plans, set priorities and develop a mechanism, including milestones, to ensure completion of work

## Outline Programme

Venue:

Yunnan Zhenzhuang Guest House  
Kunming, China

Monday, 8 May		<p>Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Introductions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Updates on the outcomes of the Fifth Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Updates on the outcomes of 48<sup>th</sup> session of United Nations Statistical Commission including the draft resolution related to the global indicator framework adopted by the Statistical Commission</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other general updates related to the objectives and task of the Working Group</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review the outputs of the six task teams and determine any next steps</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and consider rationale, modality and process to engage indicator custodian agencies</li> </ul>
Tuesday, 9 May		<p>Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and consider what advice and guidance needed to contribute directly or support the production of indicators</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss and consider modality and process to generate the desired outputs in between physical meetings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss, identify and consider work streams to develop needed advice and guidance, the process and milestones</li> </ul>
Wednesday, 10 May	<i>Morning</i>	<p>Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management</p> <p>Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information</p> <p><i>Joint Official Opening Session</i></p> <p><i>Joint Technical Session</i></p>
	<i>Afternoon</i>	<p>Third Meeting of IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Review work plans, set priorities and develop a mechanism including milestones to ensure completion of work</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Wrap up, next steps and closing remark</li> </ul>
Thursday, 11 May		<p>Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management</p> <p><i>Technical Sessions</i></p>
Friday, 12 May		<p>Kunming Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management</p> <p><i>Technical Sessions</i></p> <p><i>Closing Session</i></p>