

**Meeting of UN-GGIM Working Group
on Geospatial Information Services and Disasters (WG-Disasters)
April 19, 2016; 15:00-17:00
UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

1. Participants:

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2. Agenda

- 2.1 Updates on the work of the Task Teams
- 2.2 Draft Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
- 2.3 Way Forward
 - 2.3.1 Revised Work Plan
 - 2.3.2 UN-GGIM Forum on Disasters
- 2.4 Other Matters

3. Minutes

Introduction:

- 3.1 The WG-Disasters meeting was a side event of the UN-GGIM Fourth High Level Forum (HLF).
- 3.2 The meeting was presided over by Jamaica and Philippines, co-chairs of WG-Disasters. Mr. Rohan A. Richards, Principal Director, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change of Jamaica, and NAMRIA Deputy Administrator Efren P. Carandang who represented Administrator Peter N. Tiangco of the Philippines, co-chaired the meeting.
- 3.3 The meeting was conducted face-to-face and through teleconference (WebEx) simultaneously. The teleconference was moderated by Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- 3.4 The two task teams, namely Task Team 1 (TT-1) chaired by Philippines and Task Team 2 (TT-2) chaired by Jamaica were introduced together with their respective scope of work and responsibilities.

Updates and Comments:

- 3.5 The first version of the Strategic Framework was uploaded to Google Drive on 29 December 2015. The second version which incorporated comments from the WG members and patterned after the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2016-2030) was uploaded on 13 April 2016.
- 3.6 The TT-2 report contains review of existing laws, rules, frameworks and best practices of several Member States, non-government organizations and other organized groups on the use of geospatial information for disasters. A concentration of these is among the EU countries. Analysis shows that, although laws on shared geospatial information are fragmented, SDI laws in some countries have sought to include and facilitate the provision of geospatial information during emergencies. The succeeding work and further analysis of TT-2 should still be made part of the TT-1 report.
- 3.7 On the premise that the international community is involved in major disaster response, data should not only be made available to the national community but the international community as well.
- 3.8 The TT-2 report contains the second version of the draft Strategic Framework. The eight core strategies from the previous version were recomposed into five priorities for action in the new version. The structure and content of the framework were patterned after the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).
- 3.9 It was emphasized that the five priorities for action are of equal importance.

- 3.10 Crowd sourcing or volunteered geospatial information (VGI) is recommended to be part of the framework. However, attention should be given to accuracy issues between authoritative data and VGI especially for disaster use.
- 3.11 There should be clear guidance on how data will be shared with international responders considering the downstream effects of how these groups are allowed to use products and services, a situation where a number of governments are not comfortable with.
- 3.12 It was reiterated that the focus of the framework was on geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle.
- 3.13 Administrative boundaries and their interoperability should be highlighted because of their importance to international responders. The significant gap in the global geospatial data assets should be raised as an issue during the HLF.
- 3.14 The framework is being developed to address the disconnect and data gaps among the national government disaster organizations, non-governmental organizations and international humanitarian community and that the improved version of the framework will help countries build the best operational scenarios during Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM).
- 3.15 It was reiterated that simulation activities involving key actors should be emphasized in the framework.
- 3.16 National laws on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) should include the role of geospatial information and services in DRRM.
- 3.17 Collaboration between government and non-government actors, horizontal partnership (among GI communities), vertical partnership (GI and emergency communities), and strategic partnership with international organizations were emphasized.
- 3.18 It is important to include promotion and participation of the social media community in awareness raising.

Way Forward:

- 3.19 As part of the Working Group's advocacy, the strategic framework will be presented by Mr. Hiroshi Murakami in the forthcoming FIG conference in New Zealand.
- 3.20 Likewise, the strategic framework shall be promoted at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey through inclusion in country statements and posters for display in the exhibition in coordination with volunteer exhibitors.
- 3.21 A three-day International Forum on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters is being planned to be held in Barbados on September 5-9, 2016 in coordination with UN-GGIM Americas. MapAction will assist in the coordination of the forum. This forum hopes to gather representatives from the American, Asia-Pacific and African regions and that WG-Disasters will build upon their case studies and discuss the means of implement the strategic framework.
- 3.22 A clean version of the framework will be submitted to the UN-GGIM Secretariat by June 2016.

Other Matters:

- 3.23 In the interest of time, those who contributed comments were requested to directly input the proper formulation of their suggestions into the framework on Google Drive. Email to Co-chairs and Secretariat is also welcome.