



United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

Expert Group Meeting,
Delft, The Netherlands
14 & 15 March, 2017

SUMMARY REPORT

Introduction

The UN-GGIM Expert Group on Land Administration and Management was hosted by the Government of the Netherlands through Kadaster International of the Netherlands at Delft on March 14 - 15 2017. The meeting facilities were sponsored by Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology.

A total of 24 experts participated in the Expert Group Meeting comprising 16 members of the Expert Group - 10 expert representatives from member states, 3 from UN System entities and 3 from international organisations. There were 4 invited national experts and advisors and 3 observers with a staff from the Secretariat in attendance.

Mr. Peter Russell, the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft delivered the official welcome. He observed that there are geospatial challenges within the built environment that is already difficult to address and with the focus on land administration and management, this Expert Group do have a wicked problem to tackle. Research not just informs better design or address the semantics in data, research has deep relevance for policy formulation. Considering the entire range of cities and human settlements, he observed that knowing 'where' one is over time, research and informed policy formulation will make the world a better place. He echoed a saying that "we have one generation to get it right", and the next 20 years of research and policy formulation will determine whether we succeed. He observed that data needs to be meaningful, relevant to the current and future questions being asked, and data needs to be available.

Activities

At the commencement of the meeting, the co-Chairs reminded all participants on the objectives of this expert group meeting and the expected outcomes that were presented earlier through the concept note and provisional annotated agenda. In summary, the co-Chairs asked the meeting to consider what is the key message for the Committee of Experts - what questions to be answered? what policy advice to deliver? and what are the follow-on actions?

The meeting heard a series of presentations that provided an overview and "set the scene" for the two-day meeting. These included presentations on globally recognized concepts, approaches and activities for good land administration such as the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure, the Continuum of Land Rights and Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration. The meeting was also informed on ISO 19152-Land Administration Domain Model, Social Tenure Domain Model and the activities of Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Land Administration Domain Working Group and ISO Technical Committee 211 (ISO-TC211).



There were 10 presentations on country-level land administration initiatives, programs and efforts to improve security of land and property rights, efficient and effective land administration services that are people-centric in support of national development priorities. The ten presentations were from Canada, Finland, Guyana, Lesotho, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Suriname and Sweden.

These were followed by presentations outlining regional initiatives and activities that support national implementation for Africa, Latin America and Europe. Then there were the thematic presentations that informed on issues of legacy data, 3-dimensional data (3D-Land & Marine) and the proposed initiative on a national tenure atlas. Before breaking out into groups, the meeting heard presentations on data availability and accessibility, land governance monitoring, role of standards and technology.

The participants then broke into three groups each addressing the contribution of land administration towards measuring and monitoring development priorities through indicators, the need for standards and the utility of the national tenure atlas. These three breakout groups reported back to the meeting before the conclusion of the first day.

The second day began with a presentation from the Secretariat that provided additional context on the role and contribution of the Expert Group, clarified and addressed some issues that were raised in various discussions and deliberations during the first day. The participants were again divided into three groups and given that meeting thus far had focused on indicators, standards and the possible use of a tenure atlas, the meeting was reminded to consider the key message to be delivered to the Committee of Experts - what questions to be answered? what policy advice to deliver? and what are the follow-on actions? The meeting subsequently heard the report from all breakout groups.

Key discussion Items

The meeting noted that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a universal, transformative agenda and when realized across its full extent, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better. The inclusive and integrated nature of the Agenda, with its 17 Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets, are ambitious. Follow-up, review and monitoring will be facilitated through the agreed global indicator framework, currently comprising of 230 indicators.

Participants also noted that the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda is “to leave no one behind”, responding to the aspirations of all people seeking a world free of want and fear. Hence it is important that land administration system ensure there is knowledge of “**where** people (*subject?*) and things (*object?*) are and their relationship to each other”.

The Agenda called for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including exploiting the contribution to be made by earth observations and geospatial information. With particular reference to the three tenure related indicators (1.4.2; 5.a.1 and 5.b.2), in this instance, the absence of reliable tenure related data in many jurisdictions, there will need for –

- ☐ more flexible data acquisition methodologies;
- ☐ appropriate consideration of the precision needs;
- ☐ enabling policy that promotes an environment that provides for –
 - culture of sharing and collaboration,
 - avoidance of duplication,
 - application of internationally agreed standards,
 - culture of maintenance, and
 - capability and capacity development.

to record and recognised people-to-land relationship in all its forms at scale and in a timely manner.



The meeting was made to understand that ISO-TC211 intends to focus on land administration, building information modelling and the integration of statistical and geospatial information, these initiatives were welcomed. The Expert Group supports the upcoming ISO-TC211 and OGC review of ISO 19152 – Land Administration Domain Model.

There remains an issue of access to primary geospatial dataset such as satellite imageries to support programs to improve jurisdictions' cadastre that will need to be addressed.

The Expert Group's overarching focus is to improve tenure security and better land and property rights for all. The indicators are meant to assist in review and follow-up, measure and monitor progress. There was a suggestion that the Expert Group work towards accelerating the proportion of global population's relationship to land that will be documented, recorded and recognized (currently estimated at 25%-30%). A target of 50% by 2020 was discussed and considered ambitious. The proposal for a national tenure security atlas was welcomed in this regard. However, the meeting needed to understand in greater detail the intent, scope and contents of this atlas.

There is a need for guidance to member states to have an enabling environment where there will be continual improvement of tenure security that will include –

- ☐ Improved political awareness and political will;
- ☐ Progressive policy and legal frameworks that produces effective legislation and/or regulation when appropriate;
- ☐ Appropriate and applicable methodologies that –
 - is internationally agreed,
 - leverages on existing and agreed concepts and approaches,
 - applies internationally agreed standards,
 - is sustainable.

This guidance may be in the form of global framework for land administration that captures key elements or principles essential for any efficient land administration system that will provide universal coverage and land and property rights for all.

The meeting agreed that the current work plan will be revised accordingly to reflect the outcomes of this expert group meeting. The co-Chairs will coordinate the next iteration of the work plan.

Outcomes

The Expert Group agrees -

- a) The overarching focus is to improve tenure security and better land and property rights for all. The indicators are meant to assist in review and follow-up, measure and monitor progress.
- b) The continuing need to advocate policies that promotes i) affordable access to basic geospatial dataset, ii) avoid duplication particularly in mapping (collect once for a multiplicity of purpose and use), iii) data sharing, iv) interoperability, v) timeliness and quality.
- c) The tenure security atlas should provide and visualise the state-of-play of tenure security at all levels. The atlas should also support the monitoring of progress of tenure-based SDG.



The Expert Group agrees to the following task, in order of priority –

- a) Develop a global framework for land administration that captures key elements or principles essential for a universal, efficient, effective and sustainable land administration system that will provide tenure security for all.
- b) Together with the global framework, provide guidance for appropriate methodological approaches and standards that will accelerate the proportion of global population's relationship to land that will be documented, recorded and recognized, currently estimated at 25%-30%. This will include key legal, institutional and geospatial elements that will include access to basic datasets and image libraries.
- c) Establish a liaison group to support the upcoming ISO-TC211 and OGC revision of ISO 19152 – Land Administration Domain Model with the aim to improve awareness and understanding, enhance advocacy and knowledge sharing.

Delft, The Netherlands
15 May 2017

