



**United Nations**

**Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information  
Management**

**Report on the fourth session  
(6-8 August 2014)**

**Economic and Social Council  
Official Records 2014  
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# **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

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*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	1
A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council . . . . .	1
A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development.....	1
B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council.....	3
Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.....	3
C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	4
4/101. Global geodetic reference frame . . . . .	5
4/102. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.....	5
4/103. Global map for sustainable development	6
4/104. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.....	7
4/105. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.....	7
4/106. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.....	8
4/107. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information . . . . .	8
4/108. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management . . . . .	9
4/109. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.....	9
4/110. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.....	10
4/111. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.....	11
4/112. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.....	11
II. Items for endorsement, discussion and decision . . . . .	13
A. Global geodetic reference frame . . . . .	13
B. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.....	13
C. Global map for sustainable development.....	14
D. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes . . . . .	14
E. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.....	14

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F.	Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management ....	15
G.	Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information... ..	15
H.	Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.....	16
I.	Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data .....	16
J.	Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.....	17
K.	Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.....	17
L.	Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information Management.....	18
III.	Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee .....	19
IV.	Report of the Committee on its fourth session .....	20
V.	Organization of the session .....	21
A.	Opening and duration of the session .....	21
B.	Attendance .....	21
C.	Election of officers .....	21
D.	Credentials .....	21
E.	Agenda and organization of work .....	22
F.	Rules of procedure .....	22
G.	Documentation .....	23

## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development**

*The Economic and Social Council*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming also* General Assembly resolution 54/68 of 11 February 2000 endorsing “The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development”, which included, inter alia, key actions to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems, including Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS),

*Reaffirming further* General Assembly resolution 57/253 of 20 December 2002, in which the United Nations endorsed the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation” 4 September 2002), and means of implementation which included, inter alia, strengthening cooperation and coordination among global observing systems and research programmes for integrated global observations, taking into account the need for building capacity and sharing of data from ground-based observations, satellite remote sensing and other sources among all countries,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, which recognizes the importance of space-technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

*Noting* resolution 2011/24 taken by the Economic and Social Council at its 47<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting in New York on 27 July 2012, in which it: established the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM); encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies; and emphasized the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field,

*Noting also* resolution 1 adopted by the nineteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific<sup>1</sup> in Bangkok, Thailand on 1 November 2012 which, realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) as the foundation reference frame, urged UN-GGIM to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) and provide a road map for its implementation, and to participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability,

*Noting further* decision 3/012<sup>2</sup> adopted by the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM at its third session in Cambridge, United Kingdom on 26 July 2013, in which the Committee agreed that actions be taken to facilitate the submission of a resolution to be tabled at the 2013-14 session of the UN General Assembly to seek support and commitment at the highest level, and requested the Secretariat to establish a Working Group, with equitable regional representation, to develop the conceptual note and draft text of a UN General Assembly resolution through an open and inclusive process,

*Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation, as no one country can do this alone, to realize the Global Geodetic Reference Frame and services to underpin Global Navigation Satellite Systems technology and provide the framework for all geospatial activity, as a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

*Recognizing further* the economic and scientific importance of and the growing demand for an accurate and stable Global Geodetic Reference Frame for the Earth, that allows the inter-relationship of measurements taken anywhere on the Earth and in space, combining geometric positioning and gravity field related observations, as the basis and reference in location and height for geospatial information, which is used in many Earth Science and societal applications, including sea-level and climate change monitoring, natural hazard and disaster management, and a whole series of industrial applications (including mining, agriculture, transport, navigation, construction) where precise positioning introduces efficiencies,

*Recognizing also* the extraordinary achievements made by national mapping and space agencies, geodetic commissions, research organizations and universities, and other international organizations such as the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), building upon initiatives of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), representing the global geodetic community, in measuring and monitoring changes in the Earth's system on a best-effort basis, including the development of the currently adopted International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

*Recognizing further* the investments of Member States in developing satellite missions for positioning and remote sensing of the Earth, supporting a range of scientific endeavors that improve our understanding of the "Earth system" and underpin decision making, and recognizing that the full societal benefits of these investments are only realized if they are referenced to a common Global Geodetic Reference Frame at the national, regional and global level,

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<sup>1</sup> E/CONF.102/8

<sup>2</sup> E/2013/46



*Recognizing, with appreciation,* that some Member States are already implementing open geodetic data sharing mechanisms for the benefit of realizing, improving and accessing the Global Geodetic Reference Frame at the national, regional and global level;

*Acknowledging* that the Global Geodetic Reference Frame depends on participation from countries all around the globe, and the need to take action to strengthen international cooperation;

1. *Endorses* decision 3/102: Global Geodetic Reference Frame of the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM on the work of its third session; that the Committee of Experts of UN-GGIM establish a Working Group, with equitable regional representation, to develop a global geodetic roadmap that addresses key elements of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame development and sustainability;
2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant international organizations to enhance global cooperation in providing technical assistance, especially for capacity development in geodesy for developing countries, to ensure the development, sustainability and advancement of a Global Geodetic Reference Frame;
3. *Urges* Member States to implement open sharing of geodetic data, standards and conventions to contribute to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation, and in coordination with the International Association of Geodesy;
4. *Invites* Member States to commit to improve and maintain appropriate national geodetic infrastructure as an essential means to enhance the Global Geodetic Reference Frame;
5. *Invites* Member States to have multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications towards the development of a more sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame;
6. *Invites* Member States to develop outreach programs that make the Global Geodetic Reference Frame more visible and understandable to society;
7. *Recommends* this resolution further to the General Assembly for endorsement.

## **B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council**

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

### **Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee**

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fourth session;

(b) Decides that the fifth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held from 5 to 7 August 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

**Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee of Experts**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determining global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
6. Development of a global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integrating geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. The application of geospatial information – land administration and management.
11. Developing a statement of shared guiding principles on the management of geospatial information.
12. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
13. Coordination of UN activities in geospatial information management.
14. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
15. Programme review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period.
16. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
17. Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee.
18. Report of the Committee on its fifth session.

**C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

#### **4/101**

##### **Global geodetic reference frame**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the report prepared by the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and thanked the members for their significant leadership and work accomplished in a short period of time.
- (b) Underlined once again the importance of a widely accepted global geodetic reference frame and stressed its many uses for science, social and economic development and disaster risk reduction and management.
- (c) Endorsed the Working Group's Terms of Reference and associated Concept Note as amended.
- (d) Adopted the draft Resolution on a Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development as amended, requested the Secretariat to refer the Resolution to ECOSOC for endorsement and further referral to the UN General Assembly, and also gratefully noted the commitment of Member States to provide support in this process.
- (e) Acknowledged the offer of continuous support and cooperation by Member States, especially in the important area of capacity building.
- (e) Agreed to enlarge the Working Group for broader regional representation, requested the continuation of its activities on the development of a Roadmap for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and to report back to the Committee at its next session.

#### **4/102**

##### **Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretariat, and was appreciative of the efforts made to demonstrate and promote the importance of reliable geospatial information to measure and monitor the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.
- (b) Noted that the current debate on a new United Nations development agenda provides a unique opportunity for UN-GGIM to raise the visibility and importance of geospatial information as an enabler for sustainable development.
- (c) Regretted that, despite the many efforts by the Secretariat and Member States, the level of understanding and use of geography and geospatial information in

sustainable development, particularly at the policy and decision-making level, remains somewhat limited.

- (d) Agreed to establish a small group of experts to support the Bureau and Secretariat in their efforts to enhance the role of geospatial information in the ongoing debate on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda, and to keep the Committee informed.
- (e) Encouraged Member States to ensure that initiatives and activities related to sustainable development include geospatial information within their national frameworks.
- (f) Took note of the various suggestions expressed by Member States, of their commitment towards the ongoing discussion on disaster risk reduction.

#### **4/103**

#### **Global map for sustainable development**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD) Working Group and thanked them for their efforts in monitoring the discussions taking place in the sustainable development community.
- (b) Noted the need to develop more effective communication toolkits to demonstrate how geospatial information can contribute to the sustainable development goals, and to the monitoring of the progress made in the context of the post-2015 agenda, and to work with other Working Groups as appropriate.
- (c) Noted the practical proposal for the regional UN-GGIM entities to provide guidance and participate in these efforts.
- (d) Requested that the GM4SD Working Group and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) increase their synergy in proposing a strategic and operational work plan inclusive of the following:
  - a. Engage with post-2015 development agenda policy makers to participate in the upcoming High Level Forum in Beijing, October 2014, to showcase how geospatial information plays a crucial role in measuring and monitoring in areas such as urban hazard and emergency situations;
  - b. Participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, March 2015, to demonstrate geospatial information's crucial role in disaster risk reduction and in responding to natural hazards and emergencies in a timely manner; and
  - c. Contribute to the UN-GGIM knowledge base portal on the application of geospatial information in the above mentioned domains, and develop a flyer to reach out to policy-makers to demonstrate real case studies of how geospatial information has contributed to solve global challenges;as a way to deliver a global map for sustainable development that can be used by the sustainable development community.

- (e) Requested the Working Group to report back to the Committee at its next session.

#### **4/104**

### **Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report on determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, and agreed that they be integrated and harmonized from national to global levels, as they underpin several of the Committee's core objectives related to sustainable development.
- (b) Agreed that actions be taken for Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of fundamental geospatial data themes, building on existing national and regional fundamental data sets.
- (c) Suggested that, as a first step, the preparation of an inventory of existing themes, core data sets, data models and practices, would be useful in determining current arrangements. There was also an acknowledgement of the need to keep the efforts technical in nature, so as not to raise political concerns.
- (d) Acknowledged the need for a working group to explore harmonization at a global level, identifying also strategic priorities, and invited the Bureau to consult with existing Working Groups, as to whether this work could be integrated into their work, before creating a separate working group.

#### **4/105**

### **Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and commended them on the excellent work and progress achieved in a short period of time.
- (b) Commended the leadership taken by the Expert Group in formulating a work program that included an International Workshop, held in Beijing in June 2014, and a Global Forum held on the margins of this session, establishing strong engagement and synergy between the statistical and geospatial communities.
- (c) Endorsed the Expert Group's Terms of Reference inclusive of its programme of work and areas of focus.
- (d) Acknowledged that harmonising national statistical and geospatial systems provides valuable means for integrating diverse data themes, including socio-economic, environmental and other data.

- (e) Took note of the suggestions from Member States regarding the need to consider Big Data, the 2020 Round of Censuses and other information as means of integration, while avoiding duplication of efforts.
- (f) Requested the Expert Group to report back to the Committee on progress, including pilot projects towards integration for the 2020 Round of Censuses.

#### **4/106**

### **Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements, including the draft Terms of Reference, Work Plan and Road Map, and thanked them for their efforts.
- (b) Noted the strategic importance of national institutional arrangements, particularly as Member States are at different stages of geospatial development, and that institutional and policy frameworks are dependent on these legal, fiscal arrangements and governance models, which are different across the globe.
- (c) Encouraged Member States who have experiences in implementing the issues concerned, to join the Working Group, or provide examples of such experiences and existing gaps.
- (d) Requested the Working Group to continue its work with Member States, regional and international entities, and to report back to the Committee at its next session on its progress.

#### **4/107**

### **Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Working Group on the Development of a Statement of Shared Principles and thanked them for their excellent work.
- (b) Endorsed the Working Group's Terms of Reference and programme of activities, and agreed that "*A Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management*" is a more appropriate title for the Principles.
- (c) Noting the strong consensus on the Principles, encouraged Member States to continue to consider the recommended Principles and to provide comments for refinement and endorsement by the Committee for further referral to the Economic and Social Council.

- (d) Requested the Working Group to provide the Committee with a final *Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management* for endorsement at its next session.

#### **4/108**

### **Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the report on the development of the knowledge base, including the additional functionalities to be incorporated, and thanked the Secretariat for their work.
- (b) Acknowledged the importance of the knowledge base in providing critical and relevant information, including case studies and reports, and encouraged Member States to continue to contribute such material.
- (c) Took note of the suggestions to connect to other existing resources, capabilities and portals in order to have an efficient and sustainable knowledge base.
- (d) Urged the UN-GGIM regional entities to contribute to the maintenance and promotion of the knowledge base, and provide guidance on entries for other data and information.
- (e) Requested the Secretariat to report back to the Committee at its next session.

#### **4/109**

### **Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, and thanked the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy for its valuable contribution in monitoring development in this field.
- (b) Noted the increased location-based technological developments around the world that could impact the development of legal and policy frameworks as they apply to the collection, use, storage and dissemination of geospatial information.
- (c) Noted the close collaboration with the GEO Data Sharing Working Group, and the common goals and objectives to address issues related to legal and policy challenges, and thanked the GEO Secretariat for committing to support the Committee in this process.
- (d) Recognised the concerns expressed by Member States regarding the proposed Convention on Geoinformation, agreed that the Convention was attempting to address complex geospatial issues that require further careful consideration, and

noted that Member States should be exclusively consulted on the formulation and possible establishment of the proposed Convention.

- (e) Requested the Bureau and the Secretariat to:
  - a. Communicate with the International Bar Association on the proposed Convention, the disquiet shown by Member States, and the Committee's continued efforts in this area;
  - b. Continue to monitor and inform the Committee and Member States on the emerging legal and policy issues;
  - c. Consider existing national legal and policy frameworks that may be suitable for broader use within the UN-GGIM community;
  - d. Due to the complexity of the issue, continue to work closely with the Member States; and
  - e. Keep the Committee and Member States informed on its efforts.

#### 4/110

### **Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and thanked them for their efforts in producing the Standards Guide and Companion Document.
- (b) Thanked the co-Chairs from the United Kingdom and Mexico for producing the complementary report '*National Mapping Authority Perspective: International Geospatial Standards*' that provides an institutional and business value perspective of geospatial standards in mapping organizations.
- (c) Agreed that the '*Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management*' and the '*Companion Document on Standards Recommendations by Tier*' are important methodological guidelines to assist Member States in implementing and adopting geospatial standards within their national frameworks.
- (d) Noted that there is still a need to continue to raise the awareness of standards and related policies to e-government agendas, and that relevant case studies and best practices are an important means to demonstrating the value to decision makers.
- (e) Took note of the suggestions by a number of Member States to build on the Guide and Companion Document to include the following areas; case studies, business value proposition, data capture and quality issues, and related policies.
- (f) Agreed to publish the Guide and Companion Documents as UN-GGIM reports and acknowledged the offers by Member States to have them translated.



- (g) Requested the Secretariat to continue its work with existing standardisation bodies and the Member States and report back to the Committee at its next session.

#### **4/111**

##### **Reports by regional entities and thematic groups**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the reports by regional entities and thematic groups on their initiatives and thanked them for their valuable contributions and achievements in support of the Committee's activities and objectives.
- (b) In particular welcomed the broad range of activities of UN-GGIM-AP and UN-GGIM: Americas and their efforts to reach out to all countries within their respective regions.
- (c) Congratulated the group of European countries for their extensive work to define modalities of cooperation and formulate a common work programme, endorsed the establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe, welcomed the announcement to hold the first plenary meeting in Moldova in October 2014, and invited UN-GGIM: Europe to report regularly to the Committee of Experts.
- (d) Congratulated the group of Arab States for their preparatory work towards a common work programme, endorsed the establishment of UN-GGIM: Arab States, noting the transitional committee will continue to function in the foreseeable future, welcomed the announcement to hold the first meeting in early 2015, and invited UN-GGIM: Arab States to report regularly to the Committee of Experts.
- (e) Noted the progress being made towards establishing UN-GGIM: Africa, and welcomed the announcement of a preparatory meeting to be convened in November 2014.
- (f) Thanked the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and other international geospatial organisations for their contributions to advancing the UN-GGIM initiatives, and endorsed the International Map Year 2015-2016, as proposed by the International Cartographic Association (ICA), as a valuable means to promote the importance of maps and geospatial information globally.

#### **4/112**

##### **Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Thanked the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group (UNGIWG) for the report and background document on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information, and also thanked the

United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) for their contribution in the form of a background document, highlighting the importance of accurate place names.

- (b) Stressed the need for continued coordination and the clarification of roles and responsibilities of geospatial information activities within and outside the United Nations system by the members of UNGIWG.
- (c) Welcomed the coordination efforts of UNGIWG in order to avoid fragmentation and to effectively use scarce resources of the United Nations system.
- (d) Encouraged UNGIWG to intensify its efforts in this regard, taking also into account the regional dimension, and to work closely with the UN-GGIM Secretariat.
- (e) Invited UNGIWG to report back to the Committee at its next session.

## Chapter II

### Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

#### A. Global geodetic reference frame

1. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (E/C.20/2014/3/Add.1). The co-Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Japan, Italy, Jamaica, Norway, Mexico, United States of America, Bangladesh, Denmark, Germany, Republic of Korea, Guyana, South Africa, United Kingdom, Burkina Faso, Argentina, Canada, Qatar, Uruguay, Oman, Finland, New Zealand, Spain, Jordan, France, Poland, Sweden, Morocco, Tunisia, the Dominican Republic, Malaysia, Fiji, Moldova, and Saudi Arabia, and by the observers for the International Federation of Surveyors, the International Hydrographic Organisation, the Group on Earth Observations, the International Standards Organization, the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, and the International Association of Geodesy.

3. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

##### Action taken by the Committee

4. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/101).

#### B. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

5. The Committee considered item 13 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda (E/C.20/2014/13/Add.1). Introductory statements were made by the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, France, Mexico and Bangladesh.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

##### Action taken by the Committee

8. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/102).

### **C. Global map for sustainable development**

9. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 6 August 2014. It had before it the report by the Working Group for a Global Map for Sustainable Development on developing a global map for sustainable development (E/C.20/2014/6/Add.1). The Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

10. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Spain and Mexico.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

12. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/103).

### **D. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes**

13. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, held on 6 and 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes (E/C.20/2014/4/Add.1). The UN-GGIM Secretariat made introductory statements.

14. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, Mexico, Spain, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Norway, Canada, Malaysia, Australia, Philippines, the Netherlands, United States of America, Italy, Jamaica, and Chile, and by the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

15. At the 3rd meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

16. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/104).

### **E. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information**

17. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information (E/C.20/2014/9/Add.1). The co-Chair of the Expert Group made introductory statements.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, South Africa, Bangladesh, France, United Kingdom, Brazil, United States of America, Singapore, Italy, Jamaica, Argentina, Germany, Republic of Korea, Egypt, and Poland, and by the observers from the European Commission.

19. Also at the same meetings, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

20. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/105).

**F. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management**

21. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements on the trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management (E/C.20/2014/5/Add.1). The Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

22. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Chile, France, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Guyana, South Africa, Germany, United Kingdom, and Mexico, and by the observers from EuroGeographics and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

23. Also at the same meeting, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

24. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/106).

**G. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information**

25. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Working Group on the Development of a Statement of Shared Principles on the development of shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information (E/C.20/2013/10/Add.1). The Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bangladesh, Australia, Denmark, Philippines, Canada, France, Suriname, United Kingdom, Italy, and South Africa, and by the observer from the European Commission.

27. Also at the same meeting, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

28. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/107).

**H. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management**

29. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on a knowledge base for geospatial information management (E/C.20/2014/11/Add.1). The UN-GGIM Secretariat made introductory statements.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Germany, Canada, Japan, Dominican Republic, Chile, Australia, Tunisia, and United Kingdom, and the observers from Esri and the International Standards Organisation.

31. Also at the same meeting, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

32. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/108).

**I. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data**

33. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the report of the Secretariat in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (E/C.20/2014/7/Add.1). The observer from the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy made introductory statements.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of United Kingdom, France, Philippines, Sweden, Canada, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Suriname and United States of America, and the observers from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO).

35. Also at the same meeting, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

36. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/109).

## **J. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community**

37. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 7 August 2014. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) on implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2014/8/Add.1). The observer from the Open Geospatial Consortium made introductory statements.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Australia, Chile, Mexico, Japan, Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, France, Republic of Korea, United States of America, and Jamaica, and the observers from the European Commission, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211), and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).

39. Also at the same meeting, the UN-GGIM Secretariat made concluding remarks.

### **Action taken by the Committee**

40. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/110).

## **K. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups**

41. The Committee considered item 14 of its agenda at its 4th and 5th meetings, held on 7 and 8 August 2014. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Committee on Development, Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Preparatory Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, on their activities (E/C.20/2014/14/Add.1). Each of the Chairpersons made introductory statements.

42. At the 4th and 5th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, United States of America, Sweden, Austria, Mexico, Japan, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Oman, Qatar, Lebanon, and the observers from the International Cartographic Association (ICA), the European Commission, the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), the Pan American Institute of History and Geography (PAIGH), Esri, and Carleton University.

43. At the 5th meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

44. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/111).

**L. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management**

45. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it the report of the United Nations Geographical Information Working Group (UNGIWG) on coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information (E/C.20/2014/12/Add.1). The co-Chair of the Working Group made introductory statements.

46. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Spain, United States of America, Bangladesh, Norway, and Canada, and the observers from the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

47. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the UN Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

48. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 4/112).



## Chapter III

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee**

49. The Committee considered item 15 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Committee (E/C.20/2014/L.2).

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, South Africa, Austria, Australia, Germany, France, the Netherlands, United States of America, Spain, Norway and Canada.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

51. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee approved the draft provisional agenda for its fifth session, as orally amended, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B).

52. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its fifth session be held from 5 to 7 August 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America (see chap. I, sect. B).

## **Chapter IV**

### **Report of the Committee on its fourth session**

53. The Committee considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014. It had before it the draft report contained in an informal paper.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

54. At its 5th meeting, held on 8 August 2014, the Committee adopted the draft report on its fourth session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. Following the adoption of the draft report, the co-Chairs made closing statements.

## Chapter V

### Organization of the session

#### A. Opening and duration of the session

55. The Committee held its fourth session from 6 to 8 August 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America. The Committee held five meetings (1st to 5th). The Co-Chair of the Committee, Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom), opened the session.

#### B. Attendance

56. The session was attended by 281 participants, among them 222 representatives from 84 Member States. Also present were 59 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is contained in document E/C.20/2014/INF/2.

#### C. Election of officers

57. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Co-Chairs:*

Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom)  
Eduardo Sojo Garza Aldape (Mexico)  
Li Pengde (China)

*Rapporteur:*

Sultan Mohamed Alya (Ethiopia)

#### D. Credentials

58. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with a relevant United Nations body, to participate as observers at its fourth session: Arab Union of Surveyors, Association of Caribbean States, Carleton University - Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, Coordinates, DigitalGlobe, Esri, EuroGeographics, European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information, Geomares Publishing, Geospatial Media and Communications Pty. Ltd., Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), Group on Earth Observations (GEO), Hexagon/Leica Geosystems, International Association of Geodesy (IAG), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS), Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd, MDA Geospatial Services

Inc., Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Oracle Corporation, Pendragon International Limited, Pasco Corporation, Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC), SmartXchange, Supreme GIS Services, Trimble, URISA Caribbean Chapter.

## **E. Agenda and organization of work**

59. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2014/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers and other organizational matters.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Global map for sustainable development.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
10. Development of a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information.
11. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.
13. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
14. Reports by regional entities and thematic groups.
15. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifth session of the Committee.
16. Report of the Committee on its fourth session.

60. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of the work of the session, as contained in document E/C.20/2014/L.1.

## **F. Rules of procedure**

60. At its first meeting, held on 6 August 2014, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure as contained in document E/C.20/2014/2, following revision for the selection of the co-Chairs.

## **G. Documentation**

61. The documents before the Committee at its fourth session are available from the website of the Statistics Division at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

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