

United Nations Nations Unies

SECRETARIAT OF UN COMMITTEE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
UN STATISTICS DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, DC2-1670, NEW YORK, NY 10017
TELEPHONE NO: 1 (917) 367-4130; FAX NO: 1 (212) 963-9851
Internet location: ggim.un.org

STAT 421(4-20)

20 April 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Fifth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) New York, 5-7 August 2015

I am writing to inform you that the Fifth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5-7 August 2015. The official announcement of the fifth session has been issued through a Note Verbale which was communicated to all the Permanent Missions to the United Nations. A copy of the Note is attached for your reference.

As you may recall, the fourth session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York, from 6-8 August 2014, addressed several critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken as follow-up and they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this fifth session. These include: the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on the global geodetic reference frame; progress on how geospatial information is able to support sustainable development goals; legal and policy frameworks; the implementation and adoption of global geospatial standards; national institutional arrangements; a statement of shared guiding principles on the management of geospatial information; and the integration of geospatial and statistical information. The full provisional agenda, as well as other information on the fifth session will be posted on the Committee website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html. The substantive reports to be discussed during the Committee session will also be loaded as soon as they become available, but no later than 1 July 2015.

Following discussions among the UN-GGIM Secretariat and Bureau, it has been suggested that convening a Map/Poster Exhibition during the annual UN-GGIM Sessions would be a valuable means to promote and demonstrate the importance of mapping and geospatial information globally, and how they can be applied to contemporary issues such as sustainable development. Therefore, I invite you to submit your national contributions for the first UN-GGIM Map/Poster Exhibition in accordance with the attached guidelines.

In order to assist your planning for the fifth session of UN-GGIM, we would also like to inform you that several important side events, related to the substantive issues that the Committee is engaged, will be convened on the margins of the fifth session, particularly 3-4 August. A draft weekly overview of the side events can be referred to on the Committee website. In addition, and as you may also be aware, when making your travel arrangements you may wish to consider

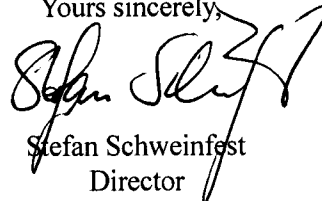
combining your UN-GGIM attendance with a workshop on the 'Evolving Role of National Mapping Agencies' to be convened by Geospatial Media on 9 August 2015 in Maryland, USA, on the margins of the GeoBuiz Conference (http://conference.geobuiz.com/pre_conference.html).

If you are planning to attend the fifth session of UN-GGIM, you will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to advise the UN-GGIM Secretariat in writing of your intention to participate in the meeting, and provide the name(s) of all members of your delegation. You can find the contact information for your Permanent Mission on the following website: <http://www.un.org/en/members/>. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course.

Should you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the forthcoming session of the Committee on UN-GGIM, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. Amor Laaribi, Tel: 1-212-963-3042; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: laaribi@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, Tel: 1-917-367-2903; Email: frani@un.org).

I look forward to seeing you in New York and welcoming you and your country's delegation to this Fifth Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA

cc: Kyoung-Soo Eom,
Chief Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support