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11 May 2016

Dear Colleagues,

**Sixth Session of the UN Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
New York, 3-5 August 2016**

I am writing to inform you that the Sixth 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 3-5 August 2016. The official announcement of the sixth 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 fifth session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 5-7 August 2015, addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken and as follow-up and they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this sixth session. These include progress on: the roadmap for the global geodetic reference frame; how geospatial information will support and inform the sustainable development goals; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes; the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management; geospatial information and services for disasters; legal and policy frameworks; the implementation and adoption of global geospatial standards; national institutional arrangements; and the integration of geospatial and statistical information. The full provisional agenda, as well as other information on the sixth session will be gradually 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, no later than 1 July 2016.

At its fifth session the Committee of Experts also considered the comprehensive review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period. In making decision 5/113, the Committee agreed that a call to strengthen the subsidiary machinery of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the area of geospatial information was appropriate, and that the Committee should be upgraded to the level of a full functional Commission similar to that of the Statistical Commission. The review of the work of the Committee, inclusive of an associated draft resolution, is to be considered at the Council's next 2016 Session on 1-3 June 2016. At this sixth session of the Committee of Experts, the UN-GGIM Bureau and Secretariat will report back on Council's considerations and subsequent decisions on the future modalities of UN-GGIM.

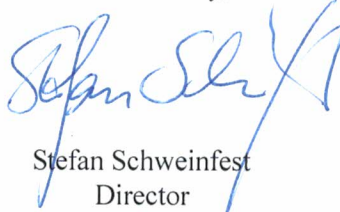
In order to assist your planning for the sixth session of UN-GGIM, we would also like to inform you that several important side events, related to the substantive issues that the Committee is engaged, will be convened on the margins of the sixth session, particularly 1-2 August. A draft weekly overview of the side events can be referred to on the Committee website in due course.

If you are planning to attend the sixth 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 Sixth 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, Geospatial Information Section/ICTD/DFS