



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

**Expert Group on
Land Administration and Management
(UN-EG-LAM)**

**Background Document
UN-EG-LAM ACTION PLAN**

Agenda Item 10

**(Version 1.0)
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1. Background

At its fifth session, convened in August 2015, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) acknowledged the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system, and that many Member States have been experiencing varied levels of success in balancing the people to land relationship in their attempts to achieve this objective. The Committee of Experts further acknowledged that it needed to play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for timely and fit-for-purpose land administration and management. The Committee established an Expert Group on Land Administration and Management (UN-EG-LAM) to undertake the work needed to advance the activities related to land administration and management, taking into consideration the works and achievements of the many international organisations, NGO's, private sector and technical organisations who are addressing the same issues. The Committee requested that an action plan be prepared by the Expert Group to address the main areas of focus.

During the first meeting of the UN-EG-LAM, convened during the fourth High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 19 April 2016, an inventory was made of the issues that should be addressed in the action plan of the Expert Group. Based on the inputs received, this two year action plan has been drafted. The action plan is referred to in report E/C.20/2016/10/add.1 under agenda item 10 for the sixth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, 3-5 August 2016 in New York.

This action plan is based on the Terms of Reference as agreed in Addis Ababa, and based on decisions from the discussions. During the Expert Group meeting, to be held in New York in August 2016 on the margins of the sixth session of UN-GGIM, action leaders and roadmaps have to be defined in order to achieve the objectives of the UN-GE-LAM.

2. Objectives

The UN-EG-LAM Action Plan is based on the objectives and goals that were defined by the Expert Group. They are as follows:

- a) To achieve the goals as defined in the terms of reference for the UN-EG-LAM.
- b) To follow-up on the *Addis Ababa Declaration on Geospatial Information Management Towards Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda*.
- c) To encourage the participation of Member States, United Nations bodies and professional organisations, having a broad and worldwide coverage.

3. Main areas of Focus

The Action Plan focus is primarily on the following areas:

- a) Connect 'Fit for Purpose' Land Administration and Management to the sustainable development goals.
- b) Advocate for and create political awareness at local, national and global levels on the need and benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management.
- c) Promote global access to geospatially referenced land administration data, standards and frameworks.
- d) Review and consider existing initiatives, and gather and promote good practices.
- e) Promote inclusiveness, participatory approaches and involve a wide spectrum of stakeholders in land administration and management.
- f) Encourage partnerships, enhance education and capacity building.

The Expert Group is of the view that participation by and partnerships with a diverse spectrum of stakeholders are key strategies towards achieving its objectives and functions

4. Role of the Expert Group

The Expert Group agreed that its activities shall not be centralised, rather in the spirit of shared responsibility and participation, will involve many of its members. The Group intends to focus on mobilizing existing active players and supporting existing initiatives that are within its identified areas of focus in order to achieve the Expert Group's objectives and functions.

The Expert Group agreed not to duplicate, compete with or replace existing initiatives and their related activities, and would rather supplement and complement existing efforts, mindful that UN-GGIM is an intergovernmental mechanism. The Expert Group identified that its value proposition in the area of land administration and management is in:

- a) Gathering insights and developing strategic initiatives at the global level.
- b) Leveraging on the Committee of Experts as the United Nations peak intergovernmental mechanism on geospatial information management to better advocate for and raise political awareness.
- c) Connecting and 'building bridges' amongst Member States, international organisations, civil societies and the profession.

The Expert Group recognises that the use, ownership and occupation of land, which is a prerequisite for human rights on shelter, food and peace, is fundamental for economic development and poverty alleviation and that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cannot be achieved without the introduction of modern land administration and management approaches accompanied by good land governance. The challenges are significant, to be addressed with strategic initiatives and advocacy at the global level. In this regard and leveraging on the capacity of the Committee of Experts and its direct reporting to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)¹, the Expert Group foresees opportunities to advocate and affirm global understanding and collective action including a General Assembly resolution on land.

5. Indicators of Success

The Expert Group understands that its ability to achieve its objectives and functions is dependent on four agreed and subscribed principles, which are:

- a) Commitment,
- b) Communication,
- c) Coordination, and
- d) Cooperation.

The Expert Group further agreed that its success can also be assessed by the level of engagement and recognition by:

- a) The United Nations system,
- b) International development organisations,
- c) Member States and their political decision makers, and
- d) Professional bodies and organisations.

6. Planning and Activities

¹ The UN Committee of Experts on GGIM is a subsidiary expert body that reports to ECOSOC and is composed of governmental experts. ECOSOC sits at the centre of the UN development system and brings people and issues together to promote collective action for sustainable development.

To successfully achieve and deliver on the objectives and functions of the Expert Group, the creation of task teams within the Expert Group will be required. These task teams will report to the Expert Group and be coordinated by the co-Chairs. The Expert Group views that the creation of these task teams is a priority.

The following list details the fifteen major tasks within this two-year Action Plan. Items a) and b) have been completed.

- a) Prepare the programme of the UN-GGIM fourth High-Level Forum in Addis Ababa in April 2016 with the theme “Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda”. Completed. This resulted in the Addis Ababa Declaration.
- b) Organise and conduct the first Expert Group meeting in Addis Ababa on the margins of the fourth High-Level Forum. Completed. The Terms of Reference for the Expert Group were agreed upon and further commitments and participation by Member States and professional organisations were secured.
- c) Organise a second Expert Group meeting to further deliberate on the Action Plan, and to prioritize its tasks around end-users needs.²
- d) Advocate the role of geospatial information management and land administration and management in the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III). The Expert Group members are encouraged to urge their Member States to ensure the Draft New Urban Agenda adequately reflects the significance and relevance of geospatial information and land administration.
- e) Create task teams based on a realistic prioritisation clearly defining the desired outcomes and deliverables for each of the task teams created.
- f) Define and prioritise the Expert Group’s contribution to the 2030 Agenda in the area of land administration and management and, where necessary, to include the financing of land administration and management services including through public private partnerships, all within the concept of Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration.
- g) Consider approaches that will significantly expedite the recording, registering and managing of land rights; both property and use, formal and informal. This will include advocacy and articulation of the significant role of geospatial information management for the recording, registering and managing of land rights for all.
- h) Consider approaches in the provisioning of geospatial information for land administration and management; approaches that are achievable, attainable, sustainable and realistic, in short that’s fit-for-purpose. This will also include feasible business models for data collection and provision.
- i) Affirm the importance of the development of the Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 19152, LADM) towards its second version.
- j) Showcase good land governance practices in Fit for Purpose Land Administration at country level. This will include documenting case studies and collation of lessons learned from Member States and international organisations with a particular focus on needs of developing countries and that of indigenous lands.
- k) Organise and support efforts towards a volunteer network, '*surveyors without borders*'. This network, essentially of younger surveyors, could contribute to and support capacity development activities and programmes in land administration and management, particularly in developing countries.
- l) Facilitate and mobilise actors and stakeholders to create a global atlas for land tenure.
- m) Support the creation of the UN-GGIM Academic Network and to work with the Network in research and training in land administration and management.

² Task c) has been organised.

- n) Create a network of land administration and management ambassadors to create awareness and to advocate to global, regional and national leaders and politicians on the need for land administration and management.
- o) Contribute to conferences and professional meetings, advocating the importance of geospatial information management for land administration and management, with presentations, workshops and side events.

The Action Plan is detailed in two parts; a list of the eight overarching themes with supporting explanatory information, and the plan that details the fifteen tasks, expected results, the responsible Member State or organisation, and the suggested time frame.

7. Action Plan

Theme	Actions
1. Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Remain engaged with standard-setting bodies, but limit involvement with the development of standards. (ii) OGC is inventorying existing standards to understand which existing standards meet the needs of the land administration and management community. (iii) The World Bank is working on Development Data Standards and has its Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF). It should be clear what elements align with the SDG's. (iv) Use Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) for Sustainable Development. (v) Use American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) existing standard. (vi) Use Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) and Building Information Modelling (BIM) connection (3D). (vii) Take account the interoperability of applications.
2. Inclusiveness and participatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Look at pro - poor approaches. (ii) Open to both formal and informal rights. (iii) Crowdsourcing and volunteered information - consider engagement and risks.
3. Stimulate existing initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Make an inventory and do not duplicate or take over. (ii) Understand all land related GGIM initiatives. (iii) Understand global initiatives (like Fit-for-purpose).
4. Create political awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sensitize community and connect to political issues. (ii) Create awareness at highest levels of government. (iii) Forward looking action plans (short, medium and long term). (iv) Create awareness of the Expert Group and its importance.
5. Establish a Global Atlas for Land Tenure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A standardized overview of land transactions, land markets. (ii) Suitable for monitoring. (iii) Review methodologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ World Bank – Doing Business. ▪ International Property Rights Index. ▪ Cadastral Template 2.0. (iv) Include legal systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Laws with respect to geospatial technology and data, i.e. privacy, cloud. ▪ Actual conditions (what is actually “on the ground” vs. what is provisioned or worded).

Theme	Actions
6. Stimulate partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Private sector. (ii) NMO/government agencies. (iii) NGOs. (iv) WPLA. (v) Many others.
7. Need for showcases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Sought good practices and examples of <i>Fit-for-Purpose</i> implementations. (ii) Emphasized the relationship between geospatial information and the institutional and legal framework. (iii) Successes of cadastral surveyors.
8. Include capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) All levels. (ii) University's involvement.

UN-EG-LAM 2 Year Action Plan

Number	Action	Expected result	Lead by	Parties involved	Planning	Contributions received from
1	Supporting the organisation of a thematic High Level Forum in Addis Ababa on the theme of LAM	The High level Forum in Addis Ababa took place and has a final statement on LAM (Declaration)	Chair	Members UN-EG-LAM	Apr-16	
2	First UN-EG-LAM Meeting	Agreement on ToR and contribution from member states	Chair	Members UN-EG-LAM	Apr-16	
3.1	Second UN-EG-LAM Meeting	Discussion of action plan, priorities and leading states	Chair	Members UN-EG-LAM	Aug-16	
3.2		Prioritization of issues around end-users needs	Singapore			
4	Advocate the role of Geospatial management and Land Administration in the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III	Expert group members have urged their own member states to have the zero draft reflect the significance and relevance of geospatial and land administration	?	Members UN-EG-LAM	oct-16	Finland
5	Setting up Expert teams within UN-EG-LAM	Expert teams function (organisation structure with leads)	Chair and co-chair	Members UN-EG-LAM	Dec-06	
6	Write an advice on finance and cooperation in order to achieve the LAM contribution to achieving the SDG's	Public, private and professional parties have contributed to and endorse a method to generate means and commitment to implement Fit for Purpose Land Administration at country level (report)	?	?	Apr-17	WPLA, Belgium
7	Analyse what geospatial information management is required to have an significant increase in registered properties world wide	The role of Geospatial Information management for Land right for all is clearly explained (expert report)	?	?	Aug-17	Spain
8	Propose a valid approach for geospatial data provision for LAM (valid = achievable, attainable, sustainable, realistic)	Private and public parties, UN and nations agree on a feasible approach and business model for data provision on LAM	?	?	Dec-17	
9	Affirm the importance of the development of the Land Administration Domain Model (ISO 19152, LADM) towards its second version	A broad consortium (public and private) has taken global LADM standard to its next level (ISO /OGC standard)	?	?	Aug-18	
10	Showcase good land governance using Fit for Purpose approaches for the implementation at country level	Lessons learned captured in a document (report) with involvement of developing countries	?	?	Jan-18	Finland
11	Organize a network of 'surveyors without borders'.	A network of (young) surveyors is taking initiative to support developing countries in surveying and capacity building for LAM	?	?	Aug-18	
12	Set up a global atlas for land tenure	Progress in land rights is measurable and can be monitored globally (example atlas, legend and format). Countries endorse the approach.	Belgium	?	Aug-18	WPLA
13	Support an academic network for research and training on LAM	Member States, UN organisations and the private sector have taken the initiative to educate and train people in LAM	?	?	Aug-18	Belgium
14	Create a network of LAM ambassadors	Important politicians and leaders (world, nations) publically advocate the need for LAM	?	?	cont.	WPLA
15	Organise contributions to existing and new conferences	Habitat III, World bank, FIG etc. get UN GGIM contributions on LAM (presentations and papers)	?	Members UN-EG-LAM	cont.	