

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

**Report on the seventh session  
(2-4 August 2017)**



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## Contents

*Chapter Page*

- I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention
  - A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council
- Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee
- B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council
  - 7/101. Strengthening geospatial information management
  - 7/102. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda
  - 7/103. Global geodetic reference frame
  - 7/104. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes
  - 7/105. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management
  - 7/106. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data
  - 7/107. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information
  - 7/108. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management
  - 7/109. Geospatial information for sustainable development
  - 7/110. Geospatial information and services for disasters
  - 7/111. Marine geospatial information
  - 7/112. National geospatial data and information systems
  - 7/113. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community
  - 7/114. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
  - 7/115. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management
- C. Oral report considered by the Committee
  - Programme management report

- 
- II. Items for endorsement, discussion and decision
    - A. Strengthening geospatial information management
    - B. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda
    - C. Global geodetic reference frame
    - D. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes
    - E. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management
    - F. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data
    - G. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information
    - H. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management
    - I. Geospatial information and services for disasters
    - J. Geospatial information and services for disasters
    - K. Marine geospatial information
    - L. National geospatial data and information systems
    - M. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community
    - N. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
    - O. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management
    - P. Programme management report
  - III. Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
  - IV. Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session
  - V. Organization of the session
    - A. Opening and duration of the session
    - B. Election of Officers
    - C. Agenda and organization of work
    - D. Attendance
    - E. Documentation

## Chapter I

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

#### **A. 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 seventh session and provisional agenda and dates for the eighth 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 seventh session;
- (b) Decides that the eighth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 August 2018;
- (c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

#### **Provisional agenda for the eight session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Global geodetic reference frame.
6. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
7. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
8. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
9. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
12. Geospatial information for sustainable development.

13. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
14. Marine geospatial information.
15. National geospatial data and information systems.
16. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
17. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.
18. Programme management report.
19. Provisional agenda and dates for the ninth session of the Committee of Experts.
20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its eighth session.

## **B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

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

### **Decision 7/101:**

#### **Strengthening geospatial information management**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report from the Secretariat and Expanded Bureau and their efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 to strengthen geospatial information management for Member States;
- (b) Noted and supported progress on the 2017-2021 Strategic Framework and agreed that it provided a reference to prioritize the work of the Committee and a tangible means to communicate its work;
- (c) Suggested that implementation efforts of the Framework should be maximized through the support of the regional committees, thematic groups and other relevant stakeholders;
- (d) Noted the central importance of strengthening capacity-building in geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration especially in developing countries, and requested the Bureau to pay special attention to this topic;
- (e) Encouraged the regional committees of UN-GGIM to continue their outreach to the UN Regional Commissions, and determine possible mechanisms for collaboration, and report progress back to the Committee at its next session;
- (f) Whilst acknowledging the offers of active support, stressed the need to mobilize extra -budgetary resources for the Committee's operations, to cover the cost of participation in the annual Committee sessions by developing countries; and to provide effective Secretariat support.

**Decision 7/102:**

**Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Commended the progress of the five regional committees of UN-GGIM, including the convening of their annual plenary meetings during the intersessional period, and the successful international thematic technical workshops in the pursuance of UN-GGIM's objectives for Member States;
- (b) Expressed its appreciation for the efforts towards increased regional cooperation and the important focus on building geospatial capacity in the regions, including the Caribbean project under the leadership of Mexico;
- (c) Noted the requests for the UN Regional Commissions to provide support to address concerns expressed by the regional committees with regard to: technical training programs; capacity development; participation at annual meetings; and uptake of regional and global technical activities;
- (d) Welcomed the convening of the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, hosted by INEGI of Mexico in Mexico City in November 2017, with an overarching theme: 'Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation';
- (e) Expressed its appreciation for the continuing contributions of the three UN-GGIM networks to the Committee's programme of work, particularly in efforts to support the expert and working groups of the Committee, and expanding their affiliations within the regional committee processes.

**Decision 7/103:**

**Global geodetic reference frame**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Global Geodetic Reference Frame and commended the Working Group on their work, broad consultations, communication and outreach strategies;
- (b) Endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, agreed with the proposed Terms of Reference and transition plan, and encouraged further membership from developing countries with the assistance of the regional committees;
- (c) Supported the planned activities of the Subcommittee, including: the development of the road map implementation plan; the development of the position paper describing the appropriate governance arrangements; building the GGRF web of communication experts; and developing a five-year strategic plan;
- (d) Noted the offers of assistance by regional committees and Member States to support technical and communication strategies for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame;

- (e) Noted the convening of the inaugural Subcommittee meeting on the margins of the UN-GGIM High Level Forum in Mexico City, Mexico, in November 2017.

**Decision 7/104:**

**Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report and leadership of the Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes under the guidance of UN-GGIM: Europe, and noted the comprehensive work in addressing the issues relating to global fundamental geospatial data themes;
- (b) Adopted the proposed minimum list of Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes, subject to minor suggested amendments;
- (c) Supported the offer of UN-GGIM: Europe, including domain experts, to continue the work to develop more details for each theme, and to work with the Secretariat and other groups to draw up plans for promoting and socialising the proposed minimum list with the wider community, including with the non-geospatial community;
- (d) Noted the suggestions for the Working Group to consider: measures to implement the data themes; recognizing positioning as a theme; expert review of data themes; integration of themes with statistics, Earth observations and imagery; ensuring that the use of themes remains technical in nature so as not to raise any political concerns;
- (e) Welcomed the support of regional initiatives, including EuroGeographics, PAIGH and the Arctic SDI, for their respective data contributions to the fundamental data themes including the SALB project, and urged Member States to continue to contribute to this important initiative.

**Decision 7/105:**

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the comprehensive report of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements, and the valuable contribution of the University of Leuven, in producing an overarching framework for national institutional arrangements, inclusive of instruments, principles and guidelines;
- (b) Appreciated the efforts carried out by the Working Group to focus and consolidate the considerable body of work already achieved, and endorsed the overarching framework as an integrated process for implementing national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management for Member States;
- (c) Commended the compendium of good practices as a tangible means to demonstrate models of institutional arrangements across geographic regions, and encouraged Member States to contribute to this effort;

- (d) Supported the detailed methodologies and approaches to: preparing national institutional arrangement guidelines and recommendations; formulating the framework of structural and managerial instruments used to establish recommendations to evaluate or improve management structures across governments; and identifying good practices and their applications across Member States;
- (e) Agreed that developing an easy-to-understand guide that facilitates the use of the principles and instruments for those users not previously familiar with geospatial information management concepts, is a practical and commendable next step to further the work of the Working Group;
- (f) Noted the suggestions to consider linking together the independent efforts and documents of the activities of the Committee's expert and working groups – in particular the global geodetic reference frame, fundamental data themes, geospatial standards, legal and policy frameworks, shared principles, and national institutional arrangements – so that they provide a coherent overview of fundamental geospatial information development.

**Decision 7/106:**

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat and the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy and noted the progress made to address legal and policy frameworks and issues which relate to authoritative data;
- (b) Appreciated the convening of the successful International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks on Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur in October 2016, and welcomed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information, providing the Committee with a feasible path forward to address these issues;
- (c) Endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks for geospatial information management, its Terms of Reference and initial composition as proposed, and encouraged the participation and contribution of Member States to the Working Group, noting the need for appropriate expertise and diversity;
- (d) Requested the Working Group to develop mechanisms for Member States to build capacity to address the legal and policy matters that have an impact on the collection, dissemination and application of geospatial information, and in this regard, appreciated the development and preparation of the Compendium on the Licensing of Geospatial Information, and that the Compendium has had wide reviews and consultation;
- (e) Welcomed the constructive interactions with the International Bar Association, and noted that it is no longer proceeding with the proposed convention on geoinformation, and offered to build a productive and collaborative relationship with the Committee to support its legal and policy efforts;

- (f) Noted the considerations for developing training curricula and materials in support of sub-regional and regional training workshops in the licensing of geospatial information related to the dissemination of geospatial information;
- (g) Noted the comments to analyze a number of complex issues regarding geospatial information including, definitions on open data, personal data, data privacy, data protection, data licensing and the security and misuse of data.

**Decision 7/107:**

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and noted the endorsement of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework by the Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017;
- (b) Endorsed the Statistical Commission's emphasis on strengthening the mandate of the Expert Group to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and for regional statistical bodies to develop and strengthen partnerships with the regional committees;
- (c) Urged the regional committees to continue to reach out and engage with their respective regional statistical counterparts to further strengthen partnerships;
- (d) Commended the practical efforts to increase regional collaboration and visibility in promoting the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, including through the workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards, facilitated by UNECE and hosted by Statistics Sweden, and the European Forum on Geography and Statistics to be convened in Dublin, Ireland, in November 2017;
- (e) Noting the efforts of Member States to strengthen the integration of geospatial and statistical information, encouraged the continued refinement and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, including: formulating standardised data and metadata interoperability; paying attention to Big Data; developing technical tools and processes that are able to address regional and sub-regional integration challenges; and in this context consider specific examples of institutional agreements and practices;
- (f) Supported the proposal that the Expert Group should actively contribute to the work of the 2020 Population and Housing Census to promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information and the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and to build and strengthen knowledge management and capacity in developing countries, especially the small island developing States.

**Decision 7/108:**

**Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management and endorsed the program of work of the Expert Group for the 2017-2018 biennium, subject to amendments as suggested by the Committee;
- (b) Noted the need for continued advocacy and political awareness on the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management, and urged the Expert Group to continue to address the overarching policy guidance required to capture key principles essential for establishing effective, efficient, sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems, and that the principles-based overarching policy guidance be flexible, recognizing the diverse social and economic contexts within national and sub-national land administration arrangements, and noted that close collaboration with the existing international bodies active in this field is mandatory in order to avoid any duplication of efforts;
- (c) Noted the valuable efforts of the Expert Group in contributing to relevant land indicators of the global indicator framework in support of efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of the global population that has access to secure tenure of land;
- (d) Noted the numerous suggestions for the Expert Group to consider in its programme of work, including focusing on issues related to interoperability, partnerships and exchange in technology for developing countries, and the merits and benefits of a good land administration system that improves the security of tenure.

**Decision 7/109:**

**Geospatial information for sustainable development**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information, and commended the Working Group on its progress and its efforts to ensure that the contribution of the global geospatial information community to the SDG process remains rigorous and relevant;
- (b) Commended the Working Group for having completed its review and analysis of the global indicator framework through a 'geographic-location' lens;
- (c) Recognized that the combined geospatial and statistical expertise of the Working Group positions it appropriately to facilitate and support a 'data ecosystem' that leverages an accessible, integrative and interoperable local to global information system for measuring and monitoring the SDGs, and tracking annual progress;
- (d) Encouraged the Working Group to work more closely with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, as the development of

the principles based Global Statistical Geospatial Framework will facilitate consistent and authoritative production and integration approaches for geo-statistical information;

- (e) While acknowledging that the global geospatial information environment is one that is dynamic, innovative and with new technologies, methods and processes emerging, agreed that data availability and quality remains one of the biggest challenges for Member States, and when available, must also be accessible, consistent and sustainable for the production of indicators to inform on the agreed goals and targets, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

**Decision 7/110:**

**Geospatial information and services for disasters**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and commended the work and effort of the Working Group in refining the draft Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, inclusive of the inputs from the global consultation;
- (b) Commended the Working Group's efforts in providing additional broad consultation and communication of the draft Framework at international conferences and fora, and in continuing to enable the geospatial community to engage with disaster, emergency management and humanitarian experts;
- (c) Recognised the growing importance of using geospatial information for managing all disasters, that bringing real time integration of statistical and geospatial data is a new use case for many statistical and geospatial agencies, and that the Committee has an important role to play to enable the development of these services for the benefit of society;
- (d) Adopted the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters as a guide for Member States in their respective national activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle, and as a means to reach out and engage with decision-makers, and endorsed the consideration for drafting a resolution, presenting the Strategic Framework, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council;
- (e) Welcomed the valuable offers to contribute to the implementation of the framework through the organizing of special sessions and conferences to assist in national and regional development of implementation plans, and to develop guidelines for disaster management for national geospatial information agencies that will be consistent with the Strategic Framework;
- (f) Noting the multiple dimensions of data needs for disasters, stressed the importance for mutual sharing of information between local, national and international responders whilst recognizing the need to protect individual privacy;
- (g) Supported the Working Group's proposal to develop an assessment tool to assist Member States and UN-GGIM regional committees to evaluate and develop their

respective implementation plans, and to monitor and report progress on the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

**Decision 7/111:**

**Marine geospatial information**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat addressing substantive issues on the marine environment, and agreed that strengthening global geospatial information management includes addressing marine geospatial information to support Member States in developing national policy, strategic priorities, make decisions and measure and monitor global development outcomes;
- (b) Endorsed the Terms of Reference and establishment of the Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information, and welcomed the participation and contribution of Member States to the Working Group, noting the need for appropriate technical expertise, and good geographic representation;
- (c) Noted that, given the complexity and broad scope of marine geospatial information, it is critical to ensure that the Working Group engages with the appropriate subject matter experts to ensure that the Working Group remains focussed, within scope, not political in nature, and connected to the activities of other UN-GGIM working groups where and as appropriate;
- (d) Encouraged the newly formed Working Group to provide a forum for dialogue and collaboration between Member States to address issues related to the availability, accessibility and application of marine geospatial information, and linkages to national spatial data infrastructures to ensure the principle of “build once, use many times”.

**Decision 7/112:**

**National geospatial data and information systems**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Noted the report on the progress made by the Bureau, the Secretariat and the World Bank on new developments with regard to national geospatial data and information systems, and applauded the timeliness of this initiative as an urgent mechanism to assist countries in further developing their national geospatial information systems;
- (b) Welcomed and supported the collaborative agreement between the Statistics Division and the World Bank which formulates a joint vision to promote growth and prosperity, and to assist countries to take practical actions to reach a digital transformation, and to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (c) Acknowledged the need for collaboration to develop an overarching geospatial framework that goes beyond just technical matters, and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximize and leverage national systems tailored to their own

situations, and welcomed the numerous offers of cooperation and support by Member States to develop this initiative further;

- (d) Noted the need to leverage and build upon the ongoing activities of the Committee and Member States, including guides, standards and frameworks, and the sharing of good practices and experiences in the development of the country-level action plans and road maps to operationalize and ensure the sustainability of the geospatial framework.

**Decision 7/113:**

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

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report as presented and expressed its appreciation to the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization for their continuing support and valuable work;
- (b) Noted the efforts of the international standards organizations in their contributions towards the provision of geospatial standards in the implementation of the SDGs and statistical-geospatial integration, particularly with regard to the joint study group and the discrete global grid system;
- (c) Noted the importance of geospatial standards and the associated training requirements in their understanding and implementation, and encouraged the international standards community, in collaboration with the UN-GGIM Academic Network, to explore mechanisms for enhancing standards training and the subsequent communication to and engagement of non-experts;
- (d) Welcomed the proposed survey to consider reviewing and updating the Standards Guide and Companion documents, and urged Member States to contribute and to provide feedback on their use of the Standards Guide and implementing standards within their national frameworks;
- (e) Noted the encouragement by the Standards Development Organizations for Member States to participate in the international geospatial standards development processes of ISO/TC 211, the OGC and the IHO to ensure that the geospatial standards required to achieve the SDGs are available, understood and implemented.

**Decision 7/114:**

**Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) and commended their efforts to engage in a dialogue with the Committee to define an effective and streamlined relationship between UNGEGN and the Committee of Experts;

- (b) Endorsed the proposal to build a stronger relationship between UNGEGN and the Committee, to advance the cause of geographic names and geospatial information management, keeping the process technical and not political in nature, and encouraged an ongoing relationship towards this end;
- (c) Supported the common principles of cooperation as a positive communication tool and a means for closer collaboration, and towards strengthening arrangements on geospatial information management;
- (d) Recognized that the real benefits of cooperation and collaboration will need to be anchored at the national level, and that it will be critical for national delegates from UNGEGN and the Committee to establish and continue their outreach on an ongoing basis.

**Decision 7/115:**

**Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management**

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

- (a) Welcomed the report of the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management, and the overview analysis of existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements within the United Nations system;
- (b) Agreed that efforts should be made to consider a more structured and sustainable coordination approach for the geospatial information management activities within the United Nations system;
- (c) Mandated the Secretariat to continue its consultations concerning the questionnaire, to continue to seek clarification and expand on responses received, and to reach out to UN entities which have not yet responded, with a view to maintain a list of points of contact within the United Nations system;
- (d) As a starting point, recommended Option 3 contained in the report as the most realistic mechanism, and thus agreed to establish a United Nations System Network within its global architecture; and that once established, could then review and possibly implement further options at an appropriate time in the future, with the guidance and support of the Committee of Experts.

**C. Oral report considered by the Committee**

**Programme management report**

The Director of the Statistics Division made an oral report on programme management issues related to UN-GGIM, containing an assessment of the need to set priorities for the many GGIM Secretariat support activities and in this context committed to focus on implementation, as well as a need to collectively explore extra-budgetary funding arrangements (trust fund, secondments) to enable the GGIM Secretariat to further advance the global geospatial information agenda.

## Chapter II

### Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

#### A. Strengthening geospatial information management

3. The Committee of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, held on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on strengthening geospatial information management (E/C.20/2017/15), which was introduced by the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department for Social and Economic Affairs.

4. At the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, on 2 August, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Belgium, India, the Netherlands, Japan, Spain (on behalf of the Working Group on trends in National Institutional Arrangements), Singapore, the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Australia and China.

5. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission of Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

##### Action taken by the Committee of Experts

7. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision. (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/101).

#### B. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda

8. The Committee of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> meetings, on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda (E/C.20/2017/3). The Chairs of the five regional committees and three UN-GGIM networks made introductory statements.

9. At the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

##### Action taken by the Committee of Experts

10. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/102).

### **C. Global geodetic reference frame**

11. The Committee of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on global geodetic reference frame (E/C.20/2017/4). The co-Chair of the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame made an introductory statement.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Tuvalu, Australia, Norway, Mexico, Sweden, France, Belgium, Ireland, India, Jamaica, New Zealand, the United States, Bahamas, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Austria, Kenya, Canada and Iceland.

13. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of EuroGeographics, International Association of Geodesy and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee

14. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

15. At its 5th meeting, on 5 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/103).

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

16. The Committee of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 2 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes (E/C.20/2017/5), which was introduced by the by the Chair of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Sweden, the United States, New Zealand, Ireland, Australia, Mexico, India, Spain, Jamaica, Japan, the Philippines, Belgium, Austria, China, South Africa, Canada, Argentina and Singapore.

18. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

19. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the University of Melbourne, non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observer in the session of the Committee.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Social and Economic Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

21. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/104).

**E. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management**

22. The Committee of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 3 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management (E/C.20/2017/6), which was introduced by the Chair of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Germany, New Zealand, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, Peru, Belgium, Barbados, India, Sweden and Norway.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

25. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/105).

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

26. The Committee of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (E/C.20/2017/7), which was introduced by the Executive Director, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

27. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Ireland, Belgium, India, Japan, Mexico, Austria and Canada.

28. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of EuroGeographics, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

29. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

30. At its 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/106).

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

31. The Committee of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community (E/C.20/2017/8), which was introduced by the Executive Director, Communications and Outreach, Open Geospatial Consortium.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovenia, India, Jamaica, Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Myanmar, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova, Mexico, Ecuador, China, Tuvalu and Costa Rica, as well as by the observers for the State of Palestine and the International Hydrographic Organization.

33. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

34. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (on behalf of the United Nations Global Information Management Geospatial Societies), Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), University of Melbourne (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network) and the International Organization for Standardization, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

35. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

36. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/113).

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

37. The Committee of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information (E/C.20/2017/9), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

38. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Australia, Mexico, Ireland, New Zealand, India, Burkina Faso, Poland, the United States, Denmark, Cuba, Singapore, Peru, Canada, Barbados, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea, Argentina, Norway, Nepal, the Philippines, Poland (on behalf of the United Nations Global Information Management for Europe), Côte d'Ivoire, China, Costa Rica, Honduras, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Dominican Republic, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

39. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the Group on Earth Observations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

41. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

42. At its 6th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/107).

**I. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management**

43. The Committee of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 August. It had before it a note on by the Secretariat on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management (E/C.20/2017/10), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Sweden, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Slovenia, Suriname, Barbados, Spain (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Sri Lanka, Peru, Belgium, Nepal, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Canada, Kenya, Honduras, Malaysia, Costa Rica and Saint Lucia, as well as the observer for the State of Palestine.

45. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and EuroGeographics, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

46. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

47. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/108).

## **J. Geospatial information for sustainable development**

48. The Committee of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 2 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development (E/C.20/2017/11), which was introduced by the Co-Chair of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information.

49. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of Germany, Mexico, India, Spain, Japan, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the observer for the State of Palestine.

50. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

51. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Cartographic Association and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

52. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/109).

## **K. Geospatial information and services for disasters**

53. The Committee of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on geospatial information and services for disasters (E/C.20/2017/12), which was introduced jointly by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters.

54. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, New Zealand, Sweden, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Poland, Singapore, Kenya, the Netherlands, Peru, the United States, Malaysia, Japan, Ecuador, the United Kingdom, China, Argentina, Guatemala, Nepal, the Philippines, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Costa Rica, Honduras, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

55. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

56. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, EuroGeographics, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, European Space Agency, Politecnico di Milano (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management academic network), Geospatial Media and Communications (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management private sector network) and Group on Earth Observations (GEO), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

57. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/110).

#### **L. Marine geospatial information**

58. The Committee of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 3 August. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on marine geospatial information (E/C.20/2017/16), which was introduced by the Chief Geospatial Scientist at the Census Bureau, Department of Commerce of the United States.

59. At the same meeting, were made by the representatives of Canada, Singapore, Brazil, Italy, Denmark, India, Malaysia, Chile, Australia, China, Sweden, Jamaica, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, Iceland, the Philippines, Costa Rica and the Republic of Korea and by the observer for the State of Palestine.

60. At the same meeting, a statement was also made by observer of the International Hydrographic Organization and a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

61. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association and the European Space Agency, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

62. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

63. At its 6 meeting, on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/111).

#### **M. National geospatial data and information systems**

64. The Committee of Experts considered item 15 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 3 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on national geospatial data and information systems (E/C.20/2017/13), which was introduced by the Director of Global Practice on Social, Urban and Rural Development and Resilience at the World Bank.

65. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Ethiopia, Japan, Sweden, Singapore, Guatemala, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Burkina Faso, Spain, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Belgium, China, the United States, Dominican Republic, Norway, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

66. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

67. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, EuroGeographics and Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

68. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

69. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/112).

**N. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names**

70. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names ([E/C.20/2017/17](#)), which was introduced the Chair of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

71. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, Australia, Nepal, the United States, Sweden (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe), Japan, South Africa, Canada, Norway, Honduras, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Belgium and Argentina, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

72. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Open Geospatial Consortium and the University of Melbourne (on behalf of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Academic Network), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or invited to participate as observers in the session of the Committee.

73. Also at the same meeting, the Inter-regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management Secretariat, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

74. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/114).

**O. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management**

75. The Committee of Experts considered item 17 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management ([E/C.20/2017/14](#)), which was introduced by the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

76. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines, Belgium, Sweden, Mexico, Ethiopia, Japan, Norway, the United States, Burkina Faso, India and Guatemala

77. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the World Health Organization, as well as by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

78. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs summarized the main points of the discussion.

**Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

79. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 7/115).

**P. Programme Management Report**

80. The Committee of Experts considered item 18 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August 2017. The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made a statement

## Chapter III

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

81. The Committee of Experts considered item 19 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August 2017. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts (E/C.20/2017/L.2). The Director of the Statistics Division of the Department for Social and Economic Affairs made an introductory statement.

82. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Spain.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

83. At its 5th meeting, on 4 August, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its eighth session, 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. A).

84. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its eighth session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 3 August 2018 (see chap. I, sect. A).

## Chapter IV

### **Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its seventh session**

85. The Committee of Experts considered item 20 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 4 August.

86. The Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Committee on its seventh session (E/C.20/2017/L.3), together with an informal paper containing draft decisions.

#### **Action taken by the Committee of Experts**

87. At its 6th meeting, held on 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its seventh session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

## Chapter V

### Organization of the session

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

88. The Committee of Experts held its seventh session from 2 to 4 August 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th).

#### B. Election of officers

89. At its first meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Co-Chairs:*

Dorine Burmanje (Netherlands)

Li Pengde (China)

Timothy Trainor (United States of America)

*Rapporteur:*

Fernand Guy Isseri (Cameroon)

#### C. Agenda and organization of work

90. At its first meeting, on 3 August, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2017/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Strengthening geospatial information management.
4. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
5. Global geodetic reference frame.
6. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
7. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
8. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
9. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.

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10. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
  11. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
  12. Geospatial information for sustainable development.
  13. Geospatial information and services for disasters.
  14. Marine geospatial information.
  15. National geospatial data and information systems.
  16. Strengthening collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.
  17. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.
  18. Programme management report.
  19. Provisional agenda and dates for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts.
  20. Report of the Committee of Experts on its seventh session.
91. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work of the session.

#### **D. Attendance**

92. The session was attended by 394 participants, including 279 representatives from 87 Member States and 10 representatives from 2 non-Member States. Also present were 105 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants (E/C.20/2017/INF/2) is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

93. The Committee also invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to participate in the work of the session as observers: AAM Group; Austrian Academy of Sciences; Bentley Systems Asia; Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; Booz Allen & Hamilton; Cadastral Solutions; Caribbean Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association; Carleton University; CARTO; Centre for Spatial Law and Policy; Columbia University; ConsultingWhere Ltd; Cooperative Research Center for Spatial Information, Australia; Deloitte & Touche LLP; Digital Globe; Earth-I; Effigis Geo-Solutions; Environmental System Research Institute (ESRI); EuroGeographics; European Space Agency; Eurostat; Geomares Publishing; Geospatial Media and Communications; GeoSUR; GeoThings; Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data; Global Resources Management Consultancy Inc.; Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI); Google; Group on Earth Observations (GEO); Harris Corporation; Hexagon Geosystems; Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT); Institute of Photogrammetry and GeoInformation; International Association of Geodesy; International Cartographic Association; International Federation of Surveyors (FIG); International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS); Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd.; KU Leuvenm; Land Equity International;

Location Intelligence; Location International Ltd; MapAction; Mapuniverse Technology Co., Ltd.; National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Omidyar Network; Open Geospatial Consortium; Oracle; Pasco Corporation; Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH); Planet Labs; Politecnico di Milano; Precision Hawk; Radiant Earth; Royal Academy of Science International Trust; Taylor & Francis Group; Ter Haar Geoinnovation Limited; The Institute for Conscious Global Change (ICGC); Trimble Advanced Positioning; University of Maine; University of Melbourne; University of New South Wales; and University of Twente.

## **E. Documentation**

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

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