



International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
18-19 October 2016

Draft Concept Note

Background

At its fifth session, held in New York from 5 to 7 August 2015, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) noted the updates on recent developments and increased focus that could have an impact on legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information, and that the geospatial community now needed to be more proactively engaged with issues relating to the collection, use, provenance and accessibility of data, such as privacy, licensing, quality and national security, as well as issues related to new disruptive technologies, such as unmanned aircraft systems (commonly known as drones) and other potentially intrusive devices.

UN-GGIM also recognized the growing need for geospatial professionals to understand the legislative and regulatory processes and their implications for the entire geospatial community, and for the legal profession and legislators to understand the wider use and benefits of geospatial information. Therefore, in making decision 5/107, UN-GGIM agreed that a plan of action and strategy should be prepared in consultation with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, relevant Member States and other experts, in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process among relevant parties. In this regard, the Committee of Experts supported the convening of an international forum on legal and policy issues and frameworks at an appropriate time in 2016, and with suitable advance notice for Member States, with a view to taking a more proactive role in and facilitating a more informed dialogue on the identified issues, including national policies.

Organizers

The Secretariat of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, in collaboration with the Government of Malaysia, through the Department of Survey and Mapping Malaysia (JUPEM), and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) will jointly organise and host the **UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18-19 October 2016**. The International Forum will be combined with the Fifth UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting, being convened from 16-20 October 2016.



Objectives of the Forum

The UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management will provide a platform for the global geospatial information community to discuss and understand the legislative and regulatory processes, and their implications, pertaining to geospatial data. It is anticipated that the Forum will provide an opportunity for a more informed dialogue on the issues, leading towards a plan of action and strategy to be prepared in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process among relevant parties.

The International Forum will consist of a number of themes and sessions that will enable participants to actively engage with leading international experts and lawyers to discuss issues relating to the collection, use, provenance and accessibility of data, and share their experiences and methodologies in the following areas:

- Open data experiences, approaches and practices.
- Legal and regulatory frameworks regarding unmanned aerial systems (UAS).
- Data protection/privacy.
- Licensing of geospatial information.
- Data sharing policies.

Participation

It is expected that up to 100 participants from both the geospatial and legal professional communities will attend. The objective is to bring together lawyers from government, the private sector and NGO's together with geospatial communities to (1) create a common dialogue on the issues of importance to both communities and (2) develop a forum in order to find solutions so as to maximize the benefit of geospatial technologies while addressing key legal, regulatory and policy challenges.

Expected Outputs and Outcomes

The following outcomes from the International Forum are envisaged:

1. Identification of potential challenges towards the collection and use of geospatial information at the local, national and international level.
2. A closer interaction between national entities to address the legal/policy issues that presently restrict the sharing of geospatial information.
3. A framework from which to identify the legal/policy challenges that will arise as new technologies are introduced that will facilitate the collection of geospatial information.



Forum Format

The UN-GGIM International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks will be unique as it will bring together a pool of global geospatial and legal policy experts. The draft agenda of the Forum is provided in the table below:

Day	Subject	Time
Tuesday 18 October 2016	International Forum Opening Session Joint opening ceremony and session of UN-GGIM-AP, officiated by a Minister of the Malaysian Government.	09:30-11:00
	Coffee/Tea Break	11:00-11:30
	International Forum Session 1 Unique experiences, practices, approaches and challenges towards the release of open data by geospatial agencies.	11:30-13:00
	Lunch	13:00-14:30
	International Forum Session 2 Legal and regulatory framework regarding operations of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for governmental use.	14:30-16:00
	Coffee/Tea Break	16:00-16:30
	International Forum Session 3 Unique Data Protection/Privacy concerns associated with governmental geospatial information.	16:30-18:00
Wednesday 19 October 2016	International Forum Session 4 Licensing of geospatial information: Understanding the components of a Geospatial License/Data Sharing Agreement.	09:30-11:00
	Coffee/Tea Break	11:00-11:30
	International Forum Session 5 Summary Session: Conclusions, next steps and wrap-up.	11:30-13:00
	Lunch	13:00-14:30
	UN-GGIM-AP Plenary Meeting & Closing Session	14:30-16:00
	Coffee/Tea Break	16:00-16:30
	UN-GGIM-AP Executive Board Meeting Closed session.	16:30-18:00

Updated: 8 June 2016

