

Second Preparatory Meeting of the Proposed United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geographic Information Management

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Comments on Provisional Agenda and Annotations

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Critical Issues in Global Geographic Information Management

1. Governance

- The issue on governance, which is relevant and necessary, should be a major discussion and widely discussed for establishing UNCE-GGIM.
- The governance framework, which is in the form of international framework, that supports and leverages global geographic information in effectively and efficiently coping with global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, food crises, and so on.
- The governance framework needs to be tightly coupled with national mapping agencies and relevant international and regional organizations such as PCGIAP, PCGIA, PCGIAfria, EUROGI, ISCGM, ISO and etc. which could provide technical assistance and share expertise.
- The governance framework is to establish a structure for communication and cooperation between UN agencies and regional and national organizations as well as relevant international organizations with such guidelines that global challenges could be managed in professional manner.
- The primary challenge of governance is to harmonize all of issues such as data collection and sharing, political and legal barriers in order to ensure the fulfillment of the practical goals

2. Interoperability of system and data

- One of main discussions in the meeting is interoperability of system and data, which is comprised of policy and legal interoperability, institutional and technical interoperability that UNCE-GGIM should take into account.

- The interoperability of system and data should be approached from the aspect of demand-driven rather than supply-driven where each issue of global challenges could need different form of interoperability of system and data.
- Interoperability could start from commitment of the member states on data management principal, cooperation and adoption of standards for creating and sharing data, governance arrangement of data.
- The primary challenge on interoperability of system and data is not technical, but institutional, political and governance domain.

3. Common Technical Solutions and Standards

- The technical solutions and standards are somewhat ready and available for dealing with global challenges in developed countries at least.
- The issue here is how to implement technical solutions and standards over contemporary global issues regionally and globally and how to fill the gap what we have and what we need to have.
- The technical solutions and standards should be arranged with participation of member states and UN considering previous experience and current needs on each case of global challenges with help of international professional organizations such as ISO, ISPRS, GSDI and GEO.

4. Public Rendering of Geographic Information by the Private Sector

- Public rendering of geographic information by the private sector could possibly be Google Earth and Virtual Earth and some more.
- These geographic information provided by private sectors are simply showing images over places with some contextual information, which does not relate to global challenges.
- However, private sectors such as Google and MicroSoft could participate in the committee meeting as Partner Organizations for further development of GGIM.

5. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer

- Capacity building and technology transfer in member states is a major critical issue, especially for developing countries in order to respond effectively and timely manner to global challenges such as natural disaster.
- Capacity building and technology transfer has been discussed in geo-community and there is great needs for developing countries and countries in transition, which UNCE-GGIM should take these issues in great account with member states.

Terms of Reference of the UNCE-GGIM and World Conference

1. Mission

- Leverage use of geographic information in coping effectively and efficiently with global challenges such as climate change, natural disasters, food crises by providing technical assistance, building capacity and disseminating expertise to member states of the United Nations, especially developing countries.
- Establish global governance framework in management of geographic information that mandates member states of the United Nations to cooperate with UN agencies and to provide technical assistance.

2. Objectives

- Coordinate the work on geographical information management at the global level in order to demonstrate the importance and benefits of such Coordination;
- Collect the best practices of national, regional and international bodies dealing with legal instruments, management models and technical standards for the building of spatial data infrastructures, and facilitate the dissemination of these practices and experiences to Member States of the United Nations;
- Propose principles, policies, methods and mechanisms for responding immediately to the global challenges throughout standardization, interoperability and sharing of geographic data, with a view to helping Member States, and in particular developing countries;
- Provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences and their regional Permanent Committees on SDI and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, on work associated with managing geographical information;
- Implement the tasks assigned as a result of the resolutions adopted at United Nations Conferences on Global Geographical Information Management.

3. Modus Operandi

(1) Membership

- Members: National Survey & Mapping Agencies or equivalent National agencies of member states of the UN
- Observers: UN agencies, Relevant international, regional and professional organizations

(2) Composition and Term of Office

- The Committee shall nominate and elect the Board consisting of;
 - The Chair
 - The 4 Vice-Chairs (Africa, America, Asia-Pacific and Europe)
 - Rappporteur
- The Term of Office of the Board shall be;
 - Two year term with re-elected for a second term
- The Sub-Committee shall be established, with the approval of the Committee, to carry out the objectives of the Committee such as Climate Change Sub-Committee, Natural Disaster Sub-Committee

(3) Reporting

- The committee shall submit a report on each conference with adopted resolutions

(4) Frequency of Meetings

- The committee shall meet at least once a every year.
- The date and place of shall be determined by the plenary meeting.

(5) Secretariat

- Cartographic Section (DFS) or Statistical Division (DESA) of the UN
- Member states of the committee may second Secretariat

Proposal for "International and National Geo-Information Index"

(1) Development of "International and national Geo-information Index"

(2) Objective:

- To promote and facilitate the creation and use of geographic information globally
- Raise the awareness of geographic information at all levels
- Guide the creation and use of geographic information, particularly for developing country
- Assist the management of global geographic information in effective and efficient manner

(3) Form: ICT index-like

(4) Public Announcement

- National Geo-Information Index shall be announced once a year
- International Geo-Information Index shall be announced every two year