

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

December 2015

**Report of the
UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting**

**7–9 December 2015,
Conference Room 12, UN Headquarters, New York**



I. OVERVIEW

The second extended UN-GGIM Bureau Meeting, including the Chairs of the five Regional UN-GGIM committees, was convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7-9 December 2015. A key activity was the review and final inputs into the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Programme Review report prior to its submission in January 2016 for tabling in April 2016 to ECOSOC.

A total of 19 persons participated in the extended UN-GGIM Bureau meeting, with 10 Bureau members, and nine from the Statistics Division and the Geospatial Information Section. See participant list in appendix I.

II. AGENDA

The agenda for the three days of the meeting was as follows, from item A to D.

A. Introductions and Scene Setting

- Secretariat and participant introductions and overview of the meeting and agenda.
- Roundtable briefing on recent Regional UN-GGIM Committee meetings and activities.
 - UN-GGIM Europe
 - UN-GGIM Americas
 - UN-GGIM Asia and the Pacific
 - UN-GGIM Africa
 - UN-GGIM Arab States

B. Substantive UN-GGIM Items for Discussion and Decision

1. [ECOSOC review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period.](#)
2. [Global geodetic reference frame.](#)
3. [Global fundamental geospatial data themes.](#)
4. [Geospatial information and services for disasters](#)
5. [Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management](#)
6. [Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data](#)
7. [Implementation and adoption of standards for global geospatial information community.](#)
8. [Integrating geospatial, statistical and other information](#)
9. [The application of geospatial information – land administration and management.](#)
10. [Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.](#)
11. [Statement of shared guiding principles on the management of geospatial information.](#)
12. [Knowledge base for geospatial information management + Future Trends Second Edition](#)
13. [Coordination of United Nations activities in geospatial information management](#)
14. [Contribution of thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda.](#)

C. Upcoming Meetings and Events

D. Other Business

- Side events during 4th HLF.
- GlobeLand30 and land cover update.
- GEO Observer status.
- Funding.
- Next meeting of expanded Bureau.
- Other



III. INTRODUCTIONS AND BRIEFING BY THE REGIONAL COMMITTEES

The Director of the UNSD, Stefan Schweinfest opened the meeting by welcoming all participants, the Bureau Chairs, Heads of the Regional Committees and UN-GGIM Secretariat. Further, he shared the objectives of the meeting with the main agenda item being the review and finalization of the UN-GGIM Programme review report to ECOSOC. This was followed by an overview of activities for the three days, given by Greg Scott, which highlighted two new items to be added to the agenda under other business, one being a briefing by representatives from the World Bank and a presentation from Wuhan University, China.

The Chairs of the UN-GGIM Regional Committees then gave short updates on their work and future plans. The major highlights of their presentations were:

- UN-GGIM: Europe had successfully convened its second plenary meeting in October 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia.
- UN-GGIM: Americas shared that a number of events were held recently including a training session under the Caribbean Project during the Latin American Geospatial Forum in Mexico City, 9-13 November 2015. The second plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas was also convened during the period on the margins of the GEO XII Plenary and Summit. Thirty one countries of the Americas participated and the keynote was delivered by Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC).
- UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific reported that the 20th United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific was held in Jeju Island, Republic of Korea in October 2015. During the meeting four working groups were established and a resolution was passed that recommended the dissolution of the UNRCC-AP to ECOSOC.
- UN-GGIM: Africa reported that its first regional meeting was held 23-25 November 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa. The meeting was attended by 45 participants from 21 Member States. Five working groups were created.
- UN-GGIM: Arab States will be convening its third plenary meeting 23-25 February 2016 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Regional Committees were commended on their work and encouraged to intensify their connections and working relations with each other and the UN Regional Commissions.



IV. AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED AND DECIDED

ECOSOC review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period - Decision 5/113

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Took note of the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretariat, which outlined the considerable achievements and progress made by the Committee since its establishment;
- b) Agreed that the review report to be prepared for ECOSOC should be structured around two key messages, that the Committee had operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by the Council over the past 5 years, producing real outputs, and that the Committee was well placed to continue to contribute even more to the work of the UN, especially in the context of the implementation of the sustainable development agenda and the follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and recognized that the review report was seen to provide a welcome opportunity for strengthening the geospatial community's "value proposition", both at the global level through the Council and at the national level through Governments;
- c) Agreed that a call for strengthening the mandate of the Committee was appropriate and needed, in order for it to be at the same level as other subsidiary bodies of the Council and in order to strengthen its interaction with them, in particular the Statistical Commission, and also agreed that the role of the Committee, as an assembly of authoritative national government institutions in the field of geospatial information, was increasingly important in effectively coordinating the field of geospatial information management in the broader UN system;
- d) Stressed that sustainable funding for the operations of the Committee was needed to ensure its continued effectiveness, including conference support, substantive and technical secretariat support, and in particular the funding of the participation of national delegates from developing countries, in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation at the sessions of the Committee, and in this context gratefully acknowledged the efforts of the Secretariat to secure short-term funding from a variety of sources over the past years and expressed its appreciation to the various donors, noted that such short-term funding is not sustainable and also noted that some of the funding would need to be secured through the consolidation of activities and the rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the UN system;
- e) Recognized that the submission of the review report to the Council in 2016 would provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the subsidiary machinery of the Council in the area of geospatial information, and requested the Bureau to reach out to the other subsidiary bodies of the Council, including the regional cartographic conferences and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to engage in a joint reflection over the coming months, with a view to presenting a common proposal in 2016;
- f) Approved the proposed process for finalizing the review, including: holding a global consultation in October 2015, based on a draft report to be prepared by the Secretariat in light of the discussion held in the Committee, and subsequently entrusting the extended Bureau, including the Chairs of the five regional committees of UN-GGIM with finalizing the document for submission to the Council in January 2016.



Status

- Draft ECOSOC Report has been prepared by the Secretariat, capturing the discussion held in the Committee session.
- The Draft Report discussed in detail at the 20th UNRCC-AP convened in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6-9 October 2015, particularly with regard to rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the UN system.
- Resolution adopted at the UNRCC-AP for UN-GGIM to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the UN, and agreed that the formal UN Regional Cartographic Conference format was no longer a necessary requirement. Further, the Conference recommended that ECOSOC consider removing the UNRCC-AP from the UN calendar of conferences and meetings, with its mandates and obligations assumed by UN-GGIM at the global level, and its technical and substantive activities at the regional and national level assumed by UN-GGIM-AP.
- The Draft Report discussed at the 2nd Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Americas convened in Mexico City, 11-12 November 2015, again with regard to rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the United Nations system. The regional committee voted unanimously to support the decision of the 20th UNRCC-AP with particular regard to the Americas. That is, to remove the UNRCC-Americas from the calendar of conferences and meetings, with its mandates and obligations assumed by UN-GGIM at the global level, and its technical and substantive activities at the regional and national level assumed by UN-GGIM: Americas.
- The Draft Report presented and discussed at the 1st meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa convened in Nairobi, 23-25 November. The Regional Committee re-affirmed support for the mandate of UN-GGIM to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the UN system, and recommended the adoption of Option 4: Strengthened Mandate and Resources.
- Secretariat engaged with the UNGEGN Bureau in a telecom 10 September 2015 regarding the possible streamlining and strengthening of the subsidiary machinery of ECOSOC in the area of geospatial information. The Secretariat has formally invited the UNGEGN Bureau to review the ECOSOC draft and to provide input and comments by the end of November 2015, and to engage in a joint reflection over the coming months.
- ECOSOC draft report sent out for global consultation 4 November 2015, with responses due back 27 November 2015 so that they can be consolidated for the Bureau Meeting. An overwhelming positive response was received from the global geospatial community.

Actions by the Bureau

1. The extended Bureau is requested to review the comments and responses from the global geospatial community, and to agree on the finalisation of the Report for submission to the Council in January 2016.
2. Following submission of the Report, the Bureau will need to liaise with the Secretariat to inform Permanent Missions that the Report is forthcoming, and ensure support is gained from Member States. A number of informal consultations may be required over the February-March period.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. The Bureau reviewed the comprehensive Report, inclusive of the approximately 60 substantive comments and responses, and agreed on its status. The Report has since been edited and consolidated, and will be circulated to the Bureau in early January 2016 for final comment and endorsement.



2. During the review process there were a number of concerns expressed regarding the position of UNGEGN in the paragraphs in which UNGEGN was referenced in the Report. In order to clarify, the Secretariat convened a teleconference with the UNGEGN Chair and advisors on Wednesday 9 December 2015. As an outcome, the Chair of UNGEGN will send UNGEGN's response in the form of a letter to the UN-GGIM Bureau by the 10th January 2016, with language that can be included in the UN-GGIM programme review report.
3. The Secretariat has contacted the ECOSOC Secretariat and initiated a dialogue with regard to the submission process and will follow up with the ECOSOC Secretariat during the week of 11 January 2016.
4. The Secretariat will circulate the Members of ECOSOC for the 2016-2018 term, effective 1 January 2016.



Global geodetic reference frame – Decision 5/102

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Took note of the work carried out by the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, under the leadership of Australia and Norway, and commended the members for their considerable efforts towards the successful adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development;
- b) Congratulated and expressed its appreciation to Fiji for its leadership in the preparatory process and in the final formulation and successful tabling of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame to the General Assembly with the support of 52 co-sponsoring countries;
- c) Acknowledged the importance of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame and of the road map as a critical enabler for Member States to leverage the importance of geodetic data-sharing, methods, sustainable funding and infrastructure to support growing societal needs, including for monitoring the progress of sustainable development;
- d) Took note of the various activities of the Working Group to inform the planning and development of the road map by gathering inputs from Member States on the key elements of the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, including the need to address the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular between the North and the South;
- e) Encouraged Member States and the Working Group, in their efforts to develop the road map, to commit to undertaking a programme of outreach that highlights experiences and best practices for the global geodetic reference frame, particularly in developing countries;
- f) Requested the Working Group to continue its efforts to build on global and regional experiences and initiatives and to report back to the Committee at its next session on its progress towards delivering the road map.

Status

- The GGRF Working Group (now 28 countries and 2 international organisations) is now drafting the Roadmap to build a framework to implement the GGRF. The structure of the Roadmap will include: governance; infrastructure; policy, standards and conventions; education, training and capacity building; and communication and outreach. The outcomes described by the General Assembly resolution are included.
- Communication and outreach are key in order make the GGRF more visible and understandable to society. This is being progressed by Norway. Seminar on the GGRF convened in China in Nov. 2015.
- The GGRF was a major discussion item at the 20th UNRCC-AP convened in Jeju, Republic of Korea, 6-9 October 2015, particularly with regard to linking the regional initiatives of APREF, AFREF, SIRGAS, etc. with the global GGRF efforts. A similar process occurred at the UN-GGIM: Africa meeting in Nairobi in November 2015. Involvement of UN-GGIM regions and consultation with IAG, FIG, GEO, CEOS in progress.
- Draft Roadmap is scheduled to be circulated for comment in January 2016. The Working Group will then consolidate feedback and refine the document. Roadmap completion deadline is May 2016 with endorsement by the Committee in August 2016.



Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the efforts carried out by the WG GGR, and encouraging Regional Committee's and relevant national authorities dealing on geodetic issues to contribute to the global efforts in streamlining the GGRF mechanism.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. There was general discussion on (1) the importance of the road map and the contribution by Member States, (2) the need for a consistent and sustainable mechanism and resources for implementation especially in view of the fact that this area's technology is changing rapidly, (3) the need to inventorise the different bilateral activities which are ongoing in the context of geodetic activities and (4) look at the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) which are dependent on geodetic information.
2. The working group was encouraged to continue with its work with stronger inter-linkages with the Regional Committee's Working Groups related to geodetic issues such as UN-GGIM-AP, UN-GGIM: Americas and UN-GGIM: Africa and the international community and academia.



Global fundamental geospatial data themes - Decision 5/103

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, prepared by UN-GGIM: Europe, and agreed that there is an urgent need for a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that can be harmonized in order to enable the measurement, monitoring and management of sustainable development in a consistent way over time and to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policymaking;
- b) Agreed that actions need to be taken by Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the formulation of a minimum set of fundamental data themes, noting the need for considering existing national and regional approaches, the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States, and appropriate technical specifications and standards, and recognizing the need to keep the efforts technical in nature so as not to raise political concerns;
- c) Supported the initiative proposed by UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a working group to liaise with other regional committees of UN-GGIM to bring together information on the consideration of fundamental geospatial data themes and to lead discussions between interested Member States and observers, with a view to developing an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes;
- d) Noted the suggestions of Member States for the working group to consider the prioritization of the fundamental data themes, national experiences in the formulation of the data themes and linkages to other data needs within the programme of work of the Committee, and requested the working group to report on progress made in that regard to the Committee at its next session;

Status

- Following a global call for participation in the working group led by UN-GGIM: Europe, 15 nominations were put forward. These came from 12 Member States and 2 International Organisations. Although all five regional committees of UN-GGIM are represented by these nominations, the representation is not evenly balanced, and UN-GGIM: Europe is in the process of seeking further nominations in the less represented regions.
- UN-GGIM: Europe is carrying out discussions with Member States in Europe to establish how this work can be led and coordinated to complement the outputs of the work currently being carried out by (the regional) Working Group A on Core Data.
- UN-GGIM: Europe is in the process of putting together draft Terms of Reference (TORs) to outline the scope, objectives and actions required towards the formulation of an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
- Draft TORs are scheduled to be circulated for feedback and agreement with the working group in January 2016. UN-GGIM: Europe and the Working Group will use these TORs to progress the global work on fundamental data themes.
- UN-GGIM: Europe is aware that communication, outreach and coordination with other regional committees is key in the determination of a minimum set of global geospatial fundamental data themes and is considering convening a side event for a global discussion on this topic during the 4th High Level Forum on UN-GGIM in April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the efforts carried out by UN-GGIM: Europe in establishing and initiating the global work in determining a minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes, and encouraging the Regional Committees and relevant national and regional authorities dealing on fundamental geospatial data efforts and issues to contribute to the global efforts in this work item.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. The Bureau noted the need to keep the process and determination of fundamental data themes simple, as this will be critical for developing countries. At a later stage it will be very important to consider the metadata.



Geospatial information and services for disasters - Decision 5/110

The Committee of Experts:

1. Welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to commission a study on improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction as a very concrete example of practical United Nations cooperation in a highly relevant field, and strongly supported the proposal to establish a working group to further develop and implement a strategic framework that would be:
 - (i.) Focused in a practical manner;
 - (ii.) Aligned with the outcome and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its implementation;
 - (iii.) Able to take into consideration the special needs of developing countries, especially with respect to capacity building and sharing knowledge;
 - (iv.) Broadly representative of different regions of the world and taking into account regional experiences;
 - (v.) Welcomed the many expressions of interest by the Member States, and invited the working group to report to the Committee of Experts at its next session, to be held in 2016.

Status

- The Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) was established in September 2015, with 21 Member States: (Co-Chairs: Philippines and Jamaica); 1 Non-Member State (State of Palestine); 10 UN offices/agencies including UN-GGIM-AP and Americas; 3 international organisations (IHO, ISCGM, GEO); 4 Professional Organisations; 3 Private Sector entities; 3 Non-Governmental Organisations; and 1 Research Institute.
- The Working Group's Terms of Reference (TOR) have been agreed and finalised.
- A Draft Work Plan has been prepared and is in circulation for WG members' review and advice.
- Two (2) Task Teams have also been established amongst the WG members: (TT-1) Engage with disaster response community to improve the framework (led by Philippines); and (TT-2) Conduct review of laws, rules and regulations (led by Jamaica).
- The WG-Disasters Co-Chairs have convened a number of teleconferences with the Secretariat, is now fully operational, and preparing for the following events:
 - UN-GGIM Forum on Disasters and WG-Disasters meeting in Kunming, China (2016, dates to be discussed and confirmed).
 - Side event on the margins of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey (23-24 May 2016).
 - Should the Kunming Forum be delayed to October 2016, an alternative option would be a combined forum with the Caribbean Geomatic Workshop to be held in March 2016 in Cuba in order to be effective for the preparation of WG-Disasters report to the sixth session of UN-GGIM Committee and the side event at the World Humanitarian Summit.



Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the efforts and progress made by the Working Group on Geospatial information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters).
2. To consider and determine appropriate means of funding to support the major activities and associated resource requirements for WG-Disasters in 2016.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. China confirmed that the UN-GGIM Forum, together with WG-Disasters meeting, on Disasters will be prepared in Kunming, China in December 2016 or January 2017.
2. The Bureau noted a good visibility of the WG-Disasters side event at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey (23-24 May 2016).
3. The Bureau emphasised that the importance of integration and harmonization with the UN-GGIM regional committees' activities such as the Working Group on Disaster Risk Management of UN-GGIM AP and the Working Group on Geospatial Information for Climate Change and Disasters of UN-GGIM Americas.



Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management - Decision 5/106

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report of the Working Group on Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in geospatial information management, and its three Task Teams, and commended them on the amount of collaboration and work achieved within a short period;
- b) Took note of the extensive analysis of the results of the questionnaires that were circulated globally and that have generated a valuable source of information to be used in the future, and expressed its appreciation to Member States for their contributions received;
- c) Noted the importance and complexity of national institutional arrangements and the broad scope of processes they attempt to capture, and in this regard provided guidance as to how the Working Group might evaluate the status of efforts on progress in the national institutional arrangements, including providing additional clarity on the process and on the conclusions drafted to date, ensuring that further efforts would be made to avoid duplication of the work of other working groups within the Committee of Experts, ensuring that its deliberations and outcomes were more focused and that these could potentially be compiled into a valuable reference document;
- d) Encouraged Member States to actively participate in the work programme of the Working Group, and requested that the Working Group report to the Committee of Experts at its next session, having addressed the present inputs and suggestions by the Committee.

Status

- The National Institutional Arrangements (NIA) Working Group has refocused its activities and has prepared a revised work plan following the discussions and decisions from the fifth session of the Committee of Experts. The revised work plan is focused on determining an index for best practice building, documenting best practices on production systems, dissemination and funding models and organisational structures, and the further assessment of the results from the questionnaires.
- The Working Group has asked that the three part questionnaire previously circulated be recirculated, but only to Member States who have not yet responded. The intention is to have a more representative sample to ensure comprehensive analysis and informed recommendations. (51 Member States responded, of which 31% were from the Americas, 29% from Europe, 22% from Africa, 10% from Arab States and 8% from Asia-Pacific.) The NIA Working Group will be working closely with the UN-GGIM Regional Committees and Working/Expert Groups to share/use existing information related to the work of the NIA. The NIA hopes to use data collected by UN-GGIM: Americas on the status of spatial data infrastructures in the Americas to strengthen its analysis on institutional arrangements.
- The webpages containing information on the NIA Working Group, its members, task groups, meetings and documents prepared have been updated since the fifth session of the Committee. Additional emphasis is to be placed on strengthening the content of the NIA's web pages.
- The NIA Working Group convened two task group (Mexico, Spain and New York) and (Spain and Singapore) skype meetings on the 1st and 2nd December respectively, to discuss and finalize its November 2015 – August 2016 work plan.
- The Chair of the NIA Working Group will be participating in the third UN-GGIM Arab States



meeting 23-25 February 2016, where he hopes to engage Arab Member States on geospatial institutional issues and collect information to strengthen the work being done.

- The NIA Working Group is especially keen to meet with African Member States during the 4th UN-GGIM High Level Forum in Ethiopia in April 2016 given that only four countries in the region responded to the initial NIA questionnaire.

Actions by the Bureau

1. The Bureau is requested to approve the revised NIA Working Group work plan and deliverables for August 2016.
2. The Bureau is requested to agree to have the Secretariat, with the assistance of the Regional Committees, re-circulate the three part questionnaire to Member States who had not yet responded to the first round of the questionnaires.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. Discussions centred on the scope of work and expected outputs of the working group. It was thought that it was good to revise the work plan given the broad work area.
2. The Bureau wished to be reminded of the terms of reference and expected outputs, and requested that it be circulated for review to identify the low hanging fruits and possible early outputs from the Working Group. The Bureau Co-chairs are to provide further guidance to the NIA Working Group.
3. The NIA three part questionnaire is to be sent to the Chairs of Africa and Asia Pacific for recirculation to their Member States.
4. The Working Group was encouraged to work closely with the UN-GGIM working groups and UN-GGIM regional committees given similar areas of work, for example the work being done under the Legal and Policy agenda.
5. The Working Group was asked to focus on identifying NIA best practices across the world, explaining the why, what and how.



Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data – Decision 5/107

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data, and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy for its valuable contribution in monitoring development in this field;
- b) Noted the updates on recent developments and increased focus that could have an impact on legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information, and also noted that the geospatial community now needed to be more proactively engaged with issues relating to the collection, use, privacy, provenance and, accessibility of data, as well as issues related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and other potentially intrusive devices;
- c) Recognized the concerns expressed by Member States regarding a proposed Convention on Geoinformation by the International Bar Association, and agreed that the Convention, as indicated, was not reflective, did not provide an understanding of how geospatial information is utilized, and did not balance perceived legal and policy risks with the numerous benefits associated with the many critical uses of geospatial information, and that ways needed to be identified to find this balance;
- d) Noted the growing relevance of geospatial information and the need for two-way public education and awareness, for geospatial professionals to understand the legislative processes and the creation of laws and their implications, and for the legal profession and legislators to understand the wider use and benefits of geospatial information, and 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;
- e) 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 intensifying, taking a more proactive role in and facilitating a more informed dialogue on the identified issues, including national policies;
- f) Encouraged contributions from Member States, and appropriate international professional associations and academia on the planning, content and conduct of the legal and policy forum.

Status

- The Secretariat has reached out to the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy (CSLP) for continued expert assistance for this agenda item, and in the preparations for an international forum on legal and policy issues.
- Malaysia has agreed to host a 2 day 'International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management' during the 5th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2016. Actual dates are yet to be determined.
- There has been no follow up from either the Secretariat or the CSLP on the proposed Convention on Geoinformation presented by the International Bar Association at the fifth session of the Committee of Experts. Similarly, the IBA has not followed up either. Question whether the Secretariat sends a letter of thanks to IBA, or leaves it?



Actions by the Bureau

1. Consider and advise on appropriate next actions with regard to initiating 'a plan of action and strategy that 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' as requested by the Committee.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. The Bureau agreed that there was no need to follow up with the International Bar Association on the proposed Convention on Geoinformation.
2. The Bureau noted that it is difficult for the geospatial community to be ahead of the legal and policy issues pertaining to geospatial information, as it is still an early stage.
3. The Bureau agreed to proceed with the proposed 'International Forum on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management' during the 5th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 2016.
4. The Bureau agreed that the report to the sixth session of the Committee on this topic would be a brief update.



Implementation and adoption of standards for global geospatial information community – Decision 5/108

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC 211) and the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), and expressed its appreciation to them and their many experts for their collaborative efforts in producing and finalising the Standards Guide and Companion Document;
- b) Adopted the final published “Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management” and the “Technical Compendium” as the international geospatial standards best practice for spatial data infrastructure, and encouraged all Member States to adopt and implement the recommended standards appropriate to their countries’ level of spatial data infrastructure (SDI) maturity.
- c) Encouraged Member States to continue to work in cooperation with the international standards bodies, including participation, as appropriate, in the work programmes of the OGC, ISO/TC 211 and the IHO, and requested the standards organisations to consider mechanisms to facilitate wider training programmes and to ensure the access to standards on reasonable terms, especially for developing countries;
- d) Expressed its appreciation to Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing resources to format, edit and print the Guide and the Companion document, and thanked Member States for their offers to provide translation services to enable the Guide and the Companion document to be accessible in all languages;
- e) Noted the need for the further development of harmonized and interoperable standards between the statistical and geospatial communities, expressed its appreciation to the standards organizations for their increased efforts in this area, and encouraged Member States to contribute to these efforts, in particular through collaboration with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information;
- f) Urged Member States to participate in the proposed Joint Study Group and in the international geospatial standards development processes of OGC, ISO/TC 211, IHO and other relevant standards bodies, in order to ensure that the geospatial standards required to monitor and measure the sustainable development goals are relevant and available.

Status

- The final version of the “Guide to the Role of Standards in Geospatial Information Management” and the “Technical Compendium” are both available in hard copy and softcopy format:
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/Standards%20Guide%20for%20UNGGIM%20-%20Final.pdf>
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/Standards%20Companion%20Document%20UN-GGIM%20-%20Final.pdf>
- Communication and outreach will be key in order for the standards documents to be widely known as a guideline for international geospatial standards best practice for national spatial data infrastructures. There are currently 2 Working Groups in 2 regions which have standards captured in their work: (1) UN-GGIM: Arab States, with WG on Fundamental Data and



Standards; and (2) UN-GGIM: Americas with the WG on NSDI.

- A call has been made for participation of Member States in the proposed Joint Study Group in order to ensure that geospatial standards are included as a tool for monitoring and measuring the sustainable development goals. The Joint Study Group will be facilitated by the standards organizations directly with the Member States, but its activities will be communicated to UN-GGIM as progress is made.
- The Chair of ISO/TC 211 has recently invited the UN-GGIM Secretariat, through UNSD, to become a Category A liaison to ISO/TC 211 with regard to geospatial standards. UNSD has accepted this offer of support, and is about to initiate the process for liaison.

Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the continued collaborative efforts by the standards organisations with UN-GGIM to publish the standards documents.
2. Consider the need to establish an outreaching mechanism to increase awareness in the need for linkages between the standards organisations and Regional Committee's so that relevant national authorities dealing with spatial data infrastructure, and encouraging relevant actors to see geospatial standards as an interoperability tool to measure and monitor sustainable development goals.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. There was general discussion on how the relationship with the standards organisations (OGC, ISO/TC 211 and IHO) is an example of a good partnership and took note their contribution in the Guiding document publication and capacity building workshops in the region (e.g. UN-GGIM: Americas). Appreciation was extended to Saudi Arabia for printing the documents.
2. There was a discussion on how different substantive fields are using different aspects of standards (e.g. grid versus administrative boundaries, addresses) and there was a consensus that there is a need to address the challenges geospatial community is facing due to other substantive fields not leveraging their expertise. This led to the discussion on whether it is possible to address this issue to the standards organisation.
3. In preparing to address the issues, suggestion was made to formulate questions for the standards community but no decision was taken who will draft these questions.



Integrating geospatial, statistical and other information – Decision 5/104

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information, and noted the progress made by the Expert Group in tackling technical, institutional and policy issues common to both the geospatial and statistical communities;
- b) Appreciated the informative exchange of national experiences in geocoding and institutional cooperation, and the extensive ongoing regional work in this area, and encouraged other regional bodies to contribute to the work so that the Expert Group would be able to continue to take national and regional experiences into account and build on them;
- c) Took note of the request of Member States of the Caribbean region to encourage the secretariats of the regional bodies of the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and the Association of Caribbean States to facilitate mechanisms for the statistical offices and geospatial agencies in the Caribbean region that would enhance collaboration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information for regional development, an imminent opportunity being the 2020 round of censuses;
- d) Reiterated that statistical and geospatial communities are major contributors to the information used in evidence-based decision-making across many sectors, whether public or private, at the national and global levels, and in this context highlighted the integration opportunities associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing debate in disaster risk reduction, and stressed that increased institutional coordination and cooperation between the geospatial and statistical agencies, and other stakeholders, was vitally important and a key factor to the success of data integration;
- e) Also reiterated the importance of paying close attention to the specific technical aspects of policy, confidentiality and privacy issues;
- f) Acknowledged that the 2020 population census is an important opportunity for integration at all stages of a census cycle, reaffirmed that focus as an urgent priority of the Expert Group, and expressed agreement on the need to develop specific guidelines in this context;
- g) While recognizing that the 2020 population census is a welcome opportunity for integration, stressed the need to work towards more continuous and dynamic integration of all statistical data and geospatial information to create new information systems with enhanced analytical potential;
- h) Encouraged the continued involvement of the geospatial community within Member States in the work of the Expert Group and its participation in related appropriate events and global and regional consultations, and noted that the Expert Group would undertake to develop the global geospatial-statistical framework for presentation to the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts in 2016.

Status

- Draft Proposal for a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework has been prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, on behalf of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI), with inputs from Mexico, New Zealand, USA and UNSD.
- The Proposal has been communicated, for review and comments, to the members of the EG-ISGI, and will be subsequently extended to all National Geospatial Information Authorities and



National Statistical Offices. The global consultation aims to consolidate the draft Proposal and to submit it to the sixth session of UN-GGIM for adoption. The upcoming UN Statistical Commission will be informed about the process, and its Bureau will be called later on to endorse the Proposal after its adoption by UN-GGIM. The next (third) meeting of the EG-ISGI, expected to be held 25-26 April 2016 in conjunction with the European Statistical Conference, will focus on the review of the Proposal to be submitted to the sixth session of UN-GGIM.

- UNSD, in consultation with the Bureau of the EG-ISGI, has prepared the report of the EG-ISGI to be submitted for information to the 47th Session of the UN Statistical Commission to be held 8-11 March 2016.
- UN-GGIM Secretariat is planning to organize a side event on the integration of geospatial and statistical information in conjunction with the 4th HLF-GGIM, to be held in Addis Ababa, in April 2016.
- Institutional coordination is key, particularly in the context of the 2020 Round of Censuses. Also, communication and outreach is important in order to make the work of the EG-ISGI more visible, accessible and useful to both geospatial and statistical communities.

Actions by the Bureau

1. For informing about the progress made since August 2015, and encouraging Regional Committees (and Member States) to contribute and be engaged in the work of the EG-ISGI.
2. In the context of the 2020 Round of Censuses and the global consultation on the Proposal for a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Bureau needs to reach out to both NSOs and NMAs and encourage them to coordinate their work related to the integration of geospatial and statistical information and be engaged in its development.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. There was general recognition of the importance of the integration of geospatial and statistical and that the development of a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework is key to implement the integration and bring both communities to work together.
2. It was recommended that the Side Event on the Integration of Statistical & Geospatial Information to be held in conjunction with the 4th HLF-GGIM in Addis Ababa, next April, should discuss the integration of statistical and geospatial information in the context of the 2020 Round of Censuses and invitations should be extended to as many NSO as possible, particularly from Africa.
3. The issue of addressing and geocoding was raised, although under standards, and it was stated that we should bring this issue under the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information work programme. A proposal has been made to discuss the issue at the next (Third) meeting of the EG, to be held in Paris in April 2016, in conjunction with the Conference of the European Statisticians (CES), with the possibility to include it as an additional item into the provisional agenda of the 6th Session of UN-GGIM, to be held in August 2016.



The application of geospatial information, land administration and management – Decision 5/105

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report and detailed discussion paper on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management, and expressed its appreciation to the international organizations, agencies and Member States for their considered expert contributions;
- b) Acknowledged the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, customary rights, security of tenure, property rights, sustainable development and overall environmental, economic and social well-being;
- c) Further acknowledged the need for the Committee 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, and supported by capacity development, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions;
- d) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group to undertake the work needed to advance the activities related to land administration and management, and to strengthen the use of geospatial information for good land governance, and recommended that the group collaborate with other professional bodies and experts working in the field, including United Nations entities and other international organizations;
- e) Noting that land, and linking people to place, is reflected in several of the sustainable development goals and that access to geospatial information is necessary to reach several of the goals, requested the expert group to undertake work that is able to contribute to the indicator process and areas, as appropriate, including access to land, property rights, ownership, land degradation, rapid urbanization and climate change, and also requested the expert group to coordinate with other expert entities in that regard;
- f) Approved and supported the convening of the fourth High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in Addis Ababa in April 2016, with a focus on land administration and management, and with a particular emphasis on sharing experiences, including benefits and challenges, considering “fit-for-purpose” aspects, digital land registers, cadastres, and other land data needs, demonstrating practical examples of land administration success stories;
- g) Requested that an action plan, informed by broad global consultation and the outcomes of the High-Level Forum, be prepared by the expert group to address the main areas of focus identified in the discussion paper and inputs from Member States, ensuring that there is no overlap or duplication with other initiatives, including regional initiatives, and requested the expert group to report to the Committee at its next session on progress.

Status

1. Co-Chaired by the Netherlands and Lesotho, the Land Administration and Management Expert Group has been established. Membership consists of 18 Member States and three international organisations (GSDI, Esri and OGC). Expressions of interest for membership have also been submitted by two private sector companies from India and South Africa.
2. The Expert Group’s Terms of Reference, inclusive of action items, were drafted and membership



contact details circulated for review. Members were also asked to indicate whether they would be attending the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference in Washington DC in March 2016, and/or the 4th High Level Forum on UN-GGIM to be held in Ethiopia in 20-22 April 2016. Four have confirmed their attendance to the High Level Forum and responses are still being received.

3. Preparations are underway for the staging of the 4th High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, in April 2016, which will focus on the theme '*Administration and Management of Land: The Case for Africa*'.
 - The Draft Concept Note has been prepared and will be posted on the UN-GGIM web site the first week in December. In early January 2016 the first formal announcement letters will be issued.
 - Discussions have also started with the United Nations Regional Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa regarding logistics and other conference arrangements.
 - The Expert Group is aware of the necessity to assist with the High Level Forum preparation and has already begun to identify possible speakers from its membership and the global community of land experts.
 - Leading up to the High Level Forum, information sessions and presentations have been and will be done. Attendees to the first UN-GGIM Africa meeting, 23-25 November in Nairobi, Kenya, were notified of the upcoming High Level Forum, its focus and objectives and invited to attend.
 - The Co-Chair of the Expert Group has submitted abstracts to the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference for March 2016 in Washington D.C., and FIG working Week in May 2016 in New Zealand, where he intends to speak on the objectives and work of the Expert Group to raise its profile.
4. The Expert Group will be convening its first meeting during the 4th High Level Forum on UN-GGIM where it hopes to discuss in detail its work plan and define its expected deliverables, in addition to identifying partnership and working arrangements with other global land entities.

Actions by the Bureau

1. The Bureau is requested to endorse the Expert Group's Terms of Reference.
2. Provide any pointers/inputs deemed critical to the technical discussions at the 4th High Level Forum.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. The Bureau is to review and submit comments on the terms of reference for amendment and endorsement thereafter.
2. The Expert Group was encourage to work with UN-GGIM regional committees particularly those having working groups focusing on land administration and management, as is the case of UN-GGIM for Asia and the Pacific.
3. There were extensive discussions on preparations and coordination of the 4th High Level Forum, inclusive of preparation and issuing of announcement and invitation letters and concept note, Ministerial Summit, participation of industry, identification of topics of importance, and possible side events.
 - a. The agreed theme for the forum is "Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda"



- b. Possible side events identified were :- Integration of statistics and geospatial information, Expert Group meeting on Land Administration and Management, GlobeLand 30 training session, GGRF/AFREF meeting, ICA session on Data Quality and session on the 2020 Round of Census



Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda – Decision 5/101

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report describing the various activities undertaken in the past year to raise the profile of geospatial information as an enabler for sustainable development, and also expressed its appreciation to the countries and agencies that had actively contributed to the activities;
- b) Noted that the explicit mention of earth observation and geospatial information in the finalized text for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a considerable opportunity for Member States since objective, comprehensive and authoritative data and information will be needed in a timely manner to support sustainable development policy and decision-making at all levels;
- c) Committed to working closely with the statistical community, at both the national and global levels, by providing inputs into the processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators since many goals have a geospatial dimension;
- d) Supported the nomination of a limited number of Member State geospatial experts to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group so as to provide inputs into the development of the indicator framework;
- e) With a view to supporting the work of the Committee in the context of the IAEG-SDGs, agreed to the proposal to set up a small task team to assist in developing the inputs into the global indicator framework, building on existing work and ongoing working mechanisms and taking into account the importance of standards in this context;
- f) Stressed the need to support the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 with the appropriate indicators;
- g) Stressed that appropriate resources and the commitment of policymakers would be necessary for the implementation of the global indicator framework in the future.

Status

- The UN-GGIM Task Team on 2030 Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (TT-SDGI) was established in September 2015 and led by Denmark as Chair. Comprising 15 representatives, Terms of Reference have been developed and agreed upon by the Task Team.
- Denmark, as Chair of the TT-SDGI, has been nominated to represent UN-GGIM on the IAEG-SDGs and participated as an observer in the 2nd IAEG-SDGs meeting 26-28 October 2015 in Bangkok. At the meeting, Denmark was invited to deliver a presentation on the relevance of geospatial information for the SDG indicators. The presentation was well received by the IAEG-SDG and the large group of observers and civil society representatives.
- At the end of the meeting the list of indicators contained 159 green and 65 grey indicators. In next months the IAEG-SDG will finalise the list to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2016. When the IAEG-SDG has finalised its work, the UNSC will send its technical recommendations on to ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. The recommendations will contain a global indicator list and a technical note explaining in detail the process and criteria applied in reaching the recommended indicators.



- The 3rd meeting of the IAEG-SDGs will also take place in March 2016 on the margins of the Statistical Commission.
- The Task Team, in collaboration with GEO, will convene a side event on the integration of geospatial/statistical information on the margins of the 47th meeting of the UNSC on Monday 7 March. The side event will provide concrete examples of the need for disaggregating relevant SDG indicators by geographic location as stated in the 2030 Agenda and referenced by the IAEG-SDG.
- The Task Team will, with support from the UN-GGIM Secretariat, develop a work plan for the period after March 2016, which will draw on the organisational capacity and expertise of the Regional Committees. The focus will be on supporting the implementation of indicators with methodologies for using geospatial information, suggestions about geospatial data sources and governance programmes, etc.
- The Task Team would like to include a short high-level message into the final IAEG-SDG report to be tabled to the UNSC in March 2016, and to additionally provide a background room document on the value of geospatial information and earth observations for the statistical community.

Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the efforts carried out by the TT-SDGI under the leadership of Denmark, and encouraging Regional Committee's and relevant national geospatial agencies to engage and commit to the need for geospatial information and other data sources for the global indicator framework for monitoring the SDGs and targets over the next 15 years.
2. The global indicator framework will be determined in the coming months. Implementation of the framework, and the sources of data that contribute to it, will then need to be considered in earnest. The Bureau is requested to discuss and consider strategies and mechanisms that enable UN-GGIM to play a leading role in providing the geospatial inputs and methodologies into both the SDG indicator framework and Sendai Framework, and to align national and regional efforts with the global efforts over the coming years.
3. Support and contribute to the side event on the margins of the 47th meeting of the UNSC on Monday 7 March 2016.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. The Bureau agreed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be an important component of UN-GGIM's work in the coming years, and that this needs to be adequately reflected in the report to ECOSOC.
2. The Bureau was very grateful to the efforts of Denmark at the IAEG-SDGs, and that there is now a new forum on the integration of statistical and geospatial information on the Statistical Commission calendar. This will assist considerably in bringing greater understanding to our two professional communities.



Statement of shared guiding principles on the management of geospatial information – Decision 5/109

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on the development of a statement of shared guiding principles, and congratulated them for their leadership in the preparation of the global Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management;
- b) Adopted the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management, and encouraged Member States to endorse and implement them within their national circumstances;
- c) Supported the continued work of the working group, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to prepare and implement a communications process that informs and educates Member States and others within the global geospatial community on ways to adopt the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management and to consider a plan for updating the principles as needed, depending on technological, institutional and other changes having an impact on the geospatial sector, with the possibility of submitting the principles to the Economic and Social Council, if required in the future.

Status

- The Guiding Principles have been published on a one page flyer, posted on the UN-GGIM website under UN-GGIM Resource Documents <http://ggim.un.org/UN%20Resource%20Documents.html> and also circulated to Working Group members.
- The Guiding Principles are to be translated in all United Nations languages before being widely circulated. Member States are to be asked to assist with the translation.
- A draft work plan has been prepared, that focuses on reconstituting the Working Group, informing and sensitising Member States on the benefits and use of the Guiding Principles and the preparation of implementation guidelines.
- The Working Group Chair- New Zealand, invited Canada, Japan and Singapore to become members of the Working Group. Japan accepted the invitation, Canada declined, citing lack of resources and Singapore indicated that they will be responding in due course. Current Member States are Australia, France, Japan, Mexico and New Zealand.

Actions by the Bureau

1. The Bureau is requested to note the work of the Working Group.
2. Provide support in informing Member States on the availability of the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles and encouraging them to adopt and have them implemented in their organisations, in addition to documenting the implementation process and effect, pre and post the introduction of the Guiding Principles.
3. Discuss and identify which Member State would lead the consultation process and when would be an appropriate time to have the Guiding Principles submitted to ECOSOC for endorsement.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions



1. There was general discussion on the purpose/objective of the Guiding Principles, and suggestions were tendered on the possible ways it could be promoted and used by UN-GGIM members.
2. It was agreed that the Guiding Principles are to be translated into all six United Nations languages. Members of the Extended Bureau (Saudi Arabia, China, Burkina Faso and Japan) offered to have the document translated to their national language.
3. A paragraph on the preparation and endorsement of the Guiding Principles is to be included in the Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts, under Section III - Major Accomplishments of the Committee of Experts
4. The working group was encouraged to continue with its work as proposed.
5. No decision was taken on discussion item 3 regarding the appropriate timing to have the Guiding Principles submitted to ECOSOC.



Knowledge base for geospatial information management & Future Trends Second Edition – Decision 5/111

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Took note of the report on the knowledge base for geospatial information¹¹ and reiterated its critical role as a valuable tool for information-sharing and capacity-building;
- b) Noted the announcement of the completion of the report on the status of topographic mapping in the world by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the proposal to establish a working group for possible future maintenance;
- c) Expressed its appreciation to the Ordnance Survey for its contribution in producing the document entitled “Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision, Second Edition” in 2015, and requested the Bureau to define and communicate a process for its completion to the Committee of Experts with a view to finalizing it before the submission by the Committee of the review of its work to the Economic and Social Council in 2016;
- d) Expressed its views on the way forward for the knowledge base portal, including improvements such as the better integration of survey information collected, possible translation into other languages and additional items to be incorporated such as links to external reference documents produced by Member States and observers and links to training materials and workshops;
- e) Welcomed the proposed standardization of country reports and the offer of Member States and organizations, especially regional commissions, to contribute to the portal, and encouraged others to contribute additional material at the national and regional levels in accordance with an established process to be determined by the Secretariat;
- f) Requested the Secretariat to periodically report to the Committee of Experts on the continued maintenance of the portal.

Status

- UN-GGIM Secretariat, with the help of an intern from NASG, China, is currently populating the KB with key content to the existing items related to National Spatial Data Infrastructures, UN-GGIM Studies/Best Practices, Geospatial Information Laws/Directives, Geospatial Information Websites, List of Educational/Training Institutes, with representation of the countries concerned on the World map. Work on adding the new items dedicated to the “Future Trends” and “Status of Mapping in the World” has also been carried out.
- Involvement of countries and regional committees is key to maintain the KB and improve its content. Contact to regional committees has been made, but with few if any feedback.
- Communication and user-friendly access is important in order make to the KB more visible, accessible to global users, and useful reference particularly to users from both geospatial and statistical communities.
- UN-GGIM will continue to work on the improvement and development of the KB portal, aiming to have a final product before August 2016.
- The Bureau will have a copy of the “Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision, Second Edition”.



Actions by the Bureau

1. For informing about the progress made since August, and encouraging regional committee's and Member States to contribute to the development of the KB.
2. Following the global consultation, the Bureau will need to finalize and agree on the document entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision, Second Edition"

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. There was general recognition of the importance of the development of the Knowledge Base, and suggestions were made on additional information related to National Reports, NGOs, UNGIWG agencies, and Academia.
2. Regional Committees on UN-GGIM involvement was welcomed with UN-GGIM: Americas commitment to provide relevant information to the KB and a request from the Chair of the UN-GGIM-AP that UN-GGIM Secretariat send a letter to all the Chairs of the Regional Committees seeking their contribution.
3. An agreement that the new edition of the "Future Trends" is a position document to be attached to the ECOSOC Review, with a recommendation to prepare an abridged version that should be more targeted and catering to the needs of developing countries.



Coordination of United Nations activities in geospatial information management - Decision 5/110

The Committee of Experts:

- a) Took note of the report on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management, stressed that the sessions of the Committee of Experts are indeed an appropriate platform to address coordination issues, and reiterated the invitation to all relevant stakeholders in the United Nations system active in the field of geospatial information management, such as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), to actively participate;
- b) Noted the many valuable geospatial information initiatives undertaken throughout the United Nations system, while expressing some concern that they should be sustainable and not appear to be fragmented, called for a report documenting the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner, and invited the Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) to reach out to relevant United Nations partners to assist in the preparation of the report;
- c) Suggested that other existing United Nations coordination frameworks be studied in preparing the report, stressed the need for support from senior management to ensure effective cooperation, including the elaboration of a proposal for a more structured coordination mechanism, and agreed to include the issue of the effective coordination of geospatial activities of the United Nations system in the review prepared by the Committee of Experts on its work for presentation to the Economic and Social Council in 2016;

Status

- To date the UNGIWG Co-Chair election has not taken place so communication with UNGIWG is with DSS and UN-OOSA as the current Co-Chairs.
- A letter has been drafted to be sent out to the United Nations System (United Nations Secretariat departments and offices, and the Funds and Programmes) to carry out a geospatial profiling exercise to prepare for the studying the existing UN coordination frameworks in the context of geospatial information management.

Actions by the Bureau

1. For noting the efforts by UN-GGIM Secretariat to continue engaging with UNGEGN, and preparing for the study of existing UN coordination frameworks for geospatial information management.

Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. Discussed was how the fragmented approach the UN System took in carrying out activities which indirectly affect geospatial issues in both the United Nations and Member States on the ground. The Secretariat also shared the internal challenges that exist due to the lack of mandate by the geospatial community of UNGIWG. The Member States noted that they have the right to address this problem at the senior level of the UN System.



2. It was agreed that the collection of geospatial profiles across the United Nations System is a first step to strengthening the coordinating mechanism as an efficient and effective coordination mechanism is important. The Bureau agreed that the timing to include this profiling for the Programme Review will be too short of a timeline but agreed to consider revisiting this issue of expanded mandate and noted the Secretariat's follow-up on request for input to the UN System on the geospatial profiling exercise.
3. The Secretariat discussed the contribution submitted by UNGEGN to the UN-GGIM Programme Review document for ECOSOC which resulted in a teleconference with the UNGEGN Bureau and UNSD. The objective of the report and a number of issues were clarified and agreed on during the teleconference. It was agreed that UNGEGN would formally respond with its input for the Programme Review document for ECOSOC on or before 10 January 2016. It was also agreed that the UN-GGIM Programme Review report provided an opportunity for UNGEGN and UN-GGIM to strengthen its working relations, noting the unique expertise the UNGEGN community can provide and for UNGEGN to review its operations framework,.



Contribution of thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda



Outcome/Follow-up Actions

1. Following a briefing by Prof. Huayi Wu from Wuhan University, the Bureau discussed the possibility of establishing an academic network under the auspices of UN-GGIM. It was agreed that the Secretariat would write to a number of leading global University's with a geospatial program, particularly those that have been strong supporters of UN-GGIM, inviting them to 'self-organise' into and form an academic network. Wuhan University and NASG of China offered to assist in this process.
2. In a similar regard, the Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the growing desire for the private sector to also form a loose private sector network similar to that of the JBGIS. As a first step, the Bureau agreed that the Bureau and Secretariat might have a meeting with private sector participants at the 4th HLF in Addis Ababa in April 2016 to gauge the level of interest and plan next steps.



V. Upcoming Meetings and Events

The Extended Bureau reviewed the dates and status of preparations for the following seven meetings to be hosted and/or attended by the Committee of Experts and the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

	Name	Date	Location
1.	UN-GGIM Arab States Regional Committee Meeting	23-26 Feb. 2016	United Arab Emirates
2.	47 th Session of the UN Statistical Commission	8-11 March 2016	UN Headquarters, New York, USA
3.	World Bank Land and Poverty Conference	14-18 March 2016	Washington DC, USA
4.	UN-GGIM 4 th High Level Forum	20-22 April 2016	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
5.	29 th Session of UNGEGN	25-29 April 2016	UN-ESCAP, Bangkok, Thailand
6.	3 rd meeting of the EG-ISGI - on margins of the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians	27-29 April 2016	Paris, France
7.	Forum on UN-GGIM Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters	April 2016	Kunming, China

VI. Other Business

Briefing by the World Bank Group

The Bureau was briefed on Wednesday 9 December, 2015 by Mr. Ede Ijjasz-Vasquez, Senior Director of Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience at the World Bank. While Mr. Ijjasz-Vasquez participated via teleconference, Mr. Alvaro Federico Barra and Ms. Vanessa Lawrence participated in person on behalf of the Bank.

The Bureau was informed that the World Bank's goals include ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity by contributing to the global development agenda, delivering customized development solutions backed by finance, knowledge, and convening services, and helping to advance knowledge. A new objective for the Bank is to look at development through the lens of spatial location, including to provide high level guidance to develop a geospatial information management engagement note that addresses: 1) The World Bank Group's internal use of geospatial resources and data; and 2) Assessing how the World Bank Group could assist client countries to optimize the use of geospatial information.



The World Bank and the Bureau discussed the possible mechanisms for creating the enabling environment for geospatial data, infrastructure and policies to be embedded more holistically within the financial process, and subsequent implementation in specific countries. It was a very initial exploratory but productive discussion on how to build capacity to build the geospatial information topic. The Bank has a goal to ensure that in each country in which the World Bank operates, geospatial information underpins future development decision-making in a transparent way; and assists in many aspects of the country's work including their measuring and monitoring processes.

There was agreement that the discussion will continue among the group, and facilitated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

Presentation from Wuhan University, China

Prof. Wu, from Wuhan University, China introduced the International Academy of Geo-informatics Program of Wuhan University (IAG-WHU) to the extended Bureau of UN-GGIM on 9th December 2015. He proposed and agreed on by the Extended Bureau that an academic network of Geo-Informatics Universities should be created in collaboration with UN-GGIM, with IAG-WHU being the starting node.

It was also decided that IAG-WHU would play a leading role to create the UN-GGIM Academic Network with the support from other partners of the Member States. The UN-GGIM Secretariat and the chairs of the Regional Committees are to submit a list of three to five leading Universities offering geo-informatics programmes in their country, before the end of 2015. This initiative is to be worked on and a report submitted to the sixth session of UN-GGIM in August 2016.



APPENDIX I

List of Participants

1. Dr. Li Pengde
Deputy Director General
National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China
2. Mr. Hiroshi Murakami
Deputy Administrator
Geospatial Information Authority of Japan
3. Mr. Timothy Trainor
Chief, Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau
4. Mr. Rolando Ocampo-Alcantar
Vice President
National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI)
5. Mr. Sultan Mohammed Alya
Director General
Ethiopian Mapping Authority
6. Mr. Saad Mohammed Al-Hamlan
General Manager
Geospatial Information Center General Commission for Survey
7. Mr. Bengt Kjellson
Director General
The Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority
8. Mr. Abdoulaye Belem
Director General
Geographic Institute of Burkina
9. Ms. Xiaohong JIANG
Division Director, Dept. of Science, Technology and International Cooperation
National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation of China
10. Mr. Alvaro Monett Hernandez
Secretarfa Ejecutiva
SNIT IDE-Chile
Ministry of National Property

UN-GGIM Secretariat

11. Stefan Schweinfest
12. Greg Scott
13. Amor Laaribi
14. Cecille Blake
15. Kyong-soo Eom
16. Ayako Kagawa
17. Geraldine Verandia
18. Chuanwen Hu
19. Xinyan Zheng



Pictures from the Extended Bureau Meeting

