

Terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Objectives and functions

1. The objectives and functions of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management will be:

(a) To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, including the United Nations regional cartographic conferences and their permanent committees on spatial data infrastructures, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information;

(b) To propose workplans and guidelines with a view to promoting common principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards for the interoperability and interchangeability of geospatial data and services;

(c) To provide a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries, and, in this regard, to assist interested countries in developing the full potential of geospatial information and the underlying technology;

(d) To compile and disseminate best practices and experiences of national, regional and international bodies on geospatial information related, inter alia, to legal instruments, management models and technical standards, thus contributing to the establishment of spatial data infrastructures, while allowing for flexibility in the development of national geospatial activities;

(e) In performing its functions, the Committee should build upon and make use of the existing work of other forums and mechanisms in the related field.

Membership, composition and terms of office

2. The Committee will comprise experts from all Member States, as well as experts from international organizations, as observers. In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection.

3. The Committee will elect two co-Chairs during each session from among its members, respecting geographical balance and representation.

4. The Committee may establish, as and when needed, informal working groups or subcommittees to deal with specific issues related to its work programme.

Reporting procedure

5. The Committee will report to the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

6. The Committee will normally meet once a year and may hold, under exceptional circumstances, additional meetings, as appropriate.

Secretariat

7. The Committee will be supported by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Support.

Meeting documentation

8. Meeting documentation will include an agenda, the previous report of the Committee, thematic notes prepared by working groups or subcommittees, notes by the Secretariat and other relevant documents prepared by external experts or expert groups.