

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the role and work of the Committee in promoting international cooperation in tax matters, including further options to strengthen the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations;

6. *Decides* to hold a one-day meeting in 2012 in conjunction with the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation;

7. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue invitations to representatives of national tax authorities to attend the meeting;

8. *Stresses* the need for appropriate funding for the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to enable those bodies to fulfil their mandates;

9. *Reiterates*, in this regard, its appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

*47th plenary meeting  
27 July 2011*

### **2011/24. Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 2010/240 of 21 July 2010, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 2011 a report on global geographic information management,

*Recalling also* Statistical Commission decision 41/110 of 26 February 2010,<sup>80</sup> in which the Commission requested the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to convene a meeting of an international expert group to address global geographic information management issues, including reviewing the existing mechanisms and exploring the possibility of creating a global forum,

*Recalling further* the resolution on global geographic information management adopted by the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,<sup>81</sup> in which the Conference requested the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to initiate discussions and prepare a report, for submission to the Economic and Social Council, on global coordination of geographic information management, including consideration of the possible creation of a United Nations global forum for the exchange of information between countries and other interested parties, and in particular for sharing best practices in legal and policy instruments, institutional management models, technical solutions and standards, interoperability of systems and data, and sharing mechanisms that guarantee easy and timely accessibility of geographic information and services,

*Recognizing* the importance of integrating cartographic and statistical information, as well as spatial data, with a view to fostering location-based geospatial information, applications and services,

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<sup>80</sup> *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 4 (E/2010/24)*, chap. I, sect. B.

<sup>81</sup> See *Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific: Report of the Conference, Bangkok, 26–29 October 2009* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.L2), chap. IV, sect. B.

## Resolutions

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*Recognizing also* the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation on cartography, geographical names and geospatial information, including through the organization of conferences, expert meetings, technical publications, training courses and cooperation projects,

*Taking into account* the urgent need to take concrete action to strengthen international cooperation in the area of global geospatial information,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management<sup>82</sup> and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information;

3. *Decides*, in this regard, to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present resolution, to be established and administered within existing resources and organized accordingly, and requests the Committee to present to the Economic and Social Council, in 2016, a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness;

4. *Encourages* Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field.

*47th plenary meeting  
27 July 2011*

### **Annex**

#### **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

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<sup>82</sup> E/2011/89.

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 related fields.

### **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.

## **2011/25. Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1999/65 of 26 October 1999 and 2009/19 of 29 July 2009,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals during the biennium 2009–2010,<sup>83</sup>

### **A. Work of the Committee regarding the transport of dangerous goods**

*Recognizing* the importance of the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals for the harmonization of codes and regulations relating to the transport of dangerous goods,

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<sup>83</sup> E/2011/91.

## Decisions

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(a) Ping HUANG (China) and Patricia SCHULZ (Switzerland) for a four-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2015;

(b) Peter Brandt EVANS (United States of America), Rosalind EYBEN (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Annika SUNDEN (Sweden) and Zenebeworke TADESSE (Ethiopia), for an additional two-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2013.

### **2011/279. Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions**

At its 54th plenary meeting, on 5 December 2011, the Economic and Social Council decided to further defer its consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions<sup>62</sup> until the 2012 substantive session of the Council.