Newsletter
July / August 2017
07

UN-GGIM – Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group/ Interim Subcommittee on Geodesy

UN RESOLUTION
In February 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution "A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development" – the first resolution recognizing the importance of a globally-coordinated approach to geodesy.

The GGRF Working Group/Interim Subcommittee on Geodesy is working on the development of an implementation plan for the GGRF roadmap that will describe how governments can contribute to the sustainability and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

unggrf.org

NEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GEODESY

A significant milestone

The Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group is now in transition to become the UN-GGIM subcommittee on geodesy.

To provide stability and longer-term planning for the GGRF the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts last summer decided to elevate the GGRF Working Group to a permanent subcommittee on geodesy.

"The establishment of a permanent subcommittee is a significant milestone for global geodesy. It sends a very clear message to Member States, and other global geodetic entities, communicating that enhancement of geodetic reference frames should be a long term strategic priority for governments," says Gary Johnston, co-chair of the UN-GGIM Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF); the interim subcommittee on geodesy.

Following UN-GGIM sixth session, the GGRF Working Group made a plan for the transition to become the subcommittee on geodesy and drafted the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the subcommittee. The draft Terms of Reference will be tabled for endorsement at UN-GGIM seventh session.

The arrangement of the inaugural formal workshop of the subcommittee is tentatively planned in the margins of the 2017 UN-GGIM High Level Forum in Mexico City.

PHOTO: ANNE JØRGENSEN

***NEW YORK:** The establishment of the new UN-GGIM subcommittee on geodesy provides stability and longer-term planning for the GGRF.*

ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

To support science and society

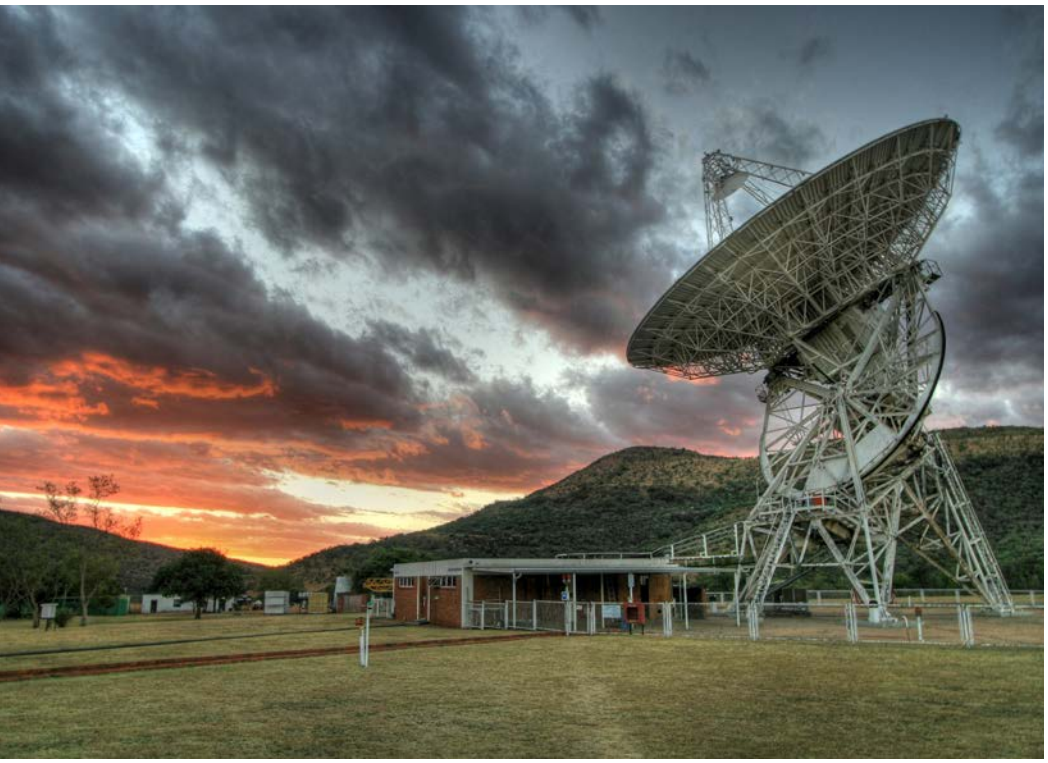
An accurate, accessible and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame to support science and society.

"The work with developing the implementation plan for the GGRF roadmap is progressing and the intention is to present the plan to the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts at its eight session", says Laila Løvhøiden, co-chair of the UN-GGIM Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF); the interim subcommittee on geodesy.
"The ambition is that the implementation plan will be the first step on the road towards an accurate, accessible and sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame to support science and society, which also is the vision of the implementation plan".

Appropriate governance arrangements
The framework for an appropriate governance mechanism is beginning to shape. The focus group assigned to develop the position paper agrees that in order to effectively implement the road map for the global geodetic reference frame, some kind of intergovernmental arrangement must be established. "Recognizing the critical importance of such a governance structure, it´s imperative that we engage in broad consultations before we conclude," says Laila Løvhøiden, team lead of the UN-GGIM GGRF governance focus group.

PHOTO: ANNE JØRGENSEN

***VIENNA, APRIL 2017:** Working group- and focus groups meetings.*



Hartebeesthoek observatory (HartRAO), South Africa: ***Shooting of the new documentary film on geodesy has taken place in South Africa, the UK, Argentina, Svalbard/Norway, the USA and Japan.*** PHOTO: THOMAS ABBOTT

New documentary film

As encouraged by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, the interim subcommittee has during the last year continued its efforts in making the GGRF more visible and understandable to stakeholders and society.

The dedicated communication and outreach work has resulted in increased engagement and awareness of the importance of the global geodetic reference frame and the work of the UN-GGIM GGRF Working Group. As an example, a Norwegian film company has produced the international documentary film "Quest for the Exact Position" documenting how an accurate, accessible and sustainable GGRF supports science and society.

"I hope this documentary film will make clear that we are in great need for the ultimate precision in solving the challenges we are facing - whatever they deal with - climate change, natural disasters, technology, communication. Geodesy, GGRF and a global co-operation seem to be a basic premise for achieving this," says documentary filmmaker Sverre Krüger at Nova Vision AS, the Norwegian film company.

A Norwegian version of the documentary was broadcasted repeatedly nationally in Norway in March, May, June and July this year and is also available at nrk.no.

"Several nations have already expressed their interest in the international documentary and a world preview of the film will be shared with the participants of the GGRF Side Event during UN-GGIM seventh session in New York," says Anne Jørgensen, team lead of the UN-GGIM GGRF communication and outreach focus group.

Quest for the Exact Position

Many scenarios for the future are to be found. Some come across as unrealistic. Others are already here – such as driverless cars, unmanned ships, and aircraft without pilots.

BY SVERRE KRÜGER, WRITER AND EDITOR

This technology is in place. Nevertheless, some of the most important advances remain to be implemented because this future scenario calls for navigation and precision with tolerances at the level of a millimetre. This demand for ultimate accuracy is also of the utmost importance in determining the progress of climate change and what countermeasures need to be deployed.

The UN General Assembly has therefore urged all the world's nations to secure greater precision in measuring climate developments, enhancing navigation and improving rescue operations after natural disasters. Above all, they need to establish a common global system of coordinates which ensures that position can be determined exactly – regardless of where in the world it is measured from.

The documentary film "Quest for the Exact Position" reports on efforts to establish a completely precise location. Filming has taken place in the UK, South Africa, Argentina, Svalbard, the USA and Japan.

Quest for the Exact Position

– documentary 29 minutes

Technical format: **HD**
Writer & editor: **Sverre Krüger**
Camera & editing: **Emma Jøsok**
Commentary: **Ann Jones**
Science consultance: **The Norwegian Mapping Authority**
Production: **Nova Vision AS 2017 ©**

Available for transmission by September 2017. Full soundmix or international soundtrack. Manuscript in English.
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