



UN-GGIM Quarterly

Number 1, November 2017

From the Director of UNSD



On behalf of the UN-GGIM Secretariat, I am pleased to share with you our first issue of "**UN-GGIM Quarterly**", an electronic newsletter that will be issued four times per year. We believe that the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM provides an opportune time and event to launch this newsletter. The "**UN-GGIM Quarterly**" has been initiated

as a direct result of a discussion and decision by the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau, for us to be more assertive in engaging with our global geospatial community. Pursuant to the same decision, my office has also redesigned the UN-GGIM web pages (<http://ggim.un.org/>) to provide you with easier access to meetings, documents, search functionalities and more user-friendly features, including optimization for mobile devices.

The newsletter will strengthen and enhance communication among Member States, working groups, regional committees, our networks and interested stakeholders. It will provide updates and snapshots on your work and will promote and inform of upcoming national, regional and global UN-GGIM events.

In anticipation of your future contributions in forthcoming editions, I sincerely thank those of you who contributed to this inaugural issue. Especial thanks and recognition is extended to UN-GGIM Asia and the Pacific for suggesting the name of the newsletter.

The next issue of the newsletter is scheduled for March 2018. You are invited to send your news items, working group updates and notices of upcoming meetings to ggim@un.org. I also encourage you to send us your comments and suggestions on how to improve "**UN-GGIM Quarterly**".

I am delighted to welcome you to the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, and do hope you enjoy reading this inaugural issue.

Stefan Schweinfest
Director
United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)

5th High level Forum on UN-GGIM

When: From 28-30 November 2017,

Where: The Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico

What: The [5th High level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management](#).

Theme: "**Implementing the Sustainable Development goals: role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation**",

Organizers: UNSD, UN-GGIM Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Mexico through the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), and Geospatial Media and Communications.

Objective

To facilitate an in-depth dialogue on geospatial technology and innovation, and the importance of public-private partnerships for the promotion of geospatial knowledge and services towards increasing the availability, accessibility and application of high-quality, reliable and timely geospatial information for sustainable development.

Programme

The program structure follows previous High Level Forums; The opening statement will be delivered by the Minister for Science and Technology, Mexico; and, there will be Ministerial Statements from 6-8 Ministers; five Sessions consisting of more than 7 keynotes, 60 panelists and moderators to engage in discussions with participants.

Detailed program is available on the forum website at <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-Mexico/>.

With an overarching theme of "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation", the High Level Forum will provide Member States and geospatial information stakeholders the unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, practices and experiences and support the attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

High Level Forum Side Events

The main program of the High Level Forum is accompanied by two side events:

Title: *First Meeting of the United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy*
When: 26-27 November 2017
Where: INEGI, Mexico City, Mexico
What: An intergovernmental forum, with equitable regional representation, for cooperation and exchange of dialogue on issues relating to the maintenance, enhancement and use of a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).

The inaugural Subcommittee meeting will consider its governance arrangements, adopt its terms of reference and consider at length its Roadmap and Implementation Plan. One of the objectives of the Subcommittee are to promote the GGRF and its use – from a global system to national implementations. This includes being able to communicate effectively with policy and decision makers See [Concept Note](#) for additional information

Title: *Using Satellite Imagery in the SDG's the Case of Indicator 6.6.1*
When: 27 November 2017 at 2:00 – 5:00 pm
Where: National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) Mexico City
What: To share experiences on indicator 6.6.1 on freshwater related ecosystems, and to explore opportunities for better monitoring of the land water ocean nexus. Additional details including the location of the side event are included in the [Concept Note](#) .

The event is coordinated by United Nations Environment, in partnership with UN-GGIM, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico, the European Space Agency (ESA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

The Secretariat in collaboration with its partners looks forward to welcoming participants to the Fifth High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management and to Mexico City.

Upcoming UN-GGIM Events and Activities

1. 5th High Level Forum of the UN-GGIM, 28-30 November 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico
2. UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting, 1 December 2017, in Mexico City, Mexico
3. 5th Meeting of UN-GGIM Arab States, February 2018 in Muscat, Oman.
4. 49th Session of the Statistical Commission, 6 – 9 March 2018, in New York, USA
5. Eighth Session of Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM, 1-3, August 2018, New York, USA
6. 1st United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, 27 – 29 November 2018 in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China

From the Expert and Working Groups

Working Group on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes – Update on progress

In August this year, prior to the Committee of Experts meeting, we held a side meeting at which nine representatives from the other UN-GGIM working groups, together with UNGEGN and the IAEG-SDGs: Working Group on Geospatial Information, presented on:

- how the proposed fundamental themes will contribute to their work,
- how we can make better linkages between their work and ours, and
- how they suggest we can promote the fundamental themes in their 'domain'.

This was a very successful meeting and there is clearly an interest in working more closely together which was reflected in the actual Committee meeting.

The Group presented its [Report](#) to the Committee meeting. There were many interventions made, all of which were positive, and some of which introduced some helpful suggestions. If you would like to view the agenda item you can see it on [UN Web TV](#) from 58:45 onwards.

The [Report of the Session](#) is now available on the UN-GGIM website. Of note is that the Committee:

- Endorsed the minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes, (shown in box below) subject to minor suggested amendments.

Minimum List of Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

Reference Frame

Global geodetic Reference Frame

Theme

Geographical names
Addresses
Functional Areas
Buildings/ Settlements
Land Parcels/properties
Transport Networks
Elevation and depth
Population distribution
Land Cover and Use
Geology/Soils
Physical infrastructure/service delivery points
Water
Imagery

This is a great outcome, and a big thank you to all those who have contributed so far whether from the Regional Committees or as WG members.

Next?

So, the WG now has two strands of work. Firstly, to continue with the theme descriptions which we have started, and secondly to start to consider, with the Secretariat, how we promote and socialize what we have done so far. Alongside this we must consider the points raised by the Committee.

Theme Descriptions

The initial drafts of the theme descriptions were all produced by WG members. They were then put out for review by all Regions, Work Group members and other GGIM Expert and Working Groups. That review period has just closed and the revised descriptions are being produced. These will go to the Steering Group in November and we will hold a final review teleconference later in the year.

If you would like to be involved in the WG, please contact the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat at carol.agius@eurogeographics.org

Trends in National Institutional Arrangements in Geospatial Information Management

At the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM, the Committee of Experts adopted the framework of instruments, good practices, guidelines and recommendations on national institutional arrangements (NIA) in global geospatial information management. An exceptional resource guide produced by the NIA working group is the compendium of good practices. It consists of 59 examples of good practices/best cases, from 37 Member States. The compendium, related instruments and guidelines provide a starting point for many countries to support delivery and/or improvement on their current policies, legislation and programs of national institutional arrangements for geospatial information management.

The NIA working group, as requested by the Committee of Experts will now be working on:

- Improving the compendium of good practices – to increase the number of cases and make them easily accessible,
- Developing a guide to facilitate the use of the principles and instruments and
- Dovetail its work with that of the other working groups such as fundamental data themes, and legal and policy. In addition, the outputs are needed to be used as base line for the UNSD World Bank Project.

Contribution to Compendium of Good Practices

In continuation of its work plan the NIA invites Member States to submit to the Secretariat at e-mail ggim@un.org their experiences/good practices to be included in the "Compendium of good practices for national institutional arrangements". The template can be downloaded from the NIA working group's webpage at <http://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-wg4/>

Towards Greater Collaboration Between Statistical and Geospatial Communities

The Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI) was convened in Stockholm from 9-10 November 2017 and was attended by experts from 15 countries, several UN organisations and industry observers. The meeting followed the UNECE/UN-GGIM:Europe Workshop on Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Standards, which many Expert Group members helped to organise and attended.



The objective of the Expert Group meeting was to review the recent decisions of the Seventh Session on UN-GGIM and the UN Statistical Commission relating to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 2020 round of Population Censuses, and to discuss and plan the future activities and priorities of the Expert Group.

During this meeting and the workshop greater collaboration was formed between the statistical and geospatial community members, actions were agreed for addressing interoperability issues between statistical and geospatial communities, and a clear prioritised work program for the UN EG-ISGI was determined.

The Expert Group work program is now focusing strongly on members working to complete more detailed definitions of the five principles in the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, and providing guidance material for particular aspects of these principles. This material will then enable other work occurring on the 2020 round of Population Censuses, the Sustainable Development Goals indicators and on other topics where geospatial enabled data is critical.

For further information, please refer to the following links:

- [UN EG-ISGI Meeting](#)
- [UNECE/UN-GGIM Workshop](#)

From the Regional Committees

New President and Vice President for UN-GGIM: Americas

After four years of continuous and joint work within the United Nations Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas) the term of the President and Vice-President has come to an end.

Over this period the Regional Committee has achieved many successes, beginning with the transition from the Permanent Committee for the Geospatial Data Infrastructure of the Americas (PC-IDEA), to incorporation into the regional architecture of UN-GGIM, the conceptualization and implementation of the Caribbean Project; strengthening regional coordination and cooperation with the Association of Caribbean States, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), GeoSur, SIRGAS, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (UWI), OGC, among others, and contributing to advancing the global geospatial agenda on items such as the integration of statistical and geospatial information. All of which have been attributable to the commitment and cooperation of its members and stakeholders.

Rolando Ocampo now has other national responsibilities in Mexico, as Vice-President in charge of the National Subsystem of Economic Information within INEGI. **Paloma Merodio Gómez**, (right) currently Vice-President in charge of the National Subsystem of Geographic and Environment Information and Territorial and Urban Planning, will take the lead of the UN-GGIM Americas Regional Committee. The new Executive Secretary will be Gabriela García Seco.



Alvaro Monett (left) has been appointed as Regional Expert in Geospatial Information Management at ECLAC, and the new Vice-President of UN-GGIM: Americas will be the new Executive Secretary of the SDI of Chile, **Macarena Pérez García** (right).



The Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP

The Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) successfully convened its Sixth Plenary Meeting in Kumamoto, Japan on 16-19 October 2017. The Meeting, hosted by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan (GSI), was attended by 67 national representatives and international observers from 13 Member States and 4 international organizations. **A Workshop on**

Regional Challenges, Benefits and Opportunities of Exchanging Geodetic Data, jointly organized by UN-GGIM-AP WG on Geodetic Reference Frame, GSI and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), was held on 16 October as a side event of the Plenary Meeting.

The Plenary Meeting reviewed the activities of UN-GGIM-AP and its four WGs during the past year, informed on UN-GGIM late activities, and discussed the next steps for UN-GGIM-AP and its WGs. Five resolutions were adopted on 1) Geodetic Reference Frame; 2) Disaster Risk Management; 3) Regional SDI; 4) Cadastre and Land Management; and 5) Special Session on Geospatial Information for Disaster Response.

A Special Session on Geospatial Information for Disaster Response - Case Study on the Disaster Response for Kumamoto Earthquake in April 2016 was organized as part of the Plenary Meeting. This Special Session, comprising 5 parts: 1) background; 2) outset of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, 3) emergency disaster response activities; 4) activities for recovery and reconstruction; and 5) overall management of disaster response activities, recreated the scenario of the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and brought each participant into the scene. Given the very detailed information of GSI's actions before, during and after the Earthquake, the participants were invited to discuss specific topics on disaster response. It provided a good platform for exchange of knowledge, experience and information on the application and importance of geospatial information in disaster risk management.

The Seventh Plenary of UN-GGIM-AP will be held in conjunction with the First United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress in Deqing, Zhejiang, China from 27-29 November 2018.

From the Networks

The Academic Network

Since its establishment in August 2016, the Academic Network has officially participated, reported and contributed to several UN-GGIM regional meetings and attended the UN-GGIM Extended Bureau meeting in December 2016. The members have actively promoted the Academic Network in these meetings and several events such as congresses, seminars and conferences.

To facilitate the promotion of the network, a pamphlet explaining the Network as well as the process to join has been designed and shared and made available via the Network's website as well as hardcopy distribution. A website as a platform to support its operation was established (www.ungim.Academetwork.org), which has been translated and available in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

A working plan for the next two years was prepared. The Network will continue its campaign to increase its membership to expand an active network. Currently the Network has 22 approved members from all continents.

An international forum on "Secure Land Rights and Smart cities – Making it Work for Sustainable Development" was successfully

held in New York as part of the Seventh Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. The outcomes of the presentations and panels further emphasized the need for and significance of developing a roadmap to effectively secure land rights, achieve the SDG's and build smart cities for all, in which geospatial information will play a critical role.

You will find the Academic Network on: **Twitter @UNGGIMAN**
Instagram UNGGIM.AN **Facebook UNGGIMAN**
YouTube UN-GGIM ACADEMIC NETWORK

From the UN-GGIM Secretariat

Strengthening national geospatial information management

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in 2016 and the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in 2017 underscored the fact that there is now a clear recognition on the need to consider integrating alternative and new data sources with traditional official government data, and to link national information systems, especially statistical and geospatial information. The ability for governments to link people, business and the economy to a particular place or geographic location can result in a better understanding of social and economic issues than is possible through a socio-economic lens on its own. The geospatial dimension is increasingly considered as a key enhancement to many metrics pertaining to national statistics, as it provides the spatial framework and structure for collecting, processing, storing, aggregating and disaggregating, and disseminating the data. UN-GGIM is implementing a series of activities that should contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by strengthening national geospatial information management and capacities that will address the availability and accessibility of geospatial information, thus addressing the data demands relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, and will require coordinated efforts at all levels including the integration of geospatial information and statistical data for tracking progress and decision-making. Hence, activities that will result in the strengthening of national geospatial information management and capacities of developing countries towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and evidence-based policy and decision-making nationally is of importance.

Collaboration with the World Bank

During the 2016-2017 period, the Expanded Bureau of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the UN Secretariat for UN-GGIM and the World Bank explored possible mechanisms for creating an enabling environment for geospatial data, infrastructure and policies to be embedded more holistically within technical assistance and

knowledge sharing programs and their subsequent implementation in developing countries. These discussions were realized in August 2017 at the seventh session of UN-GGIM. UN-GGIM affirmed and supported a collaborative agreement between United Nations Statistics Division, the Secretariat for UN-GGIM and the World Bank to formulate a joint vision to assist Member States to take practical actions to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national strategic priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The collaborative agreement seeks to develop an overarching geospatial information management framework that Member States could reference when developing and strengthening their national geospatial information systems.



Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) recognized the need to develop guides and mechanism to improve the capacity of national geospatial information authorities (or national surveying and mapping agencies) to address the legal and policy considerations that have an impact on the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information. To this end, **UN-GGIM is finalising a Compendium on the Licensing of Geospatial Information** and its accompanying training curricula and materials. The Compendium is intended to help foster understanding on the rights and obligations that organizations are agreeing to when entering into formal arrangements to improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information. The Compendium provides geospatial information management practitioners useful guidance on legal considerations relating to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

The Secretariat of UN-GGIM, supported by the Regional Committee on Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP), delivered an **International Workshop of Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management from 7 – 9 November 2017** using the draft training curricula and materials. The International Workshop was hosted by the National Administration for Surveying, Mapping and

Geoinformation of China (NASG) in the city of Tianjin, China with 34 participants from 19 Member States.

Participants were Director Generals or senior executive officers, and represented their national agencies. They came from least developed countries, Small Island developing states, land locked developing countries, developing (including middle income) and developed countries. These participants came from all five regions within UN-GGIM regional architecture, namely, Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe.

All workshop documents, and presentations are on the UNGGIM website: <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-Tianjin>

This International Workshop is intended to be the first in a series of regional peer-to-peer learning events on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management aimed to raise awareness, introduce and inform participants on practical approaches that they should find helpful in their daily work.



The Second Administrative Level Boundaries

The Second Administrative Level Boundaries (SALB) initiative aims at a working platform for the collection, compilation, management and dissemination of a homogeneous global repository on administrative boundaries and their names from authoritative source such as the National Geospatial Information Authorities, at 1:1million scale.

The SALB website, in pre-production, and incoming data from Member States will be available online at the beginning of 2018. Since the resumption of activities and the latest announcement in August 2017 at the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM, SALB has received 15 official communications of new submissions as well as other informal communications of upcoming submissions.

The SALB initiative is looking forward to receiving new GIS data submissions from Member States.

Contact : Guillaume Le Sourd at e-mail salb@un.org

This is the first issue of the UN-GGIM E-Newsletter, which will be circulated once per quarter, annually by the Secretariat of the Committee of Experts. Contributions – reports, and articles received from the members of the Committee of Experts, its expert groups, working groups, networks and regional committees are reviewed by the Secretariat. Contributions for the E-newsletter can only be considered when they are made available digitally in Microsoft Word or compatible format. They should be sent to the following address:

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