

Work Programme for 2017/2018 Biennium

Preamble

In its Decision 7/108 - Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM):

- (a) Welcomed the report of the expert group on land administration and management,⁸ and endorsed the programme of work of the expert group for the 2017-2018 biennium, subject to amendments as suggested by the Committee;
- (b) Noted the need for continued advocacy and political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management, urged the expert group to continue to address the overarching policy guidance required to capture the key principles essential for establishing effective, efficient, sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems, also noted that the principles-based overarching policy guidance should be flexible, recognizing the diverse social and economic contexts within national and subnational land administration arrangements, and further noted that close collaboration with the existing international bodies active in that field was mandatory in order to avoid any duplication of efforts;
- (c) Also noted the valuable efforts of the expert group in contributing to relevant land indicators of the global indicator framework in support of efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of the global population that had access to secure tenure of land;
- (d) Further noted the numerous suggestions for the expert group to consider in its programme of work, including focusing on issues related to interoperability, partnerships and the exchange of technology for developing countries, and the merits and benefits of a good land administration system that improved the security of tenure.

This programme of work was reviewed and revised to implement Decision 7/108 of UN-GGIM.

Background

The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group was endorsed by the Committee of Experts at its Sixth Session in August 2016 where the Expert Group was requested to report progress of activities to the Committee of Experts at its Seventh Session (August 2017) including the further development of its action plan. At the Sixth Session, the Expert Group was encouraged to contribute to the work of other groups of the Committee of Experts, where relevant, to align its action plan and subsequent activities with the 2030 Agenda and its global indicator framework. The Expert Group was also encouraged to address the issue of fit-for-purpose land administration, whereas the purpose needs to be defined when the approach is considered (e.g. for implementation, data collection), and geospatial information required to support effective and efficient land administration and management to address the need to secure land and property rights for all.

The Fourth High Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management was held in Addis Ababa in April 2016. The overarching theme was “Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda” where the Expert Group made substantive contributions. The outcome was the Addis Ababa Declaration, and key operative elements include –



Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

ggim.un.org

- affirming the importance of good land administration and management as the pillar of good governance and efficient government to address the challenges and opportunities for the 2030 Agenda specifically supporting the development of fit-for-purpose land administration and geospatial information, particularly in developing countries;
- embracing open data and standards, innovative and creative approaches and platforms that are fit-for-purpose to collect and collate, share and distribute geospatial and land information needed to address the diversity and complexity within the land sector with the singular aim to improve and secure land and property rights for all;
- committing to realize, measure and report progress to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms globally, and sustain partnerships and joint actions with UN entities, including UNECA, FAO, UN-Habitat/GLTN and the World Bank, involved in the monitoring and reporting on land SDG indicators; and
- promoting cooperation between and among all UN-GGIM regional committees in setting up global frameworks, common standards and application of best practices in geospatial information management.

The declaration called for the “cognizance of both formal and informal people-to-land relationships”.

The Expert Group convened a two-day face-to-face meeting hosted by the Government of the Netherlands through Kadaster International of The Netherlands at Delft on March 14 - 15 2017. The meeting agreed that the current action plan will be revised accordingly to reflect the outcomes of the meeting. The co-Chairs will coordinate the preparation of a work plan that would incorporate matters raised by the Committee of Experts (decisions 6/108) at its Sixth Session.

The Delft Expert Group Meeting recognised the need for guidance to Member States to have an enabling environment where there will be continual improvement of security of tenure, land and property rights that will include –

- Improved political awareness leading to more political will;
- Progressive policy and legal frameworks that produces effective legislation and/or regulations when appropriate;
- Appropriate and applicable fit-for-purpose methodologies that –
 - are internationally agreed or validated;
 - leverages on existing agreed concepts and approaches,
 - applies internationally agreed standards, and
 - land administration is sustainable.

The meeting also recognised that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development called for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including exploiting the contribution to be made by earth observations and geospatial information. The key decisions of the Delft Expert Group Meeting (http://ggim.un.org/Delft_Meeting.html) are –

- i) Develop a global framework, including standards and indicators, that captures key elements or principles essential for an acceptable, efficient, effective and sustainable land administration system that will provide security of tenure, and document, record and recognise people-to-land relationship in all its forms at scale and in a timely manner.



Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

ggim.un.org

- ii) Provide guidance for appropriate methodological approaches and standards that will accelerate the proportion of global population's relationship to land that will be documented, recorded and recognised, currently estimated at 25%-30%. This guidance will include key legal, institutional and geospatial elements that address access to basic datasets and image libraries.
- iii) Establish a liaison group, with the aim to improve awareness and understanding, enhance advocacy and knowledge sharing, to support the upcoming ISO-TC211 and OGC revision of ISO 19152 (Land Administration Domain Model).

Activities for 2017/2018

The Term of Reference called the Expert Group to play a leading role at the policy level and encourage the wider use of geospatial information, tools and systems to improve the recordation and recognition of people-to-land relationship in all its forms. For this 2017/2018 period, the work program of the Expert Group will thus focus on a series of activities as follows –

- 1) Organise a side event during the Seventh Session of UN-GGIM to deliberate with Member States, and experts from the UN System and international organisations on key elements essential for sustainable land administration that can efficiently and effectively document, record and recognise people-to-land relationship in all its forms, thus accelerating efforts to provide security of tenure, land and property rights in a timely manner.
- 2) Organise an open meeting during the Seventh Session to inform and consult Member States, UN System and observers on the Expert Group's work program for 2017/2018.
- 3) Contribute to the Fifth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management in Mexico City, as appropriate.
- 4) The co-Chairs to track the ongoing discussions on the proposal for national tenure security atlas, in particular, the details, scope, content and more importantly, the intent and utility of this atlas and to keep the Expert Group informed on the progress of the discussion.
- 5) The Expert Group will advocate the reason for, the role of, and significance and benefits of an effective, efficient, sustainable and interoperable land administration and management system, particularly within national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including the need to accelerate efforts to improve the proportion of global population's access to secure land and property rights.
- 6) The Expert Group will review and assess the outcomes of the Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts and begin the development of the framework for sustainable land administration that captures key principles essential for establishing effective, efficient, sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems. This principles-based overarching policy guidance should be flexible, recognizing the diverse social and economic contexts within national and subnational land administration arrangements. The development efforts will include key land-sector stakeholders including UN Regional Commissions, UN-Habitat/GLTN, FAO and the World Bank, and avoid any duplication of efforts.



Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

ggim.un.org

- 7) The Expert Group will establish a liaison group comprising members with domain knowledge to act as the liaison group to ISO TC-211/OGC initiative for the revision of ISO-19152 (Land Administration Domain Model). (As a clarification, the Task Team is not about standard setting, rather as a liaison between the Expert Group and the ISO TC-211/OGC initiative with the aim to improve awareness and understanding of the Expert Group and by extension, the Committee of Experts on this revision initiative.) The Task Team can advocate, share knowledge and when necessary, mobilise support for the revision.
- 8) The Expert Group will work UN systems entities and relevant international organisation in considering issues, gaps and appropriate methodological national or sub-national approaches to accelerate efforts in documenting (including survey and mapping), recording and recognizing people-to-land relationship in all its form. This may include guidance on legal, institutional, good practices, geospatial elements and to address the issue of access to basic datasets.
- 9) Subject to available resources, organise a two or three-day face-to-face meeting of the Expert Group with clear objectives and desired outcomes in the second quarter of 2018, preferably in concurrence with a related global geospatial event.
- 10) Report to the UN-GGIM Bureau and the Committee of Experts on a timely basis.

(January 2018)



Expert Group on Land Administration and Management

UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management

ggim.un.org