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List of Acronyms

CODs - Common Operational Datasets

DRRM - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

ECOSOC - (United Nations) Economic and Social Council

EEI - Essential Elements of Information
 FODs - Fundamental Operational Datasets
 GA - (United Nations) General Assembly

GGIM - (United Nations) Global Geospatial Information Management

IEC - Information, Education and Communication

NGOs - Non Government Organizations

NMAs - National Mapping Agencies

NSDI - National Spatial Data Infrastructure

UN - United Nations

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme

UNISDR - United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

UNOCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

VIG - Volunteered Geospatial Information

WCDRR - World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

WG - Working Group

I. Preamble

- **1.** Geospatial information has been widely recognized as an important aspect of DRRM. The availability and accessibility of quality geospatial data and information from authoritative sources ensure decision makers and other concerned stakeholders of an accurate common operational picture of critical scenarios before, during and after disasters.
- **2.** During emergency crises, the data sharing mechanism to support decision-making is generally not in place. As a result, the many actors and stakeholders simultaneously engaged in response are not only gathering volumes of concurrent and inconsistent geospatial datasets but they are also concerned with issues of coordination and communication. This is aggravated further by a situation wherein local institutions that see a need to pursue geospatial data development have to compete for government resources and priorities.
- **3.** Recent large scale events, such as typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan, 2013), Ebola outbreak (2014-2015) and the complex emergency situations in Iraq, have demonstrated the gap between the state of geospatial information and informed decision-making. This situation has emphasized the need to find solutions aimed at improving not only the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services, but also the coordination and communication among stakeholders at all levels of decision-making across the emergency cycle.
- **4.** These events underscored the strong relevance of a strategic framework not only to address the challenges on geospatial data management, but also benchmark best practices implemented worldwide across all phases of DRRM.
- **5.** Building on the results of a fact finding analysis¹ and a review of existing frameworks, rules, legislation and policies², the UN-GGIM worked closely with concerned key partners in order to come up with a strategic framework that will optimize the benefits of using geospatial information and services by Member States and other concerned entities across all phases of DRRM.
- **6.** This framework is not only timely in view of the increasing number and impact of disasters but also contributes to the Member States' implementation of the 'Sendai Framework for

¹UN-GGIM (2015): Improving Geospatial Information Policy, Processes and Services to support Emergency Responses - Fact Finding Analysis and Proposed Strategic Framework (Final Report): http://ggim.un.org/docs/20151215%20Final%20UN-GGIM%20Report%20on%20Emergency%20Response.pdf [Accessed April 03, 2016]

²UN-GGIM (2016): <u>Review of Frameworks, Rules, Legislation, and Policies on geospatial information and services for disasters</u> (under publication)

Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030' adopted during the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in March 2015 and subsequently endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in June 2015³. It also builds on UN General Assembly Resolution 59/12⁴ which calls upon Member States, the United Nations and other key stakeholders to assist in addressing knowledge gaps in DRRM by improving systems and networks for the collection and analysis of information on disasters, vulnerabilities and risks to facilitate informed decision-making.

7. Furthermore, DRRM is central to Sustainable Development. As such, the framework contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Expected Outcome and Goal

8. Member States and the international community have the responsibility to protect citizens from human, economic and environmental impacts, as well as provide support and assistance during disasters and/or humanitarian catastrophes. Building on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), the strategic framework aims to achieve the following outcome over the next 14 years:

The human, economic and environmental risks and impacts of disasters are prevented and reduced through the use of geospatial information and services

The realization of this outcome will require the strong commitment of all stakeholders and key partners involved in DRRM. These include, but are not limited to Governments and Government Agencies, UN-GGIM and UN Agencies, as well as NGOs, International Partners/Donors, Private Sector, Academe and Volunteers, among others.

9. The following goal must be pursued in order to attain the expected outcome:

Quality geospatial information and services are available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of the emergency cycle.

United Nations (2015): Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf [Accessed July 15, 2015]

⁴United Nations (2004): International Cooperation on Humanitarian Assistance in the field of Natural Disasters, from Relief to Development: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/243: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/243 [Accessed April 3, 2016].

Reaching this goal requires Member States to be in the position to develop, maintain and provide the necessary geospatial information and services.

10. The following targets are being proposed in order to support Member States in the assessment of their progress in achieving the outcomes and goal of the strategic framework:

- a. Awareness is raised among concerned entities on the importance of geospatial information and services and communication mechanisms are established, used and sustained;
- b. Regular assessment, monitoring and evaluation of emergency situations are conducted and a comprehensive plan is developed to address identified gaps;
- c. Governance and policies on collaboration and coordination are established, issued and implemented;
- d. Geospatial databases and information products are developed based on common standards, protocols and processes as important tools in every decision-making process across all phases of the emergency cycle;
- e. Common facilities and services are established for all key stakeholders to have a common operational picture of emergency scenarios;
- f. Technical and human capacities are built and/or strengthened and all necessary resources are made available to sustain all the activities.

III. Guiding Principles

11. The strategic framework draws from the principles included in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030⁵; the UN General Assembly resolution on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development⁶; the UN General Assembly Resolution 59/12; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and other relevant instruments pertaining, but not limited to the concepts of Open Data, Communities and Sources, as well as Spatial Data Infrastructure. The implementation of the framework will be guided by the following principles, while taking into account national circumstances, and consistent with domestic laws as well as international obligations and commitments:

a. Each Member State shall be in the position to generate, maintain and provide quality geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM;

United Nations (2015): Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf [Accessed July 15, 2015]

⁶United Nations (2004): <u>International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development: General Assembly Resolution A/RES/69/243</u>:

- b. Geospatial data and information generated and maintained by Member States shall be openly accessible to the DRRM community, particularly with those collected by the international community during emergency response;
- c. The implementation of the framework shall comply with the standards and requirements of the NSDI or contribute to the establishment of such infrastructure if not yet in place; and
- d. The international community shall extend and coordinate their support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, Small Island Developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income and other countries facing specific disaster risk challenges.

IV. Priorities for Action

- **12.** Taking into account the result of the fact finding analysis⁷ and the review of existing frameworks, laws, policies and regulations⁸, and pursuant to the expected outcome and goal, there is a need for a collaborative and coordinated approach within and across sectors in Member States in implementing the following five priorities for action:
 - **Priority 1:** Governance and Policies;
 - **Priority 2:** Awareness Raising and Capacity Building;
 - **Priority 3:** Data Management;
 - **Priority 4:** Common Infrastructure and Services; and
 - Priority 5: Resource Mobilization.
- **13.** Member States shall take into consideration their respective capacities, resources and priorities, as well as laws and regulations when initiating major activities for each priority.

Priority 1: Governance and Policies

14. The management of geospatial information and services for disasters shall be based on good governance and science-based policies. Such policies should collectively form part of the other equally important policies on awareness raising and capacity building, institutionalizing infrastructure and services, and resource mobilization.

National and Local Levels

15. To achieve this, it is important:

⁷UN-GGIM (2015): <u>Improving Geospatial Information Policy</u>, <u>Processes and Services to support Emergency Responses - Fact Finding Analysis and Proposed Strategic Framework (Final Report)</u>

⁸UN-GGIM (2016): <u>Review of Frameworks, Rules, Legislation, and Policies on geospatial information and services for disasters</u> (under publication)

- a. To identify the entity that will oversee the implementation of the five priorities for action and ensure an inclusive participation of all stakeholders and key partners with the objective of improving coordination, collaboration and communication.
- b. To regularly assess the situation when it comes to the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services. In order to be comprehensive, such assessment shall cover the five priorities for action and based on agreed upon Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- c. Based on the results of the assessment, to develop and implement plans and programs aimed at establishing or strengthening the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM.
- d. To develop and implement the necessary policies to bind all efforts in a systematic and consensus-based roadmap.
- e. To establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation scheme to continuously support and further improve both the national and institutional plans and programs as well as ensure that geospatial information and services are aligned with changing needs and priorities.

Global and Regional Levels

16. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To encourage collaboration, coordination and partnership between government and non-government actors, between and among geospatial information and emergency/response communities and between governments and international organizations.
- b. To promote mutual learning and exchange of good governance practices and policies among Member States.
- c. To provide effective channels where Member States and other stakeholders can mobilize technical knowledge and necessary resources.

Priority 2: Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

17. Risks and impacts of disasters will be greatly reduced if Member States and other stakeholders are fully aware of their respective geospatial data and information holdings. This requires all entities to bring the necessary changes towards making available and accessible quality geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM.

National and Local Levels

18. To achieve this, it is important:

a. To translate geospatial information and services into components that can easily be understood by a wider audience. Specific strategies may include using local languages,

- reflecting area and issue-based scenarios and use of social media in collecting and disseminating information.
- b. To take on technical responsibilities by leading research endeavors in DRRM using upto-date geospatial information and services. Inputs from other stakeholders should also be integrated into the DRRM system, particularly in the framing of laws and policies.
- c. To match and examine the capacities of the entities to provide training with inventories of existing skills among stakeholders and other key partners, and ensure that Member States respond to identified gaps and areas for further improvement.
- d. To promote the importance of integrating geospatial data and statistics in DRRM plans and programs through IEC campaigns and emergency simulation exercises.
- e. To design and implement multilevel geospatial information management training programs as applied to DRRM among the data custodians and users within Member States.
- f. To strengthen Member States and other stakeholders' competencies in establishing spatial data infrastructures and open data platforms for geospatial information and services.
- g. To identify and assess policy and institutional gaps for all awareness raising and capacity building initiatives.

Global and Regional Levels

19. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To develop, improve and conduct common data and information management training among the humanitarian/responders' communities.
- b. To harness the technical expertise within international partners and donor institutions through the conduct of studies, researches and models, and make available all resulting geographical datasets to recipient government and government agencies.
- c. To promote the importance of integrating geospatial data and statistics in DRRM plans and programs through IEC campaigns and emergency simulation exercises.
- d. To benchmark best practices from other Member States and institutions and cascade them to the local context. Such may come in the form of manpower and system improvements, as well as technology exchange programs. Benchmarking will also ensure that governments and government agencies are at par with the current global undertakings.

Priority 3: Data Management

20. A comprehensive method of managing geospatial data and information for their optimal utility by the Member States and other stakeholders is crucial in implementing the strategic framework. These include specific activities on data development; data standards and protocols; and data use guidelines.

National and Local Levels

21. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To develop a common and official database of minimum/baseline geospatial information and services requirements, including an initial list of EEIs addressing all phases of DRRM. These include, but are not limited to comprehensive Common and Fundamental Operational Data sets (CODs, FODs) such as administrative boundaries; critical infrastructures and other exposure datasets; Earth observation data holdings; and other forms of crowd sourced or volunteered geospatial information (VGI). Attention should be given to accuracy issues between authoritative data and VGI, particularly for disaster use.
- b. To develop hazard and risk assessment maps and other information products as crucial inputs in national and local DRRM plans and in framing relevant projects, programs and activities.
- c. To institutionalize national and local emergency responders through the development of a common contact database.
- d. To develop a registry of all international humanitarian response/assistance organizations to ensure coordination of deployment of humanitarian aid.
- e. To conduct humanitarian profiling and event or incident scenario building across all phases of the emergency cycle.
- f. To develop business use cases and data/information product templates to answer high level process needs for geospatial information in DRRM.
- g. To adhere to data management guidelines including, but not limited to data sharing; data classification; data custodianship; data stewardship; metadata; data security and control; and data backup and recovery across various levels of governance, starting from the international community to Member States down to the respective institutions.
- h. To identify and assess policy and institutional gaps for all data management initiatives.
- i. To encourage the Open Data Community to engage more actively with governments and government agencies to align the datasets produced by volunteers with the official registries and nomenclatures.
- j. To optimize the use of geospatial information products to develop common operational pictures of disaster events. In turn, these information will be translated by Member States and other stakeholders to reflect existing conditions at the local level.
- k. To use DRRM as a driver for the establishment of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Global and Regional Levels

22. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To encourage governments and the international community to openly share their data and establish mechanisms thereof.
- b. To encourage existing projects aimed at developing global datasets to converge and collaborate with relevant government agencies in countries, starting with NMAs, to get these datasets completed, updated and validated.

- c. To optimize the use of geospatial information products to develop common operational pictures of disaster events within and across affected regions.
- d. To cascade best practices, particularly established data standards, protocols and processes within and among Member States.

Priority 4: Common Infrastructure and Services

23. Institutionalizing geospatial information and services requires infrastructure support facilitated by a dedicated team of experts and support staff. This should be complemented by hardware and software acquisitions, as well as application systems which will serve as data distribution platforms. Interoperability of information will likewise require facilities and systems duly recognized and supported by Member States and other key stakeholders.

National and Local Levels

24. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To build on existing systems to develop a common infrastructure and facility, particularly an operations center supported by a maintenance program.
- b. To implement business case uses, where operation centers will provide common support services in addressing high level processes needs in all phases of DRRM. A mirror system for online and offline processing of data can also be established to sustain operations during disasters.
- c. To ensure the interoperability of all systems and processes among and within Member States by adhering to data management guidelines and other geospatial information management standards.
- d. To maintain the integrity of established common infrastructures and services by regularly conducting emergency simulation exercises.
- e. To identify and assess policy and institutional gaps for all common infrastructure and services initiatives.

Global and Regional Levels

25. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To assist Member States and other stakeholders in establishing their respective common infrastructure and services.
- b. To cascade best practices and information exchange within and among Member States, to support the logistics provided by international partners and donor institutions.

Priority 5: Resource Mobilization

26. In order to support the activities identified in this framework, an array of human resources, as well as technical, financial and other forms of logistical and administrative support is required among Member States and other stakeholders.

National and Local Levels

27. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To sensitize the authorities on the necessity of funding the acquisition, maintenance and updating of geospatial information. In particular, the NMAs should be supported to play a key role in the implementation of a NSDI that supports the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle.
- b. To encourage the academe to prioritize funding for the conduct of related research, development and extension activities, particularly in the implementation of the strategic framework.
- c. To encourage the private sectors to invest in the provision of geospatial information and related services for DRRM.
- d. To identify and assess policy and institutional gaps for all resource mobilization initiatives.

Global and Regional Levels

28. To achieve this, it is important:

- a. To improve access to funding support for the activities in the implementation of the strategic framework. These include provisions for grants, loans and other forms of financial support.
- b. To cascade best practices, particularly effective financing options within and among Member States.

V. Role of Stakeholders

29. While each Member State should be in the position to generate, maintain and provide quality geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM, it is recognized that this will require the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Their commitment, goodwill, knowledge, experience and resources are therefore key to the implementation of the strategic framework.

30. When determining specific roles and responsibilities⁹ for stakeholders to this framework, and at the same time building on existing relevant international instruments, Member States should encourage the following actions on the part of all public and private stakeholders and other key partners:

- a. Civil society groups, volunteers organizations and other community-based organizations to fully partake in the initiatives of the government, including technical and administrative provisions relating to geospatial information and services
- b. Private sector financial institutions, including financial regulators and accounting bodies, as well as philanthropic foundations, to integrate geospatial information and services as a key component to support informed decision making across all phases of DRRM. They should also encourage projects at the national and local levels to adhere to established standards, protocols, guidelines and policies as well as contribute to their strengthening, if necessary
- c. Academe, scientific and research entities and networks to focus their studies on the potential contributions of geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM. Results of these researches shall be made available and accessible to the public.
- d. Media to take an active and inclusive role at the local, national, regional and global levels in raising public awareness on the importance of geospatial information and services in DRRM.
- **31.** The UN-GGIM shall play a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and services, and to promote their use to address key global challenges. As such, it will be well placed to contribute to several of the priorities mentioned in the framework, starting with:
 - a. Raising the awareness of Member States and other stakeholders on the importance of geospatial information and services before, during and after disasters;
 - b. Encouraging the Member States to develop and promote geospatial databases, standards, protocols and processes aimed at improving data quality and interoperability at the national and global levels;
 - c. Encouraging the Member States to develop and implement policies aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services in support to DRRM.
- **32.** The concerned UN Agencies shall contribute to the overarching principles reflected in the strategic framework. They should provide a monitoring and evaluation scheme to ensure relevance of implemented projects, programs and activities within governments and government agencies with international agreements.

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⁹ Gleaned from the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)**

33. The international funding institutions shall consider prioritizing funding programs leading to the optimal utilization of geospatial information and services, particularly during disaster events. Similarly, expertise from these organizations can also be harnessed by Member States in implementing the technical and administrative provisions of the framework.

VI. Implementation

General Considerations

- **34.** Geospatial information and services contribute vastly to the overarching effort of minimizing and preventing the human, economic, and environmental impacts of disasters. Thus, Member States and other stakeholders should prioritize a geospatially-oriented agenda in their respective development plans and programs.
- **35.** A participatory and inclusive approach in generating, improving and managing geospatial information should be employed by all entities involved in DRRM efforts.
- **36.** Managing geospatial information and services during disasters will require all Member States and other stakeholders to institutionalize good governance practices and science-based policies supported by improved capacities on human resource, infrastructure and geospatial data sets, among others.
- **37.** In support to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), international cooperation should be recognized as a critical element in managing geospatial information and services during disasters, and thus implementing the provisions of the strategic framework. Adopting best practices and identifying champions among Member States will augment their existing capacities in using geospatial information and services across all phases of the emergency cycle.

Means of Implementation

38. To implement the framework, it is necessary:

- a. To solicit the commitment of Member States and other stakeholders in implementing the priorities for action.
- b. To encourage the Member States and other stakeholders to improve their current capacities in providing geospatial information and services across all phases of DRRM.

c. To encourage the Member States and other stakeholders to actively promote the goals of the five priorities for action, and translate the same into national implementation plans.



Definition of Terms

Authoritative Data. These are officially recognized data that can be certified and provided by an authoritative source.

Authoritative Source. This is an entity authorized by a legal authority to develop or manage data for a specific business purpose. The data this entity creates are authoritative data.

Capacity. It is the combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals. Capacity may include infrastructure and physical means, institutions, societal coping abilities, as well as human knowledge, skills and collective attributes such as social relationships, leadership and management. Capacity also may be described as capability (UNISDR, 2009)

Common Operational Datasets (CODs). Key geographic objects needed to support the operation and decision-making during the emergency response. This would include but not be limited to: administrative boundaries, populated places, transportation network, health facilities, schools, evacuation centers, among others.

Data. Facts and statistics collected for reference or analysis.

Disaster. A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources (UNISDR, 2009)

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyze and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposures to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events (UNISDR, 2009)

Essential Elements of Information (EEI). The critical information requirements prepared for and by Member States and other key stakeholders at a particular time to assist in high-level decisions and agreements.

Emergency. Unforeseen or sudden occurrence, especially danger, demanding immediate action

Fundamental Operational Datasets (FODs). Attributes or statistics attached to the key geographic objects defined as part of the CODs. This would include but not be limited to: population, livelihood, response capacity, among others.

Geospatial Information. Data referenced to a place – a set of geographic coordinates – which can often be gathered, manipulated and displayed in real time.

Hazard. A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage (UNISDR, 2009)

Humanitarian Profile. A dynamic paper that takes into account possible events in the country, as well as in the region that could have humanitarian implications and which would require proper planning and preparedness (UN OCHA, 2011)

Key Performance Indicator (KPI). A performance measure tool used to assess and evaluate the implementation of a particular activity and/or initiative. Aside from gauging one's effectiveness, KPIs can also identify issues and gaps from implementation.

National Mapping Agencies (NMAs). Institutional platforms within nations that is primarily responsible for generation, management and standardization of geospatial information and other related products. These may include maps, nautical charts, and images, among others.

National Geospatial Institutes (NGIs) have the same functions as NMAs.

Open Data. Data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone – subject only, at most, to the attribute and sharealike

Outcome. Results of actions based on the implementation of projects, programs and activities

Resilience. The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions (UNISDR, 2009)

Risk. The combination of the probability of an event and its negative consequences (UNISDR, 2009)

Sustainable Development. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

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Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

2016 - 2030

Scope and Purpose

The strategic framework aims to guide all stakeholders and partners in the management of geospatial information and services in all phases of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)

Expected Outcome

The human, economic, and environmental risks and impacts of disasters are prevented and reduced through the use of geospatial information and services

Goal

Quality geospatial information and services are available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and among all stakeholders and partners and in all phases of DRRM

Priorities for Action

Member States with the support of regional and international organizations as well as other relevant organizations should focus their action on the following five priorities for action:

Priority 1 Governance and Policies	Priority 2 Awareness Raising and Capacity Building	Priority 3 Data Management	Priority 4 Common Infrastructure and Services	Priority 5 Resource Mobilization
Policies, collaborative agreements and legal frameworks aiming at improving the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services among all stakeholders and partners established and implemented in all phases of DRRM	Awareness is raised among concerned entities on the importance of geospatial information and services and all necessary technical and human capacities are built and/or strengthened especially in the pre-disaster phase of DRRM	Geospatial databases and information products are developed based on common standards, protocols and processes as important tools in every decision-making process across all phases of DRRM	Common facilities and services are established for all key stakeholders and partners to have a common operational picture of emergency scenarios especially during and in the post- disaster phases of DRRM	All necessary technical, human and financial resources are available to sustain all the activities of DRRM

Guiding Principle

The strategic framework is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, UN General Assembly resolution on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development and other relevant instruments. It is also guided by the principles of open data and requirements of national data infrastructure, and by the UN-GGIM's own Statement of Shared Principles for the Management of Geospatial Information.