



United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs



NASG of China

22 August 2014

### Third High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management

Excellency,

The rapid advances in geospatial information and technologies, and their easy accessibility, are making such information an invaluable tool in research, business, policy planning and implementation, and evidence-based decision making. It is increasingly recognized across all sectors of society that the effective use of geospatial information helps address many of the current humanitarian, environmental, and development challenges facing the world, such as climate change, natural disasters, disease pandemics, population displacement, food and economic crises, which are of a cross-border nature requiring both global and national policy responses.

Geospatial information is also a critical enabler for measuring and monitoring the sustainable development goals and targets, over time, and in a consistent manner. The Rio+20 outcome document emphasized the importance of reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policy making, programming, and project operations, and for comprehensive hazard and risk assessments as disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance instruments. The Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, released 19 July 2014, called for the need to “increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts” to support the monitoring of the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Therefore, we are pleased to inform you that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), with the support of the Government of China, through the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation (NASG), will organize the ‘Third High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)’ at NASG’s Headquarters in Beijing, China, from 22-24 October 2014. The previous High level Forums were convened in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2011, and in Doha, Qatar in 2013.

The Third High Level Forum offers the opportunity for the global geospatial information community to pay particular attention to the critical roles of geospatial information science, technology and innovation, as tools that are able to integrate the 3 pillars (economic, social, environmental) of sustainable development, and as important geographic elements of the post-2015 development agenda. Therefore, the overarching theme of the Third High Level Forum is: **Sustainable Development with Geospatial Information.**

All Permanent Representatives of Missions  
to the United Nations  
New York, NY

The objective of the Third High Level Forum is to provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion and consultations among governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Bringing all stakeholders together, the Forum will address the role of geospatial information in the post-2015 development agenda, and current critical sustainable development matters such as: mitigating and managing climate change and disasters; sustainable cities and human settlements; science, technology, and innovation to measure and monitor progress; and working together across borders and regions. A Ministerial Segment will be convened in order for high level decision makers to share and exchange views with delegates on the very important role of geospatial information in national development.

It is our pleasure to invite a senior representative of your country to participate in this Third High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, to exchange experiences in managing geospatial information and to discuss ways to cooperate and accelerate progress in this regard at the national level and internationally.

Kindly confirm participation by 3 October 2014, by sending a nomination to Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, the Director of the UN-GGIM Secretariat/Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN (Tel: 1-212-963-4849; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: [schweinfest@un.org](mailto:schweinfest@un.org)). We would be very happy to answer any queries that you may have.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



WU Hongbo  
Under-Secretary-General  
Secretary-General for the International Conference  
on Small Island Developing States



Kurexi Maihesuti  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Land and Resources  
Director General, NASG of China