

## DEFINITION FOR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

*National Institutional Arrangements (NIA) for Geospatial Information Management (GIM) may be defined as formal and informal cooperation structures that supports and links public and private institutions and or organizations to help to fulfill their mandate and which are used to establish the legal, organizational and productive frameworks to allow for sustainable management of geospatial information, inclusive of its creation, updating and dissemination, thereby providing an authoritative, reliable and sustainable geospatial information base for all users.*

### INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED DEFINITION

#### Institutions

(a) Institutions- rules in a kind of social structure that is laws, regulations and their enforcement, agreements and procedures.

(b) Douglass North in his book *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance* (1990: 3) defines institutions as ‘rules of the game in a society’. To North, institutions are constraints which shape human interaction and the way that societies evolve through time.

#### Institutional Arrangements

(c) Institutional arrangements equal, markets, states, corporate hierarchies, networks, associations, communities (Hollingsworth and Lindberg, 1985; Campbell et al., 1991; Hollingsworth et al., 1994; Hollingsworth and Boyer, 1997).

(d) Institutional arrangements refer to the delegation, distribution, or sharing of power related to growth management decision-making and implementation authority

(e) UNDP definition: Institutional arrangements are the policies, systems, and processes that organizations use to legislate, plan and manage their activities efficiently and to effectively coordinate with others in order to fulfill their mandate. For example, countries can move from "brain drain" to "brain gain" by creating incentives to encourage skilled workers to remain, to return after university, or to come on a short-term basis to engage in specific projects. Such an effort could involve universities, public administration and the private sector, and could include supporting the development of merit-based recruitment criteria for civil service.

(f) Institutional arrangements refer to formal government organizational structures as well as informal norms which are in place in a country for arranging and undertaking its policy work. These arrangements are crucial as they provide the government at all levels (federal, provincial and Local) with the framework within which to formulate and implement policies. Informal institutional structures include the general public, non-government organizations and private sector groups that are not official institutions.

(g) The term “institutional arrangements” incorporates the networks of entities and organizations involved in planning, supporting, and/or implementing Geospatial Information Management programs and practices. These arrangements include the linkages between and among organizations at the local, state/provincial, and national levels, and between governmental and non-governmental entities, including local community and business leaders.

(h) Institutional arrangements include the involved and responsible organizations, their human resources, funding, equipment and supplies, leadership, effectiveness, and the communication links between and among organizations.