

Chapter IV

Resolutions adopted by the Conference

A. List of resolutions

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B. Texts of resolutions

1. Geodetic framework

The Conference,

Recognizing that geodetic infrastructure, products and services underpin satellite positioning technology, provide the framework for all geospatial activity and is a key enabler of spatial data interoperability, disaster mitigation and sustainable development,

Also recognizing that this is an important issue for the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to consider in consultation with Member States,

Further recognizing the need for the sustainability and improvement of the global network of geodetic infrastructure and International Association of Geodesy/Global Geodetic Observing System services and products, including the International Terrestrial Reference Frame,

Also recognizing the need to assist Member States in developing mandates and support for the provision of geodetic data, products and services,

Further recognizing the problems associated with the lack of coordination between Member States and the need to develop institutional arrangements and coordination frameworks, including those between regions,

Noting the progress made by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System (GIS) Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific and its Working Group on Geodetic Technologies and Applications in improving arrangements for data-sharing and international cooperation,

Also noting the expertise of national geospatial information authorities and the International Association of Geodesy and the potential benefits of improving the communication between Governments and the Association,

Considering the potential security and commercial sensitivities of data-sharing,

Realizing the need to improve the sustainability and capability of the Global Geodetic Observing System, and the need to encourage and support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the foundation reference frame,

Further realizing the challenges of building technical capacity in developing countries,

Recommends that Member States:

(a) Urge the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to consult with Member States to adopt and sustain a global geodetic reference frame and provide a road map for its implementation;

(b) Participate in and make commitments to the Global Geodetic Observing System to ensure its long-term sustainability;

(c) Support the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame by participating in regional geodetic programmes such as the Asia-Pacific Regional Reference Frame;

(d) Work towards the connecting and sharing of data on national height datums;

(e) Share foundation observation datasets, including Global Navigation Satellite System, geodetic levelling, terrestrial gravity and tide gauge data in open formats;

(f) Support geodetic experts from Member States to attend appropriate regional forums, such as the meetings of the Working Group on Geodetic Technologies and Applications.

2. Data-sharing and integration for disaster management

Recognizing that the Asia-Pacific region is prone to many natural hazards and devastating disasters, and that geospatial information plays a very important role in making timely information available to support and respond to emergency situations,

Recalling that in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development entitled “The future we want”,¹ the Conference urged Governments and organizations to commit to disaster risk reduction in order to enhance the resilience of cities and communities to disasters, according to their own circumstances and capacities,

Also recalling that in paragraph 187 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development¹ the Conference specifically recognized the “importance of comprehensive hazard and risk assessments, and knowledge- and information-sharing, including reliable geospatial information”,

¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

Noting that one of the issues identified by the inventory of issues before the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management included the sharing of geospatial information between Government agencies in an official and sustainable manner,

Mindful of the existing national, regional and global projects and activities relevant to data-sharing for disaster management,

Mindful also that implementing any solution to improve data- and information-sharing for disaster management needs to be based on an understanding of different user requirements, and recognition of the variability of spatial data infrastructures and their content between Member States,

Recommends that the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific undertake:

(a) Initial research on existing national and international geo-portals for the sharing of data and information related to disaster management in order to identify the different types of user requirements associated with different hazards types, different phases of the disaster management activity (e.g., risk assessment; preparedness planning; and rescue and recovery), and how this reflects on data requirements;

(b) A phased approach to developing a standards-based subregional pilot(s) to support data-sharing for disaster management to demonstrate the federation of national data, metadata and web services to a regional level;

(c) Initial design and implementation of a regional geo-portal for disaster management with an objective to have in place a subregional portal as a minimum outcome in the next three years.

3. Acquisition and maintenance of place-based information

The Conference,

Noting the increasing importance of place-based information for many aspects of economic growth and societal development,

Also noting the increasing role of interoperable distributed databases created and maintained by different nations and regions to support web-based processing and query,

Recognizing the necessity of up-to-date and properly integrated geospatial information for time-critical applications, such as e-government and emergency management and disaster management,

Also recognizing the benefits of sharing and common use of authoritative geospatial information,

Further recognizing the importance of enhancing national efforts, including investments, in the acquisition and maintenance of geospatial information and its dissemination,

Recommends that Member States improve the acquisition and maintenance of geospatial information by:

(a) Promoting the use of various sensors, imagery and volunteered geographic information for more rapid acquisition and update of authoritative geospatial information;

(b) Piloting and evaluating the usage of fundamental, multiple-use geospatial information for local, national and regional applications.

4. Smart services for the delivery of geospatial information

The Conference,

Noting that the increased usage of geospatial information over the web has continuously changed the way Governments function and transact information and services,

Also noting the trend of using the web/cloud to provide smart services for managing, processing and service platforms for geospatial information,

Recognizing the potential for web/cloud services for both the timely processing, delivery and application of static and dynamic geospatial information,

Also recognizing that the international standards organizations, such as the International Organization for Standardization and the Open Geospatial Consortium are developing standards for the delivery and sharing of geospatial information,

Recommends that national geospatial information authorities utilize and share knowledge on web/cloud-based platforms and other smart services for dynamic management, processing, visualization, analysis and delivery of geospatial information.

5. Capability to deliver and use geospatial information

The Conference,

Noting the progress made in the development of fundamental geospatial information in the Asia and Pacific region,

Also noting the variability in the maturity of geospatial information usage within the Asia and Pacific region,

Further noting that national geospatial information authorities and professionals need to continuously update and share their knowledge on geospatial information,

Recognizing the increased demand for geospatial information in supporting government functions and community well-being,

Recommends that Member State national geospatial information authorities and professionals extend their capabilities to deliver and use geospatial information by developing joint action programmes for education, training and capability development on the acquisition, management, delivery and application of geospatial information.

6. Usefulness and benefits of geospatial information

The Conference,

Recognizing the enormous benefit of reliable and authoritative geospatial information and maps in decision-making for the sustainable use of natural resources, economic development, and for community well-being,

Noting the need to promote geospatial information education and training for national Governments, decision makers, the geospatial industry and users,

Also noting the preparations made by the International Cartographic Association ad hoc committee for the International Map Year, and the support by the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies on this initiative,

Recommends the International Cartographic Association to proclaim and organize an International Map Year in 2015.

7. Shared statement of ethical principles

The Conference,

Recognizing that in a number of recent intergovernmental discussions, the need for a statement of ethical principles for the geospatial information community has been raised as an important means to enhance the trust placed by the public on geospatial information,

Noting that a statement of ethical principles was discussed at the second session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management,

Further noting that the Committee of Experts requested the Secretariat to consult further and report back on a “shared statement of principles”,

Realizing that several professional, industry bodies and associations already abide by ethical statements or principles,

Recommends that the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management promulgate a statement of ethical principles for the geospatial information community.

8. Coordination between regional and global initiatives on geospatial information management

The Conference,

Recalling resolution 16 at the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific² to form a permanent committee to discuss and agree on, inter alia, geographical information system standards, geographical information system infrastructure and institutional development, and linkage of the prospective committee with related bodies in the world, and the subsequent establishment of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System (GIS) Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific in 1995,

² *Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, 9-18 May 1994*, vol. I, *Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.19), chap. VI, sect. B.

Acknowledging the significant progress that the Permanent Committee has made in the field of Geographical Information System infrastructure development since its establishment,

Bearing in mind that geospatial information has become an invaluable tool in policy planning and evidence-based decision-making, and hence can play a vital role in understanding and addressing national, regional and global challenges that the Member States are facing in this increasingly complex and interconnected world,

Recalling further resolution 7 at the Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific³ that requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations Secretariat to initiate discussions and prepare a report, for a future session of the Economic and Social Council, on global coordination of geospatial information management, including consideration of the possible creation of a United Nations global forum for the exchange of information between countries and other interested parties, in the light of the absence of a United Nations consultation process led by Member States, which deals with global geospatial information management,

Recognizing Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, in which the Council decided to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States, and between Member States and relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences and their permanent committees on spatial data infrastructures, on enhanced cooperation in the field of global geospatial information,

Noting the vital roles of regional permanent committees in implementing the actions necessary to make progress in global geospatial information management at the second session of the Committee of Experts,

Recommends that the Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific enhance its role of regional and global geospatial information management, in close cooperation and coordination with the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management among others, with a new name that represents the renewed mandate, and regularly report its progress to the Conference.

9. Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific

The Conference,

Noting the progress made in geospatial information, at the national, regional and global levels, by States Members of the United Nations,

Noting also the essential role played therein both by the present United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific and by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Information System (GIS) Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific,

³ *Eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 26-29 October 2009, Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.I.2), chap. IV, sect. B.

Noting further that the Permanent Committee was established in 1994 pursuant to resolution 16 adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held in Beijing,⁴

Noting that the Permanent Committee has expressed the wish to hold its meeting in conjunction with the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,

Recognizing the necessity of continuing this important work,

Recommends to the Economic and Social Council that the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific be convened in 2015.

⁴ *Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, 9-18 May 1994*, vol. I, *Report of the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.19), chap. VI, sect. B.