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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa)  
First Meeting

Nairobi, Kenya  
**23-25 November 2015**

**United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa  
UN-GGIM**

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**First Meeting**

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**Final Report**

## 1. Introduction and Background

1. At its July 2011 substantive session, following extensive consultation with geospatial experts of Member States, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) considered the report of the Secretary General (E/2011/89) and adopted a resolution to create the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (2011/24). <http://ggim.un.org/about.html>. The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) initiative was established to create a formal geospatial information coordination mechanism involving Member States as the key stakeholders.
2. From the preparatory meetings, a general consensus has emerged on the need for a forum to better coordinate the activities of UN agencies, Member States and other international organizations. The various meetings agreed on the need to create a committee of geospatial experts that will meet to discuss issues that cut across the regions. From Africa's perspective, it was agreed that the continent should develop its own strategy to ensure an active participation in the process.
3. In August 2011, an African GGIM Preparatory meeting recommended Member States, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union Commission to finalize and implement an African Action Plan on Geospatial Information Management in meeting the African needs.
4. The third session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST) meeting on 13th March 2013 resolved that the oversight and supervisory functions of the CODIST Geoinformation Subcommittee (CODIST-Geo) be transferred to an equivalent subcommittee of StatCom Africa with the name of UN-GGIM: Africa.
5. In December 2014, in the side-line of the StatCom Africa meeting, ECA organized an inaugural meeting of the African cluster of UN-GGIM. The meeting was attended by over 30 participants: delegates from 11 African countries, and observers from international organizations including the African Union Commission, ECA and the United Nations Secretariat, and the private sector. The meeting discussed the practical steps in establishing the UN-GGIM: Africa; setting up the Transitional Bureau; identifying the Working Groups; and formulating the recommendations to the Fifth session of the United Nations Committee of Expert on GGIM and to the African Statistical Commission (StatCom Africa). The meeting agreed that the Transitional Bureau for UN-GGIM: Africa should be in duty during this interim period until the next session of the Committee. The meeting also approved the establishments of working groups to deal with specific issues of interest for the region.
6. Further, in August 2015, at its fifth session held in New York, the United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM, noting the excellent progress by the transitional bureau, endorsed the formal establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa) and welcomed UNECA as the Regional Committee's Secretariat.
7. As a follow-up on the outcomes of the inception meeting, the Transitional Bureau and the Secretariat (ECA) organised this first meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa to discuss, adopt and formally endorse UN-GGIM: Africa by Member States.

## **2. Meeting objectives, format and outcomes**

8. This first meeting aimed at:
  - Formally endorsing UN-GGIM: Africa by Member States;
  - Discussing the critical aspects and agreeing on a basic set of concepts, practices, standards and guidelines that are critical to UN-GGIM: Africa operations;
  - Reviewing and validating the building blocks for the development of the Action Plan while providing perspectives on the essential activities to be carried out;
  - Adopting its Statutes, rules of procedure and organizational structure with the election of its Executive Board,
  - Formalizing the establishment of the working groups that will carry out UN-GGIM: Africa work programme for the next years.

## **3. Attendance**

9. The meeting was attended by over 44 participants, including delegates from 21 African countries, as well as observers from international organizations including the ECA, the UN-GGIM Secretariat, academia, industry organisations and the private sector.
10. Delegates from the following African Member States participated in the meeting: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
11. Also in attendance were resource persons, observers and exhibitors from the following organizations: African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE); Environmental Information Systems in Africa (EIS-Africa), Esri International; Esri – Eastern Africa, Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD); the United Nations Support Office for African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOS) and PASCO Corporation.
12. A full list of participants is at Annex 2.

## **4. Opening**

13. First, Mr. Hussein Farah, Director General of the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) welcomed participants and mentioned how the Centre is honoured to host the UN-GGIM: Africa first meeting. He emphasised the role of geospatial information for sustainable development. He also updated the participants on the main mandate and mission of the Centre which is to promote sustainable development. The UN-GGIM: Africa will be crucial for the Member States to harmonize and coordinate the geospatial activities in the continent. He reiterated the willingness of RCMRD to contribute and participate in the activities of UN-GGIM: Africa.
14. Next, Mr. Andre Nonguierma, Chief of the Geoinformation and Sectoral Statistics Section, at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), also welcomed the participants on behalf of the Officer-in-Charge of the African Centre for Statistics and thanked them all for making time in busy schedules to attend the meeting. He underscored that to

progress geospatial information is benefiting Africans at every level and contribute to the global perspective, cohesive and coordinated efforts are required from Member States. This can be achieved by UN-GGIM: Africa implementation, supported by every African country.

15. Last, Mr. Sultan Mohammed Alya, (Ethiopia), current Chair of the Transitional Bureau presided over the opening session. He welcomed all participants to the first meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa. He saw in the importance of the attendance, the growing interest of African countries to the UN-GGIM initiative. He stressed that meeting outcomes are expected to encourage every Member State of the United Nations in the Africa Region to fulfil its responsibilities and contribute towards the UN-GGIM vision globally. He further said that UN-GGIM: Africa is a framework to lay the foundation for strengthening the capacity of African countries to leverage the existing capabilities of geospatial information technology to foster sustainable development in our continent.
16. The meeting received three goodwill messages as follows:
  - a. First, Ms. Ayako Kagawa, Geographic Information Officer of the UN-GGIM Secretariat delivered a goodwill message on behalf of the UN-GGIM Secretariat. She expressed the Secretariat's satisfaction that the efforts made through CODIST-Geo are being transferred under the global UN-GGIM framework and architecture through the Third CODIST-Geo meeting in March 2013 and the inception meeting in Tunis in December 2014. She stressed how the Fifth Session of UN-GGIM in August 2015 was especially important to Africa as the Committee endorsed the formal establishment of the UN-GGIM: Africa and welcomed UN-ECA as the Regional Committee's Secretariat (5/112).
  - b. Next, Ms. Ayako delivered a good will message from UN-GGIM:Europe which was well received and appreciated by the participants. The message from Executive Committee for the European Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management offered congratulations to UN-GGIM:Africa for holding its first meeting immediately after its endorsement by the United Nations Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM. UN-GGIM: Europe further conveyed its eagerness towards establishing ties with UN-GGIM: Africa, in working together to ensure the future development of UN-GGIM.
  - c. Last, the President of African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE), Mr. Olajide Kufoniyi, in his good will message on behalf of the Council and all members of AARSE, congratulated the Transitional Bureau and the ECA, for bringing together the major African key players in geospatial information to this first meeting that set a new milestone in the active participation of African stakeholders in the GGIM initiative. Mr. Kufoniyi further explained that the primary aim of AARSE is to increase the awareness of African governments and their institutions, the private sector and the society at large, about the empowering and enhancing benefits of developing, applying and utilizing responsibly, the products and services of Earth Observation Systems and Geoinformation Technology. He emphasised that in line with this aim, AARSE has a role to play in achieving some of the objectives of the GGIM:Africa and is therefore obligated to fully support the initiative.
17. Mr. Sultan Mohammed Alya declared the first meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa formally opened.

## **5. Sessions**

### **5.1. Session 2 – Setting the Scene: Procedural issues**

18. The meeting started with the review of the agenda and programme of work. Some modifications were made in deciding to first examine the Statutes, Rules of Procedure before the election of the Executive Board. Then, the work programme was adopted. See Annex 1.

### **5.2. Session 2 - Setting the Scene: UN-GGIM Global Perspective**

19. The meeting received a presentation from Ms. Ayako Kagawa on the global perspective of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). She described the process leading up to the creation of UN-GGIM which was established under the Economic and Social Council following a resolution adoption (2011/24) in July 2011 which created a formal global inter-governmental process for geospatial information management activities. The presentation highlighted the linkages of the global geospatial community with the international sustainable development framework as the international community prepares their new phase of international development dialogue through the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The presentation provided highlights of the different activities where geospatial information can play an increasing role in measuring and monitoring with better information. Examples of how the other regional communities have applied the use of geospatial information into respective substantive area, provided an opportunity for participants to take cognizance on global mechanism might strengthen the capacity of African countries to leverage the existing capabilities of geospatial information technology for various socio-economic sectors, environment monitoring, disaster management, etc.

### **5.3. Session 2 - Setting the Scene: UN-GGIM Regional and National Perspective**

20. Mr. Sultan Mohammed Alya delivered a presentation on regional and national perspective. He started by highlighting some of the key achievements obtained by the Transitional bureau since the inception meeting in December 2014. He further stressed that in the Africa region, in addition to addressing the issues of developing the capacity of African countries in the generation and dissemination of authoritative, accurate and sustained geospatial information in the continent, UN-GGIM: Africa will also be implemented around the following key pillars:
  - The AFREF project, to develop a regional geodetic reference frame, aligned with the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF), to enable direct application of all geospatial information on the continent.
  - The SALB project, to build authoritative and accurate second administrative level boundary databases with validated datasets from member States that will be used in a plethora of applications including census data analysis and disaster management.
  - The GeoNyms project, to create an African gazetteer populated with Member State data and input through the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).
  - The National Spatial Data Infrastructures as a frameworks with policies & structures

- The Fundamental Geospatial Datasets
- Integration of Geospatial Information and Statistics:
- The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Post 2015 SDGs)

#### **5.4. Session 2 - Setting the Scene: Meeting objectives**

21. Mr. Andre Nonguierma, presented the objectives of the meeting. The meeting aimed at :

- Endorsing formally UN-GGIM: Africa by Member States;
- Adopting UN-GGIM: Africa Statutes, Rules of procedure and organizational structure with the election of its Executive Board
- Formalising the establishment of the working groups that will carry out its work programme for the next few years.
- Discussing the critical aspects with agreement on a basic set of concepts, practices, standards and guidelines that are critical to UN-GGIM: Africa operations
- Reviewing and validating the building blocks of the Action that should be further prepared by ECA in conjunction with Member States.
- Providing perspectives on the essential activities to be carried out;

#### **5.5. Session 2 - Setting the Scene: Statutes and Rules of Procedure**

22. The meeting thoroughly discussed the proposed Statutes and Rules of procedure that will guide the day to day management and operations of UN-GGIM: Africa. Several amendments and modifications were proposed by the participants. Then, the Statutes and Rules of Procedures were endorsed and adopted by Member States.

#### **5.6. Session 2 - Setting the Scene: Election of Officers**

23. The meeting discussed and reached a consensus to establish a formal Executive Board of UN-GGIM: Africa pursuant to the decision made during the inception meeting that the interim bureau should stand till the subsequent meeting is organised. In accordance with the disposition in the Statutes of UN-GGIM: Africa, the following Executive Board members were elected through a vote by the national representatives that were present:

- Chair: Ethiopia
- 1st Vice-Chair: Burkina Faso
- 2nd Vice-Chair: South Africa
- 1st Rapporteur: Morocco
- 2nd Rapporteur: Cameroon

24. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) continues to be the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Africa.

25. The meeting agreed that the Executive Board be established taking into account the geographical balance.

### 5.7. Session 3 – Working Groups: Terms of reference and composition

26. The meeting discussed and agreed on the following decisions with respect to the Working Groups (WG): i) number; ii) composition, and iii) terms of reference.

27. The following working groups with their chair and members were established.

Working Group	Chair	Members	No Voting Members
<b>WG1:</b> African Geodetic Reference Frame	1. Kenya	2. Nigeria 3. Morocco 4. Botswana 5. Gabon	RECTAS RCMRD UNECA
<b>WG2:</b> Fundamental Geo spatial datasets and Standards	1. South Africa	2. Cameroon 3. Burundi 4. Burkina Faso 5. North Africa [TBD]	Niger UNECA
<b>WG3:</b> Institutional arrangements and Legal frameworks	1. Nigeria	2. Algeria [TBC] 3. Madagascar 4. Ethiopia 5. Central Africa [TBD]	UNECA
<b>WG4:</b> Capacity and capability development	1. Morocco	2. Kenya 3. Zimbabwe 4. Côte d’Ivoire 5. Central Africa [TBD]	South Africa RECTAS RCMRD AARSE UNECA
<b>WG5:</b> Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for Sectoral Applications	1. Namibia	2. South Sudan 3. Liberia 4. Cameroon 5. Morocco	Zambia Gabon UNECA

28. All African countries and other interested organisations are encouraged to contribute and become active members of any of these working groups in accordance with the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

### 5.8. Session 5 –UN-GGIM ECOSOC Programme Review Process

29. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) requested UN-GGIM to present a comprehensive review in 2016 when its Committee of Experts was established in 2011. As an introduction to the discussions, Ms. Ayako Kagawa made a presentation on the issues to be considered under the Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

30. Whilst only five years in its existence, UN-GGIM has been a victim of its own success, in increasing its visibility and recognition by the different players in the international sustainable development debate and community. The presentation touched upon the four

options that Member States may consider on how to build the next new phase for the Committee.

- Option 1: No Change. The Committee of Experts continues to operate and function as it has for the past five years.
  - Option 2: Confirmation. Recognise the integral role and contribution of the Committee of Experts in the UN system, and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  - Option 3: Strengthened Mandate. Agree to Option 2 and, in addition, agree that the mandates and terms of reference of the Committee of Experts are strengthened and revised to function as the principal inter-governmental organ reporting to ECOSOC on all matters relating geospatial information.
  - Option 4: Strengthened Mandate and Resources. Agree to Option 3 and, in addition, support an annual budget allocation, to be determined and tabled at an appropriate time within the UN budget cycle.
31. The participants agreed that UN-GGIM: Africa shall be strongly supportive to Option 4 and that a resolution must be passed by the African group requesting ECOSOC to favourably consider this Option 4 in strengthening the UN-GGIM mandate and providing necessary resources for its operations.

#### **5.9. Session 5 –UN-GGIM: Africa: Contribution to GGRF**

32. Mr. Sultan Mohammed Alya delivered a presentation on the report of the United Nations on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) for sustainable development. The report described the Roadmap for the GGRF, including steps required to ensure sustainability, and to facilitate enhancement of the accuracy and stability of the GGRF. He presented the resolution which was adopted in February 2015 and its main issues. He informed that the resolution was sponsored by Fiji and co-sponsored by other 52 countries including Ethiopia and Tunisia from the region of Africa.
33. It was further noted that the African countries participation in the process is very low. The discussions that ensued stressed the importance for Africa to be fully involved in the activities of the Working Group on GGRF. The meeting urged all Member States to be proactive in participating in the work of the GGRF as well as promoting GGRF in their respective countries.
34. The meeting further recommended that strong linkages must be established between GGRF Working Group and UN-GGIM: Africa Working Group on AFREF. The AFREF working group should also develop a communication strategy to pass the message of the resolution to decision and policy makers. This strategy should be drafted carefully to link AFREF activities to the political frameworks in the continent namely NEPAD, AU Agenda 2063, and Agenda 2030 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) etc. ECA was requested as the secretariat to seek means of coming-up with a clear communication strategy and plan for AFREF and at large UN-GGIM: Africa

#### **5.10. Session 6 & 7 – Action Plan for UN-GGIM: Africa**

35. The road map towards the establishment of a UN-GGIM: Africa Action Plan was presented by Mr. Andre Nonguierma from the Economic Commission for Africa. The



presentation outlined the key building blocks around which the Action should be constructed.

- Governance and Policy
- Common Framework and Tools
- Capacity Building
- International Coordination and Cooperation

36. The participants discussed and made the following recommendations:

- Articulate the Action Plan to global agenda and programmes such as the 2030 SDG, and the AUC 2063 Vision.
- Use a participative approach with bottom-top (from national to regional to global) method in formulating the plan while ensuring it is linked to thematic areas of importance for the region such as land management and land policy.
- Develop sectoral action plans for each Working Group and further consolidate in a regional action plan.
- Each Working Groups to revisit the document and pick up some of the elements that are relevant to their domain of intervention.

37. After thorough discussions, the meeting agreed to set up a drafting team to revise the document in order to raise the importance of geospatial information for developmental agenda such as AU 2063 and SDGs. The composition of the team is as follow: South Africa (Derek Clarke, Lead). Morocco (Mohamed Timoulali), Nigeria (Muhammad Kabir), Burkina Faso (Abdoulaye Belem), EIS-Africa (Jacob Gymafi-Aidoo), AARSE (Olajide Kufoniyi). The working team was given until April 2016 to submit its report.

#### **5.11. Session 8 – Fourth High Level Forum of UN-GGIM**

38. A presentation was received from Ms. Ayako Kagawa about the forthcoming High Level Forum on UN-GGIM to be organised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20-22 April 2016. The presentation tried to garner support from the African Member States, and presented the main issues to be considered when preparing the Forum. Considering the importance of land issues in Africa, the theme of the forum will be “Administration and Management of Land: The Case for Africa”. Member States were strongly urged to consider attending the forum at the ministerial level.

### **6. Session 9 – Resolutions**

39. The participants made the following recommendations.

#### **40. On the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa**

1. We, the geospatial information experts of the Member States of the African region present at the first meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa),

2. Noting the establishment of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) (2011/24) in 2011,
3. Further noting the recommendation of the CODIST-Geo, at its third meeting in March 2013, that the oversight and supervisory functions of the geoinformation subcommittee of CODIST be transferred to an equivalent subcommittee of StatCom Africa with the name of GGIM-Africa, and,
4. Further noting the resolution of UN-GGIM (5/112), at its fifth session in August 2015, to establish the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa,
5. Hereby endorse the establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa).

#### **41. On the work of UN-GGIM: Africa**

6. UN-GGIM: Africa at its first meeting,
7. Approved its Statutes and Rules of Procedure;
8. Elected its Executive Board as follows:
  - Chair: Ethiopia
  - 1st Vice-Chair: Burkina Faso
  - 2nd Vice-Chair: South Africa
  - 1st Rapporteur: Morocco
  - 2nd Rapporteur: Cameroon;
9. Approved the establishment of five working groups, as follows, with their terms of reference and core members:
  - Working Group 1: African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF)
  - Working Group 2: Fundamental Geospatial Datasets and Standards
  - Working Group 3: Institutional and Legal Frameworks
  - Working Group 4: Capacity and Capability Building
  - Working Group 5: Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for Sectoral Applications
10. Noted the reports on global and regional activities related to geospatial information management in relation to UN-GGIM;
11. Re-iterated the need for national geospatial information policy, legal and institutional frameworks;
12. Agreed to redraft the African Action Plan on GGIM and prepare a 10-year work programme that takes into consideration the African priorities under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) as well as the first 10-Year Plan of the AU Agenda 2063, for endorsement at the next meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa;
13. Agreed to identify a common high-visibility project relating to critical technical issues that need to be addressed as a matter of priority, and which address identified flagship

projects of the AU Agenda 2063, to use to practically demonstrate the relevance of the work of the Working Groups;

14. Agreed to develop a communication strategy/plan for UN-GGIM: Africa, and implementation guidelines for Member States, that emphasize the use of appropriate language for the purpose of engaging with African policy makers;
15. Recognised the importance of integrating geospatial and statistical information as essential information in the development agenda for Africa, as well as the sectoral thematic applications of such information in key issues of land administration and management and disaster risk reduction;
16. Decided to convene a side meeting at the 4th High Level Forum. The resolutions and recommendations taken during this meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa will be presented to the Sixth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM.

#### **42. On the Programme review of UN-GGIM**

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Noted the comprehensive draft review report prepared by the UN-GGIM Bureau to be submitted to ECOSOC in 2016, and,
3. Re-affirmed support for the mandate of UN-GGIM to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the UN system;
4. Considered the four options for the future modalities of the UN-GGIM and recommended the adoption of Option 4: Strengthened Mandate and Resources;
5. Agreed to the strengthening and revision of the mandates and terms of reference of the UN-GGIM in order for it to be at the same level as other subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC, and in order to strengthen its interaction with them, in particular the Statistical Commission, and to enable it to function as the peak inter-governmental organ reporting to ECOSOC on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics, and as the governing Member State and UN system body on geospatial information management;
6. Agreed that sustainable funding for the operations of the UN-GGIM is needed to ensure its continued effectiveness, including conference support, substantive and technical secretariat support, and in particular the funding of the participation of national delegates from developing countries, in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation at the sessions of the Committee, noting that some of the funding would be offset through the consolidation of activities and the rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the UN system reporting to the Council.

#### **43. On Member States**

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. In recognizing the important role that Member States play in addressing national, regional and global needs through the management of geospatial information,

3. Noting that the success of national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) is dependent upon delivering products and services that are acceptable and desirable by the end users, within Government, the private sector, citizens and communities,
4. Recognising that Africa is still not adequately mapped as needed for local, national and regional development process,
5. Encourages Member States to adopt unified national geodetic reference frames that are consistent with the AFREF and GGRF;
6. Encourages Member States to develop their national spatial data infrastructure (NSDI) and should adopt cooperative, multi-stakeholder approach to the production, management and dissemination of geospatially-enabled data, including interoperability and standardization issues, institutional arrangements and the delivering of streamlined, online services;
7. Urges Member States to properly fund their surveying, mapping and geospatial information organisations for effective implementation of UN-GGIM: Africa for sustainable development;
8. Urges Member States to recognise the importance and the necessity of the participation of each Member State in the global geospatial information management initiative and to support their delegations to the meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa and UN-GGIM;
9. Urges Member States, through their national mapping organisation, to incorporate appropriate use of volunteered geographic information (VGI) and community mapping in the production and updating of fundamental datasets;
10. Urges Member States to participate in the Second Level Administrative Boundary (SALB) project by contributing, editing and validating their subnational administrative boundary data and submitting amendments when these boundaries are changed.

#### **44. On Economic Commission for Africa**

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Acknowledging the key role of ECA in providing a regional focus and leadership for geospatial information activities in Africa,
3. Requests ECA to create an on-line community of practice on geospatial information management within the ECA's knowledge management platform;
4. Recommends ECA, to develop knowledge, skills and capacity in order to properly advise member States on volunteered geographic information for core fundamental and thematic geospatial information resources;
5. Requests ECA to continue providing assistance to Member States to develop their geospatial information policies, standards and enabling legal frameworks;
6. Recommends ECA to provide support in the finalisation of the Africa Action Plan;

7. Expresses its thanks to ECA for the continued secretarial support rendered to UN-GGIM: Africa;
8. Urges ECA to establish a permanent secretariat for UN-GGIM: Africa with the appropriate resources.

#### **45. On the Fourth High Level Forum of UN-GGIM**

1. UN-GGIM: Africa,
2. Noting the forthcoming Fourth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM taking place in Addis Ababa from 20th to 22nd April 2016, to be hosted by ECA and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, with the very important key theme “Administration and Management of Land: the Case for Africa”,
3. Urges Member States to give their full support to this HLF4 through sending their delegations of the Ministers responsible for national geospatial information and lands, geospatial information experts and other influential players;
4. Further urges Member States to take advantage of the Forum to showcase the role of geospatial information in land administration and sustainable development in general, and also ensure attendance of the Forum by the relevant Ministers and key national stakeholders.
5. On vote of thanks
6. UN-GGIM: Africa,
7. Gave a vote of thanks to RCMRD for hosting this first meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa.

## **7. Conclusions**

46. The meeting reviewed the overarching principals and discussed the critical aspects of setting a holistic geospatial information governance in the continent. Member States officially endorsed the establishment of UN-GGIM: Africa as premium intergovernmental machinery for geospatial information management and governance in the continent.
47. The meeting outcomes contribute to achieve the UN-GGIM vision globally, encouraging that more regionalised progress is made and that Africa region delivers its remit. It is expected that UN-GGIM: Africa will strengthen the capacity of African countries to leverage the enabling capabilities of geospatial information technology for various socio-economic sectors, environment monitoring, disaster management, sustainable development, etc.
48. The meeting also stressed that UN-GGIM: Africa shall ensure linkages with other regional clusters.

## Annex 1: Work Programme

Time	Monday, 23 November 2015		
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Session 1 : Opening</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> Sultan Mohammed Alya <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Welcome remarks	H. Farah (RCMRD)
		Statements and Good Will Messages	
		UN-GGIM Secretariat	A.Kagawa (UNGIS)
		AUC	H.Masheleni (HRST)
		AARSE	J.Kufonyi (AARSE)
	Official Opening	M.Sultan (Ethiopia)	
11:00 – 11:20	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session 2 : Setting the Scene</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> Sultan Mohammed Alya <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Election of the Bureau	A.Nonguierma (ECA)
		Adoption of Agenda	A.Nonguierma (ECA)
		Rules of Procedures	A.Nonguierma (ECA)
		UN-GGIM Global Perspective	
		UN-GGIM Regional Perspective	S. Mohamed (Ethiopia)
	UN-GGIM: Africa : Objectives of the Meeting; Expected Outcomes and the Way Forward	A.Nonguierma (ECA)	
13:00-14:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Session 3: Working Groups</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	• African Geodetic Reference Frame	Ethiopia
		• Fundamental Datasets	South Africa
		• Institutional arrangements and Legal frameworks	Algeria
		• Capacity and capability development	Côte d'Ivoire
15:30-15:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
15:50 – 17:30	<b>Session 4 : Working Groups (cont'd)</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Integration of Geospatial and Statistics	Namibia
		Way Forward Wrap-up	

<b>Time</b>	<b>Tuesday, 24 November 2015</b>		
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Session 5 : UN-GGIM: Africa</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Visioning : Overarching Principles on Needs, Challenges and Prospects	D. Clarke
		ECOSOC Review process : Africa Contribution	A. Kagawa (UNGIS)
		International, Regional and National Experiences.	S. Mohamed Alya (Ethiopia)
11:00 – 11:20	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session 6 : Action Plan</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Policy, Governance and Resources Mobilization	NSDI, Countries
		Common Frameworks, Clearinghouses, Gazetteers	SALB, AFREF, Countries
13:00- 14:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>		
14:30 – 15:30	<b>Session 7 : Action Plan (cont'd)</b> <b>Venue:</b> Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Capacity building & Knowledge Transfer	RECTAS, Countries
		Partnership and Outreach	Countries, Regional Institutions
15:30- 15:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
15:50 – 17:30	<b>Session 8 : Way Forward</b> <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Fourth UN-GGIM High Level Forum (HLF.4)	[GGIM Secretariat]
		Wrap-up	A.Nonguierma (ECA)

Time	Wednesday, 25 November 2015		
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Session 9</b> : Reporting <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	• Wrap-up	[Secretariat]
		• Main Outcomes	[Secretariat]
		• Recommendations.	[Secretariat]
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
10:50 – 12:00	<b>Session 10</b> : Reporting [Continued] <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	• Wrap-up	[Secretariat]
		• Main Outcomes	[Secretariat]
		• Recommendations.	[Secretariat]
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Session 11</b> : Closing <b>Venue:</b> RCMRD Conference Room <b>Chair:</b> New Bureau Chair [TBD] <b>Rapporteurs:</b> Youness Hmamouchi, Fernand Guy Isseri, UNECA	Adoption of the Report	[Participants]
		Closing	[Participants]
13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>		



## Annex 2: Participants

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No	Country	Organisation	Title	Contact Name	Category	Function	E-mail
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## **Annex 3: Terms of Reference of the Working Groups**

### **1. WG1 - African Geodetic Reference Frame**

The terms of reference (TOR) for the Working Group for the Africa Geodetic Reference Frame (WG – AFREF), takes into cognizance the UN general assembly resolution 69/266 on “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development.

The main objective of the WG - AFREF is to promote and provide for a regional realization of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Africa. The WG – AFREF shall:

1. Co-ordinate the implementation of the AFREF project at the continental level, including the densification of the network of CORS, the establishment of and monitoring of the AFREF Data Centres and Data Analysis Centres;
2. Ensure the alignment of AFREF with the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)
3. Set guidelines and standards for the AFREF in coordination with International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the UN-GGIM: Africa Working Group on FDS & Standards.
4. Provide justification, communication and publicity for the project to political groupings, in particular the Africa Union (AU), stakeholder, international organization and other users;
5. Provide advice and relevant assistance to member States, in conjunction with the regional centres, IAG and other stakeholders, for the improvement and maintenance of appropriate national geodetic infrastructure, to enhance the AFREF;
6. Secure funding, equipment and other resources to ensure the success of the AFREF;
7. Liaise with international organizations, in particular the IAG and UN-GGIM WG on GGRF, for guidance, human and infrastructure capacity development
8. organize training, workshops, seminars etc., in conjunction with the regional centres. ;
9. Assist member States, in conjunction with the regional centres, to develop and implement outreach programmes for societies to appreciate the utility values of the national, regional and global geodetic reference frames.
10. Undertake any other activity that may be deemed relevant to the activities of the WG.

### **Membership**

1. Kenya – Chair
2. Nigeria
3. Morocco
4. Botswana
5. Gabon
6. Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Survey (RECTAS)
7. Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
8. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

## 2. WG2 - Fundamental Datasets and Standards

The main objective of the Working Group is to promote the availability of geospatial information for sustainable development, in line with the Mapping Africa for Africa initiative, in particular the Durban Statement on Mapping Africa for Africa (2003). The WG will:

1. Work cooperatively with UN-GGIM groups on fundamental datasets and standards and other international bodies with similar objectives, such as the International Cartographic Association, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, UN Geographic Information Working Group, Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) and International Steering Committee for Global Map;
2. Work cooperatively with the Working Group on AFREF with respect to geodetic data;
3. Determine which geospatial data are classified as the fundamental geospatial datasets for national, sub-regional, regional and global needs for geospatial information, in terms of Mapping Africa for Africa, in alignment with global fundamental geospatial datasets determined by UN-GGIM;
4. Determine which geospatial information standards are appropriate for the African region, and, where required, assist in providing the implementation level for such standards;
5. Advise Member States on the application of relevant geospatial standards;
6. Conduct audits of available fundamental geospatial datasets across and in all African countries, together with the metadata. From such audits to determine the gaps in available fundamental geospatial datasets;
7. Ensure that all available fundamental geospatial datasets are recorded in a register or network of registers (clearinghouse);
8. Develop a data model for the fundamental geospatial datasets;
9. Develop a plan, in conjunction with the national mapping organisations, for the acquisition, maintenance of and access to the fundamental geospatial datasets, taking into account institutional reforms for national mapping organisations; and,
10. Monitor the implementation of the plan. .

### Membership

1. South Africa (National Geospatial Information) - Chair
2. Cameroon
3. Burundi
4. Burkina Faso
5. North Africa [TBD]
6. Niger
7. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

### **3. WG3 - Institutional arrangements and Legal frameworks**

Effective GGIM requires laws, regulations and policies that guide and encourage the gathering, dissemination and management of geospatial information while still addressing important challenges.

Enabling institutional arrangements and legal frameworks provide stable basis for the acquisition, management, distribution and dissemination of geospatial data and information. The main aim of this Working Group (WG) is to prepare an institutional arrangements and legal frameworks for the operation of UN- GGIM: Africa.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) of WG3 are:

1. Collate, audit and review the existing Institutional arrangements and legal frameworks governing the operation of GGIM in member states.
2. Identify the International best practices in institutional arrangements and legal frameworks governing GGIM operations.
3. Harmonize the existing practices in UN-GGIM: Africa with the international best practices in GGIM Management.
4. Ensure interoperability between different systems and institutions responsible for GGIM while maintaining uniformity and standardization among member states.
5. Continuously revise strategies to keep pace with current trends and anticipate new developments in UN-GGIM and key into such trends/ developments toward achieving the agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development of the UN and AU 2063 Development Goals.
6. Define and or propose data access, sharing, and re-use policies both at National and International levels including licensing, models, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)and copyright, liability security and privacy issues, laws regulations, contracts and agreements to address the identified goals
7. Provide regional support for the activities of UN-GGIM in the same field.
8. Propose funding models for financing the activities of UN- GGIM:Africa through the institutional arrangements and legal frameworks.
9. Carry out any other activity as may be assigned to and required of the Working Group.

#### **Membership**

1. Nigeria - Chair
2. Algeria [TBC]
3. Madagascar
4. Ethiopia
5. Central Africa [TBD]
6. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

## 4. WG4 - Capacity and capability development

The objective of the Working Group is to strengthen and harmonize human resources development and institutional capability across Africa. The Working Group will endeavour to foster geospatial information literacy, geospatial information (GI) awareness and navigational abilities; promoting infrastructural capabilities. The Working Group will:

1. Encourage basic training; including e-Learning, on Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) and its components – metadata development, data exchange protocols and transfer formats, development of clearinghouse, etc - at regional and national levels;
2. Identify existing human and institutional capacities in GI in African countries;
3. Promote the strengthening of institutional capacity and capability in GI;
4. Identify and promote means of retaining skilled human resources;
5. Promote research into resources and development opportunities being lost, due to absence of GI and SDI and disseminate findings on them;
6. Promote research on success stories with respect to implementation of SDI;
7. Promote awareness on importance of GI to sustainable development;
8. Encourage development/review/standardisation of Geoinformatics curricula in our institutions of higher learning;
9. Sensitize policy/decision makers & end-users on importance of SDI;
10. Promote continuing professional development programme on SDI concepts & Geo-information Science by relevant professional bodies;
11. Promote mutual respect and trust among SDI stakeholders;
12. Promote general awareness on SDI using various media: print & electronic media, newsletter publication, synergy with e-strategies, etc.;
13. Define & evaluate the key issues surrounding the use/lack of use of GI;
14. Identify & promote existing applications of SDI compliant information;
15. Identify parallel initiatives to SDI & integrate with them where beneficial;
16. Market & promote use of GI;
17. Identify what advisory services are required; and
18. Promote international cooperation in the area of GI/SDI capacity building.
19. Develop a communication strategy and communities of practices for geospatial information professionals.
20. Work cooperatively with other Working Groups to define capacity and capability development needs

### Membership

1. Morocco – Chair
2. Kenya
3. Zimbabwe
4. Côte d'Ivoire
5. Central Africa [TBD]
6. South Africa
7. Regional Centre for Training in Aerospace Survey (RECTAS)
8. Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
9. African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

## **5. WG5 - Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Information for Sectoral Applications**

1. Establish the political and strategic relevance for the integration of geospatial and statistical data for Africa. Identify key projects/ work areas and how they can benefit, with particular focus on the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Africa Agenda 2063, the 2020 Round of Censuses and national/ regional priorities.
2. Define priority geospatial, statistical and other (wider scope not only Government) datasets. Assess existing information. Identify gaps. Linking of unlinked existing data.
3. Create mechanisms for geo-statistical analysis (build capacity, analyses / modelling nationally/ regionally/ continentally, presentation forums, publish papers, create professional networks, etc.)
4. Positively influence the collection, quality (includes also geospatial-statistical and interoperability frameworks) and maintenance of priority geospatial and statistical data from NSOs and NMAs, for the main purpose of data usability.
5. Positively influence the legislative and institutional frameworks for the main purpose of operationalizing data usability
6. Define what combinations of data provide the greatest value to users, with a particular focus on UN SDGs, Africa Agenda 2063, the 2020 Round of Census and national regional priorities
7. Identify current geospatial and statistical data integration projects/land administration
8. Identify and provide best practice guidance for the interaction of National Mapping and cadastral Authorities and national statistical institutes;
9. Identify and categorize land administration and management issues/challenges
10. Identify challenges in managing and integrating geospatial data with Statistics
11. Liaise with UN-GGIM working groups & other relevant organizations on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and land administration
12. Demonstrate through projects the applications in:
  - Land Administration and Management
  - Integration of geospatial with statistics

### **Membership**

1. Namibia - Chair
2. South Sudan
3. Liberia
4. Cameroon
5. Morocco
6. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)