

The UN-GGIM Roadmap for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame

In February 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development” - the first resolution recognizing the importance of a globally-coordinated approach to geodesy.

The GGRF Working Group is working on the development of a roadmap that will describe how governments can contribute to the sustainability and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

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Actions forward

– From a UN mandate to a roadmap for global geodesy

“The momentum the adoption of the UN resolution has created will position the global geodetic community well for the complex task ahead, developing a roadmap for GGRF enhancement.”

Gary Johnston, co-chair UN-GGIM/GGRF Working Group



NEW YORK: Ambassador Peter Thomson from Fiji introducing the resolution to the UN General Assembly.

After the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development”, the GGRF Working Group has been working on a roadmap for global geodesy.

Role of the roadmap

The UN-GGIM Roadmap for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame is intended to identify the role that governments, through UN-GGIM, can play in improving the sustainability and enhancement of global geodesy.

“The roadmap is intended to provide an understanding interface between the geodetic community, who are scientifically skilled, and administrators in the national mapping and space agencies, and their governments”, says co-chair Gary Johnston.

He explains that the roadmap is not intended to be a full scale technical document describing every element of geodesy. “It is rather intended to be an actions focused document that references existing technical material, or recommends the development of more detailed plans,” says Johnston.

The roadmap needs to address the operational paragraphs from the UN General Assembly resolution

- Global cooperation in providing technical assistance in geodesy for those countries in need to ensure the development, sustainability and advancement of a GGRF
- Implement open geodetic data sharing
- Improve and maintain national geodetic infrastructure
- Enhanced multilateral cooperation that addresses infrastructure gaps and duplications globally
- Improved outreach to make the GGRF more visible and understandable to society

The roadmap needs to indicate a series of recommended actions

- Infrastructure
- Policy, Standards and Conventions
- Education, Training and Capacity building
- Communication and Outreach
- Governance



Way forward

- Writing teams have been allocated topics aligned to the operational paragraphs from the resolution
- Involvement of UN-GGIM regions and consultation with IAG, FIG, GEO, CEOS is in progress
- Draft will be sent out for comments in January
- WG will combine feedback and build cohesive document
- Roadmap deadline in May 2016
- Final roadmap endorsed at the UN-GGIM 6th session in early August 2016

We need Global Geodetic Reference Frame ambassadors

- We need GGRF ambassadors to take an active part in developing the roadmap
- Your input towards a final roadmap in May 2016 is of great value to the process of making the GGRF more visible and understandable to society
- There is currently momentum created by the resolution around the importance of the global geodetic reference frame to society
- This is our opportunity to achieve a sustainable global geodetic reference frame

Take action now!

- Join as a GGRF ambassador and spread the message about geodesy and the importance of the roadmap with your colleagues, organisations, governments – and at conferences you attend
- Study www.unggrf.org for background material from the Working Group; as newsletters and factsheets and updates on the roadmap work
- Follow us on twitter @unggrf
- Additional information: http://ggim.un.org/UN_GGIM_wg1.html
- Contact us at info@unggrf.org or Gary.Johnston@ga.gov.au or anne.jorgensen@kartverket.no

Global Geodetic Reference Frame – the road to a UN mandate

2012, NEW YORK:

Asia-Pacific Geodesy Working Group (PCGIAP) brought the report on Global Geodetic Reference System to the second session of UN-GGIM. Decision was made by the Committee to progress the issue.

2013, DOHA:

UN-GGIM's second High Level Forum committed to work with all stakeholders to improve a sustainable operational Global Geodetic Reference Frame and infrastructure.

2013, CAMBRIDGE:

UN-GGIM's third session decided to formulate and facilitate a resolution for a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF). A GGRF Working Group was established, co-chaired by Australia and Norway.

2014, NEW YORK:

UN-GGIM's fourth session endorsed the draft resolution on a GGRF and passed it to ECOSOC, UN-GGIM's parent body.

2014, NEW YORK:

ECOSOC's Coordination and Management Meeting adopted the draft resolution and the report from UN-GGIM's fourth session on 17th November.

2015, NEW YORK:

In February the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development – the first resolution recognizing the importance of a globally-coordinated approach to geodesy.

