

UN GGIM

Global Geodetic Reference Frame

3rd August 2017



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United Nations Initiative on
Global Geospatial Information Management

Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges

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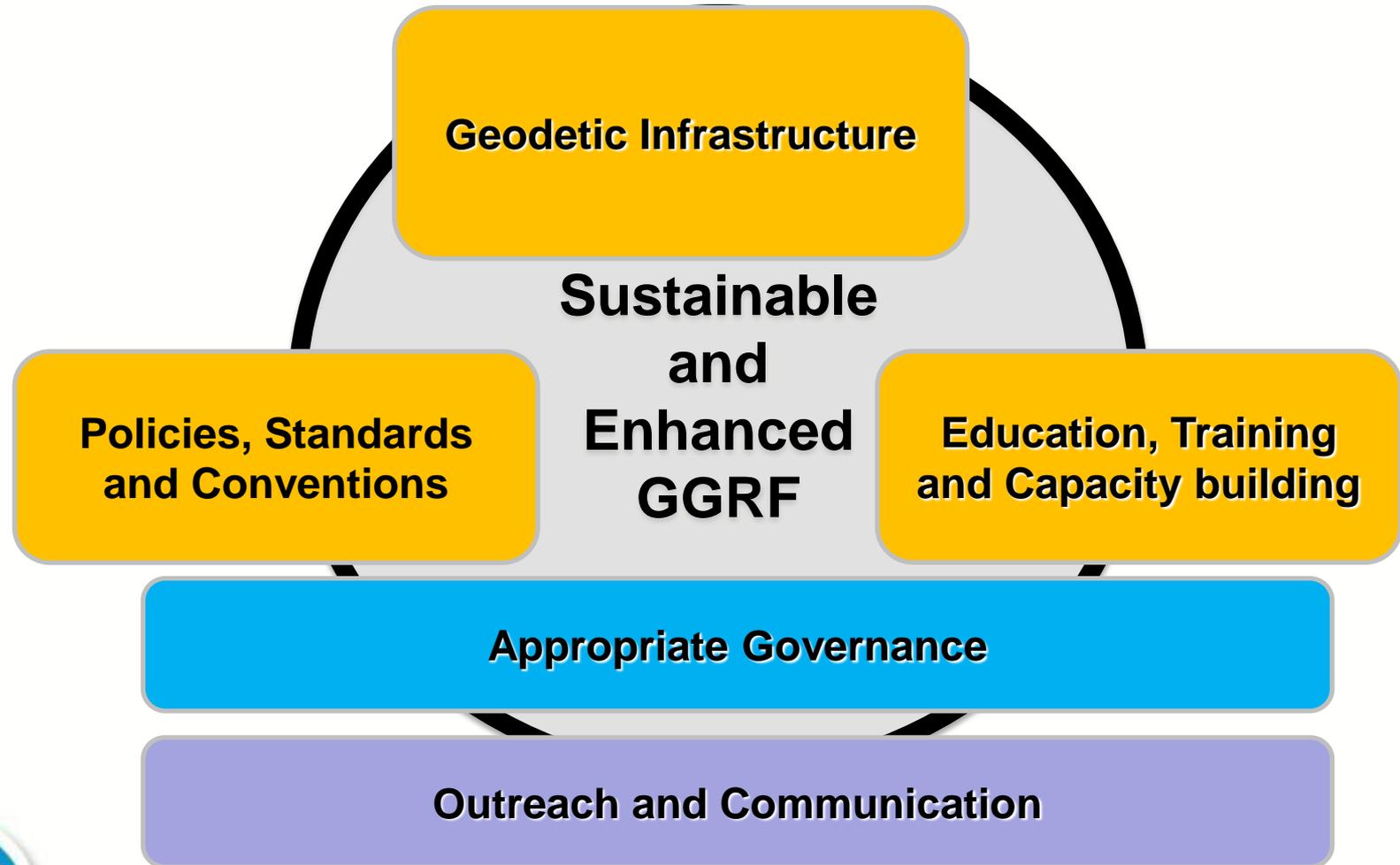
Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- The Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation of virtually every aspect of the collection, management and use of national geospatial information and global monitoring of the Earth
- The GGRF underpins:
 - Earth and Climate science
 - Economic Development and Sustainability
 - Public Safety and Disaster Management
 - Land and Water Administration, and Environmental Management
- Recognising its importance the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 69/266 in February 2015, entitled 'A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development'
- At the 6th session of UN GGIM the Road Map for the development and sustainability of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame was endorsed by the CoE, who then requested the development of an implementation plan



VISION

An accurate, sustainable and accessible Global Geodetic Reference Frame to support science and society



Working Group activities

- Working Group (GGRF-WG) comprises 32 Member States, the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Additional observers have also been invited to assist with the development of the implementation plan
- Working Group efforts have focused on development of the Roadmap Implementation Plan, and the transitional arrangements from working group status to Permanent Subcommittee on Geodesy
- Several informal Working group meetings have occurred along with numerous teleconference meetings which focused on developing the draft roadmap implementation plan



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UN-GGIM – Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group/ Interim Subcommittee on Geodesy

UN RESOLUTION
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/Interim Subcommittee on Geodesy is working on the development of an implementation plan for the GGRF roadmap that will describe how governments can contribute to the sustainability and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame.

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NEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GEODESY

A significant milestone

The Global Geodetic Reference Frame Working Group is now in transition to become the UN-GGIM subcommittee on geodesy.

To provide stability and longer-term planning for the GGRF the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts last summer decided to elevate the GGRF Working Group to a permanent subcommittee on geodesy.

“The establishment of a permanent subcommittee is a significant milestone for global geodesy. It sends a very



PHOTO ANNE BERGENSEN

NEW YORK: The establishment of the new UN-GGIM subcommittee on geodesy provides stability and longer-term planning for the GGRF.

ROADMAP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

To support science and society



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Transitional arrangements and modalities of the Sub-Committee on Geodesy

- Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) and Transitional arrangements documents were developed and provided to the expanded Bureau at its annual meeting convened in December 2016 in New York.
- The TORs aim to encourage all regions to participate in the Sub-Committee while allowing participation of others who wish to actively contribute as associate members or observers
- The draft TORs were circulated to the chairs of the five regional committees of the Committee of Experts in March 2017 for comments, and with a call for nominations of relevant Subcommittee members as per the Terms of Reference. At the time of writing this report, member nominations from the regions of Asia and Pacific, the Americas, and Europe have been received.
- Subsequent feedback from the regional committees have been incorporated into the draft TORs including a slightly larger number of members from each region.
- The draft TORs and transition plan are attached to this present report as Annex I and II respectively.



Discussion

The Committee is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the report and the work completed by the Working Group;
- (b) Express its views on the modalities of the Subcommittee on Geodesy with a view to endorse its Terms of Reference, its transition plan, and the formal establishment of the Subcommittee;
- (c) Take note of the provisional plans for the inaugural formal Subcommittee meeting on the margins of the UN-GGIM High Level Forum in Mexico City, Mexico, November 2017; and
- (d) Provide guidance on the planned activities of the Subcommittee, specifically: 1) the development of the road map implementation plan; 2) the development of the position paper describing the appropriate governance arrangements; 3) building the GGRF web of communication experts; and 4) developing a five-year strategic plan.

