



# **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

**Report on the second session  
(13-15 August 2012)**

**Economic and Social Council  
Official Records 2012  
Supplement No. 26**



**Economic and Social Council**  
Official Records 2012  
Supplement No. 26

# **Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management**

**Report on the second session  
(13-15 August 2012)**



United Nations • New York, 2012



*Note*

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

## Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention . . .	1
A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council. . . . .	1
Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its second session and provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee . . . . .	1
B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council . . . . .	2
2/101. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision . . . . .	2
2/102. Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications of the outcomes of the Conference . . . . .	3
2/103. Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee. . . . .	4
2/104. Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community . . . . .	5
2/105. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information . . . . .	5
2/106. Study on the status of mapping in the world. . . . .	6
2/107. Global Geodetic Reference System . . . . .	6
2/108. Developing a global map for sustainable development . . . . .	7
2/109. Special reports on regional and thematic activities . . . . .	8
II. Items for discussion and decision . . . . .	9
A. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision. . . . .	9
B. Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications of the outcomes of the Conference . . . . .	9
C. Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee . . . . .	10
D. Consideration of a statement of ethics for the endorsement by the global geospatial information community . . . . .	10
E. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information . . . . .	10
F. Study on the status of mapping in the world. . . . .	11
G. Global Geodetic Reference System . . . . .	11
H. Developing a global map for sustainable development . . . . .	12

---

III. Item for information . . . . .	13
Special reports on regional and thematic activities . . . . .	13
IV. Provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee . . . . .	14
V. Report of the Committee on its second session. . . . .	15
VI. Organization of the session. . . . .	16
A. Opening and duration of the session . . . . .	16
B. Attendance . . . . .	16
C. Election of officers . . . . .	16
D. Credentials . . . . .	16
E. Agenda and organization of work . . . . .	16
F. Rules of procedure . . . . .	17
G. Documentation . . . . .	17

## Chapter I

### Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

#### A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

##### **Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its second session and provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee**

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its second session;

(b) Decides that the third session of the Committee of Experts shall be held in Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 24 to 26 July 2013;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

##### **Provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee of Experts**

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

##### *Discussion*

Ministers will be invited to speak.

4. Critical issues related to crowd-sourcing and volunteered information

##### *Discussion*

5. Critical issues relating to the integration of land and marine geospatial information

##### *Discussion*

Joint paper with relevant international organizations

6. Global geodetic reference frame

##### *Discussion*

Joint paper with the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific and the International Association of Geodesy.

7. Developing a global map for sustainable development

*Documentation*

Report of the Steering Committee.

8. Future trends in geospatial information management — for information.
9. Developing a shared statement of principles on the management of geospatial information

*Discussion*

10. Activities related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development — for information.
11. Developing a knowledge base for geospatial information — for information.
12. Status of mapping of the world — for information.
13. Report by regional entities and thematic groups — for information.
14. Provisional agenda and dates for the fourth session of the Committee.
15. Report of the Committee on its third session.

## **B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council**

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee are brought to the attention of the Council:

### **2/101**

#### **Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on future trends in geospatial information management and expressed its satisfaction on its consultation process;
- (b) Congratulated the working group for the excellent work done within a short period of time in the production of a high-quality report with outstanding analysis;
- (c) Took note of the suggestions expressed by members on the following areas for further work:
  - (i) Review of the future trends and needs for geospatial reference systems such as geodetic positioning, especially those that are global in nature;
  - (ii) Review of the status and need for further harmonization of geospatial information standards and best practices in different regions;
  - (iii) Review of user demands and needs for geospatial information;

(iv) Provision of case studies at the national, regional and global levels that clarify the value proposition in the context of raising awareness and understanding of geospatial information;

(v) Review of policy options and the role of government regarding privacy and confidentiality of geospatial information;

(vi) Review of the future trends on interdisciplinary cooperation in geospatial information (e.g. geology, hydrography, meteorology, oceanography, climatology and land management) and cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation with other industries (e.g. construction and mining);

(vii) Provision of options for Governments in their evolution for the creation of national geospatial information authorities and suggestion of mechanisms for Governments to learn from each other and share their concerns;

(viii) Review of strategies, delivery mechanisms, data models and accessibility requirements of geospatial information for customers without sacrificing quality, and the need for comparability across countries and regions;

(ix) Review of the impact on countries and regions which have limited technology capabilities in the era of rapid technology changes, and looking at ways to increase capacity and reduce the digital divide;

(x) Review of educational strategies to improve the awareness and literacy levels on geospatial information;

(d) Took note of the revision process as recommended by the working group and agreed that the revised report would be further discussed at the forthcoming High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Doha.

## **2/102**

### **Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications of the outcomes of the Conference**

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and acknowledged the high quality of the background document prepared by the Secretariat for the Conference;

(b) Expressed gratitude to the organizers of the Conference for their efforts in organizing the side events and offered congratulations on their success;

(c) Appreciated the active efforts of bringing the importance of geospatial information into the sustainable development agenda, including strategies for the monitoring of sustainable development, to the audience at the Conference;

(d) Commended those involved in providing inputs to the drafting of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",<sup>1</sup> in which the importance of reliable geospatial information in sustainable development was acknowledged, thereby raising global awareness of the role of geospatial information in sustainable development agenda setting and monitoring;

---

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 66/288.

(e) Realized that the efforts to raise awareness of the role of geospatial information must continue and be sustained. In that regard the Committee agreed that the outcomes of the Conference should be brought to the attention of all leaders, and that the Secretariat should be requested to send a letter to national geospatial information authorities notifying them of the outcomes;

(f) Acknowledging that the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is uniquely positioned to coordinate the development and use of geospatial information to support the sustainable development agenda and to help in monitoring the outcomes, requested the Secretariat to write to all entities to explain the role of the Committee and to elaborate on the efforts that it is undertaking;

(g) Agreed that, in supporting sustainable development and the monitoring of the outcomes, national geospatial information authorities should:

(i) Actively contribute to sustainable development discussion and activities, and provide coordination related to geospatial information in the national context;

(ii) Continue to improve tools and processes;

(iii) Provide mechanisms and processes aimed towards capacity development related to geospatial information in a sustainable context;

(h) Requested the Secretariat to follow up on all activities related to the Conference and to report thereon to the Committee.

## **2/103**

### **Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee**

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on inventory of issues and expressed its satisfaction on its consultation process;

(b) Agreed with the inventory of issues but cautioned that, when taking the issues forward, existing efforts by international entities should be identified and the unique contribution of the Committee of Experts should be clearly articulated and agreed;

(c) Requested regional entities (for example the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (Europe), and so on) to undertake a diagnostic assessment of their existing regional efforts and to establish regional priorities based on the inventory;

(d) Took note of the suggestion by technical committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO/TC211) to put forward, jointly with the Open Geospatial Consortium and the International Hydrographic Organization, a proposal on the issues related to standard-setting in the international community;

(e) Asked the Secretariat to report to it on the outcomes and the consultation on the regional diagnostic assessments and the setting of standards.

**2/104**

**Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Took note of the proposal to develop a statement of ethics;
- (b) Requested further clarification on the difference between a statement of ethics and various rules that exist within Governments and geospatial information communities;
- (c) Noted that a statement of ethics may be too strong, and suggested that a “shared statement of principles” could be a better formulation;
- (d) Requested the Secretariat to consult further and to report to the Committee.

**2/105**

**Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information**

The Committee of Experts:

- (a) Welcomed the proposal to create a knowledge base for geospatial information;
- (b) Recognized that this creation was mandated by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2011/24;
- (c) Agreed that such a knowledge base should take advantage of already existing knowledge bases created by international professional organizations and by other entities, and that the Secretariat will work with those entities;
- (d) Agreed that in building such a knowledge base, it should consider:
  - (i) Providing a listing of educational and training institutions that provide training in geospatial information;
  - (ii) Including toolkits and technical resources to increase capabilities;
  - (iii) Assessing the quality of the websites linked to the United Nations knowledge base;
  - (iv) Ensuring that users can easily find and use the materials from the knowledge base;
  - (v) Making efforts to prioritize and categorize the type of knowledge to be included in the knowledge base;
  - (vi) Identifying and addressing gaps in knowledge;
- (e) Welcomed the offer by Member States to assist in the development of the knowledge base.

## **2/106**

### **Study on the status of mapping in the world**

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed this initiative and expressed its appreciation for the work done to date;

(b) Welcomed the support of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in helping the Secretariat to conduct this particular study, recognized that the present project between the International Society and the Committee of Experts was an excellent model for future collaboration, and encouraged further collaboration of that kind;

(c) Requested the Secretariat and the regional bodies to provide as much assistance as possible to the International Society so that the study can be carried out to the fullest extent possible;

(d) Welcomed the suggestion of the International Hydrographic Organization that it collaborate with the Committee of Experts by providing a status reports on hydrography and mapping of the world's seas, oceans and coastal waters, and looked forward to the collaboration of the Committee of Experts with the Organization.

## **2/107**

### **Global Geodetic Reference System**

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Permanent Committee on Geographic Information System Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific on the Global Geodetic Reference System, and commended the working group on geodesy on its efforts;

(b) Recognized the expert role played by the International Association of Geodesy and its Global Geodetic Observing System, and urged the continued involvement of that organization in future work;

(c) Recognized the difficult technical issues related to the convergence from national to regional to global International Terrestrial Reference Frames and the requirements for the management of height systems and vertical datums;

(d) Urged Member States to fully recognize the necessity of a global geodetic reference frame and the need to maintain national positioning infrastructure and also to undertake a commitment to make such data available to contribute to regional and global positioning frames;

(e) Requested the Secretariat to send a questionnaire to Member States and regional organizations on the present status and role of government in adopting and maintaining a globally connected geodetic reference frame;

(f) Agreed that the Secretariat should organize an informal consultation on the margin of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (October 2012) to discuss technical issues on the global geodetic reference frame, inviting expert organizations, including the International

Association of Geodesy, other relevant international entities and regional bodies, while noting the need for further consultation;

(g) Requested the Secretariat to organize a special session on the global geodetic reference system during the High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management in Qatar, inviting major donor agencies, and to request each regional body to report on their road map and share it with other regional bodies;

(h) Requested the Secretariat to include the topic in the agenda of the third session of the Committee of Experts and to report on progress on the road map;

(i) Agreed that the outcome of the process was the endorsement by the Committee, on behalf of the United Nations, of a global geodetic reference frame.

## **2/108**

### **Developing a global map for sustainable development**

The Committee of Experts:

(a) Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup> noted with satisfaction the special mention of the importance of geospatial information in the context of sustainable development;

(b) Welcomed the spirit behind the proposal to create a global map for sustainable development and recognized the significant achievements of the existing global map on which a global map for sustainable development can be built;

(c) Understood that this was not an easy project, that it was the beginning of a process, and that the work of considering a global map for sustainable development would be guided by a new steering committee to be approved by the Bureau, comprising Member States, international agencies and the private sector;

(d) Agreed that a global map for sustainable development would be technical in nature and would not address issues of political concern;

(e) Agreed on the need to provide the information base to inform sustainable development so that the agenda, strategy and monitoring might be based on a body of trusted, reliable and authoritative geospatial data;

(f) Requested the steering committee to be formed to take note of the following points:

(i) Member States act as custodians of key data sets and undertake efforts to ensure the interoperability of data and technologies;

(ii) Updates and provision of data should ensure sharing of agreed upon priority data sets, which will improve currency and accuracy;

(iii) The system must be cost-effective and respect national business models in order to avoid strain on available resources, especially in the context of requirements for deploying a large system;

(iv) The system should take advantage of the improvement in modern technology, such as distributed systems, rather than building a large central enterprise system;

- (v) Appropriate standards must be adopted to ensure interoperability in the data production, integration, management and dissemination of data;
- (vi) The project should be considered and conducted in a phased, modular approach, so that we can achieve the vision step by step;
- (vii) The standards for a global map for sustainable development must be transparent and supported by the Member States;
- (g) Requested the steering committee to present an interim document at the High-level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management to be held in Doha that would:
  - (i) Provide the current status and overlaps in the availability of the geospatial information on the web, and the value that a global map for sustainable development could add;
  - (ii) Provide a clear understanding of user requirements and appropriate case studies, as necessary;
  - (iii) Determine the potential applications of a global map for sustainable development, based on existing global map experiences;
  - (iv) Review existing portals, such as those adopted by Spain and the United States of America, and assess their applicability as the basis for a global map for sustainable development;
- (h) Urged Member States to participate in the new steering committee and to help to draft the road map for this important project.

## **2/109**

### **Special reports on regional and thematic activities**

The Committee of Experts took note of the reports contained in document E/C.20/2012/11 and of oral reports on other related initiatives (e.g. Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure).

## Chapter II

### Items for discussion and decision

#### A. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten-year vision

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 13 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on future trends in geospatial information management (E/C.20/2012/3/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland made introductory statements.

4. At the same meetings, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Canada, Italy, Spain, Burkina Faso, Peru, Fiji, Uruguay, Austria, Ethiopia, the United States of America and Finland, and by the observer from the World Meteorological Organization.

5. At the 2nd meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

##### Action taken by the Committee

6. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/101).

#### B. Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications of the outcomes of the Conference

7. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 14 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and on the implications of the outcomes of the conference (E/C.20/2012/4/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of the United Kingdom made introductory statements.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Sweden, Japan, Bangladesh, Spain, Belgium, Canada, India and the Philippines, and by the observers from the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and the Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

##### Action taken by the Committee

10. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/102).

### **C. Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee**

11. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 13 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (E/C.20/2012/5/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of South Africa made introductory statements.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Canada, Italy, Peru, the United Kingdom, Norway and Uruguay, and by the observers from the ISO/TC211, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Federation of Surveyors.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

14. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/103).

### **D. Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community**

15. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 14 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on consideration of a statement of ethics (E/C.20/2012/6/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division made an introductory statement.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Singapore, Australia, Canada, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Fiji, Italy, South Africa, Germany and New Zealand, and by the observers from the European Union, the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure and the International Federation of Surveyors.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

18. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/104).

### **E. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information**

19. The Committee considered item 7 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 15 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on development of a knowledge base for geospatial information (E/C.20/2012/7/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa made introductory statements.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Singapore, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Belgium, Thailand, Canada, Azerbaijan and the Economic Commission for Africa, and by the observers from the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, the ISO/TC211, the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association.

21. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

22. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/105).

**F. Study on the status of mapping in the world**

23. The Committee considered item 8 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, on 14 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing study on the status of mapping in the world (E/C.20/2012/8/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of Germany made introductory statements.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Namibia, Belgium and Canada, and by the observers from the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and the International Hydrographic Organization.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

26. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/106).

**G. Global Geodetic Reference System**

27. The Committee considered item 9 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, on 13 August 2012. It had before it the report by the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific on the Global Geodetic Reference System (E/C.20/2012/9/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of Japan made introductory statements.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, South Africa, Chile, Spain, the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Namibia, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Germany, Australia and Fiji, and by the observer from EuroGeographics.

29. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

30. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/107).

**H. Developing a global map for sustainable development**

31. The Committee considered item 10 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, on 14 August 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the development of a global map for sustainable development (E/C.20/2012/10/Add.1). The Director of the Statistics Division and the representative of Japan made introductory statements.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Spain, Nigeria, the United States, South Africa, Austria, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Chile, and by the observers from the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Chief of the Cartographic Section of the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat made a statement and the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

**Action taken by the Committee**

34. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/108).

## Chapter III

### Item for information

#### A. Special reports on regional and thematic activities

##### Action taken by the Committee

35. The Committee considered item 11 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 15 August 2012. It had before it special reports on regional and thematic activities (E/C.20/2012/11/Add.1). Introductory statements were made by the Director of the Statistics Division and by the observers from the Permanent Committee on GIS Infrastructure for Asia and the Pacific, the Permanent Committee on Spatial Data Infrastructure for the Americas, the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology of the Economic Commission for Africa, EuroGeographics and EuroStat, and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Burkina Faso, Belgium and Fiji, and by the observers from the Pan American Institute of Geography and History and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping.

37. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the special reports (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 2/109).

## Chapter IV

### **Provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee**

38. The Committee considered item 12 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 15 August 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee.

39. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, Australia, Canada, Italy, South Africa, Uruguay, the United States, Nigeria and Mexico.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

40. At its 5th meeting, on 15 August 2012, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its third session and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

41. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council that its third session be held from 24 to 26 July 2013 in Cambridge, United Kingdom (see chap. I, sect. A).

## **Chapter V**

### **Report of the Committee on its second session**

42. The Committee considered item 13 of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 15 August 2012. It had before it the draft report contained in an informal paper.

#### **Action taken by the Committee**

43. At its 6th meeting, on 15 August, the Committee adopted the draft report, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat.

## **Chapter VI**

### **Organization of the session**

#### **A. Opening and duration of the session**

44. The Committee held its second session from 13 to 15 August 2012 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Co-Chair of the Committee, Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom), opened the session.

#### **B. Attendance**

45. The session was attended by 148 participants from 61 Member States. Also present were 34 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is contained in document E/C.20/2012/INF/2.

#### **C. Election of officers**

46. At its first meeting, on 13 August 2012, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

*Co-Chairs:*

Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom)

Mansoor Ahmed Al Malki (Qatar)

*Rapporteur:*

Derek Clarke (South Africa)

#### **D. Credentials**

47. At its first meeting, on 13 August 2012, the Committee invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with a relevant United Nations body, to participate as observers at its second session: Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, Open Geospatial Consortium, The PanAmerican Institute of Geography and History, EuroGeographics, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, DigitalGlobe, Esri, Geospatial Media and Communications, Geomares Publishing, Hexagon, Kokusai Kogyo Co. Ltd, Oracle Corporation, Pasco Corporation, Spatial Data Holdings, Trimble.

#### **E. Agenda and organization of work**

48. At its first meeting, on 13 August 2012, the Committee adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2012/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five-to-ten year vision.
  4. Contribution of the Committee to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and implications of the outcomes of the Conference.
  5. Inventory of issues to be addressed by the Committee.
  6. Consideration of a statement of ethics for endorsement by the global geospatial information community.
  7. Development of a knowledge base for geospatial information.
  8. Study on the status of mapping in the world.
  9. Global Geodetic Reference System.
  10. Developing a global map for sustainable development.
  11. Special reports on regional and thematic activities.
  12. Provisional agenda and dates for the third session of the Committee.
  13. Report of the Committee on its second session.
49. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of the work of the session, as contained in document E/C.20/2012/L.1.

## **F. Rules of procedure**

50. At its first meeting, on 13 August 2012, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in document E/C.20/2012/2.

## **G. Documentation**

51. The documents before the Committee at its second session are available from the website of the Statistics Division at [http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

