

Mission for Strategy and European and International Affairs
Matter followed by François Chirié
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Ref. DG / 2013.128

Dear Sir,

With great interest, I take note of the significant work accomplished by the Working Group on Geodetic Reference Framework for Sustainable Development of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) and by the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) in providing a comprehensive and concise report on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) to be presented and discussed during the 3rd Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM).

The report confirms the role and the importance of the GGRF to support Earth science, satellite navigation, positioning and location-based applications with associated societal and economic benefits. Moreover, the report mentions that over 80% of the geodetic questionnaire respondents considered that the geodetic data, products and services of the IAG, such as the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF) and International GNSS Service (IGS) tracking data and products, were of high-critical importance in their country.

The GGRF is therefore an essential component required to support and to meet the UN-GGIM aim to promote the use of global geospatial information to address key global challenges.

This is why IGN is fully contributing to the international efforts in developing the GGRF, its infrastructure and its associated geodetic products and services, based on the investments of national mapping agencies, national space agencies and academic institutions, contributing to the activities of the IAG and its technique services. IGN will in particular continue to fulfill its responsibility for the realization and maintenance of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), the most accurate reference frame available today, in close cooperation with the IAG.

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Besides, 75% of the Member States have indicated in their responses to the geodetic questionnaire that their organization would benefit from having a high level mandate in place that would provide clear responsibilities for national governments and international agencies. Hence I fully support the report's recommendations to improve intergovernmental coordination through global recognition and a mandate as well as the establishment of a Working Group to develop the draft text of a United Nations General Assembly resolution.

I look forward to further discussion and consolidation of the recommendations in Cambridge during the Third Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,

Director General

Pascal Berteaud

Copies:

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