



United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

*New York
1 November 2013*

Conclusions from the First Meeting

The United Nations Statistics Division organized the first meeting of the Expert Group in New York, from 30 October to 1 November 2013. The Expert Group meeting was attended by 34 experts from the statistical and geospatial communities, and international organisations. The statistical community was represented by Australia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Norway, Saint Lucia, and the United States. The geospatial community was represented by Belize, Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Germany, Japan, Poland, and the Republic of Korea. International representatives were from the United Nations Economic Commission of West Asia, UNSD, the United Nations Cartographic Section, and the European Commission. The following reflects the main conclusions of the participants.

Conclusions and the Way Forward:

1. The Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM proposal to hold an international conference was also discussed. To minimise costs and maximise attendance, the Expert Group agreed to hold the Conference in conjunction with the fourth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management in August 2014, noting that it will be important to ensure good representation from the statistical community. The Expert Group requested UNSD to organize the Conference, following a format with plenary and panel sessions. Belize, Mexico and Australia agreed to work with UNSD on a conference programme.

2. A proposal for the International Conference is tabled at Annex 5. The Expert Group seeks the endorsement of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for the International Conference proposal. In particular, the Expert Group welcomes input from the Statistical Commission and UN-GGIM on the level and breadth of invitation to the Conference.

3. It was agreed to present the findings of the global consultation, the research activity, and the collaboration plans for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses at the International Conference.

4. The Expert Group agreed that the first meeting was successful in building coordination and collaboration. It welcomed future meetings of the Expert Group. It is therefore imperative that the professional statistical community, in partnership with relevant national geospatial information authorities, remain fully engaged in the work of this Expert Group.

5. In accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, a report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information will be submitted to the 45th session of the Statistical Commission, 4-7 March 2014. The report² will provide information on the establishment of the Expert Group and summarizes the major issues discussed at its first meeting, the main recommendations and the way forward.