Statement of Ethics on Global Geospatial Information

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The Forgotten Role of Ethics

• No clear statement or discussion on higher principles or values on how we produce, process, manage and maintain geospatial information;

• Geospatial capabilities and identity have evolved in fragmented and inconsistent manner, reflecting fragmented institutional arrangements;

• Governments are struggling to deal with data issues from the public as well as privately sourced information - credibility, accuracy, legitimacy, status;

• Urgently need a ‘Statement of Ethics’;
Current Efforts

- GISCI (GIS Certification Institute) – Rules of Conduct and Code of Ethics;

- Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute (ANZ)- GISP-AP Code of Ethics and Rules of Conduct;

- Code of Conduct for European Surveyors;

- OGC Principles of Conduct;
Some Common Elements

- Objective, Science Based, Independent;
- Public Good, User Orientation, Service Principle;
- Non-discriminatory; Transparent Processes
- Confidentiality of Data, Access rules
- Quality, Integrity, Cooperation
Evolving as a Community

- A Statement of Ethics and associated code of conduct to be evolved;
- Elements to be identified and agreed upon;
- Need to work together - Governments, international organizations, the private sector, and the Crowd - the Statement Should Apply to All;
- Evolving as a community: To be proud in making accurate, authoritative, reliable geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development, such efforts anchored in high principles……