

Doha Declaration

Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management

We, the participants of the Second High Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management held in Doha, Qatar, from 4 to 6 February 2013, having met in the context of United Nations initiatives to enhance global cooperation in geospatial information management to help overcome global challenges, hereby issue this Doha Declaration on Advancing Global Geospatial Information Management.

Recalling Resolution 2011/24 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which recognized the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information management;

Recalling the Decision of the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (Decision 2/102) in which the Committee, inter alia, urged concerted efforts to raise awareness of the critical role of geospatial information in development planning and to strengthen the capacity to deliver such information to meet global challenges;

Recalling further the Seoul Declaration on Global Geospatial Information Management of 26 October 2011, which called for a cohesive global community of practice, the promotion of common frameworks and standards at all levels, the documentation of best practices, and the need for capacity development;

Recognizing that the Rio+20 outcome document placed particular emphasis on the importance and value of reliable and authoritative geospatial information for sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, and disaster risk reduction;

We, therefore resolve,

- to commit ourselves to working together as an international community, under the coordination of the United Nations, to work with all stakeholders to improve a sustained operational global geodetic reference frame and infrastructure, to support the increasing demand for positioning and monitoring applications with associated societal and economic benefits;
- to affirm the importance of having a stable, credible, and reliable national geospatial information infrastructure in each country built on internationally recognized standards that will integrate, manage, and deliver geospatial information for timely, evidence based and authoritative decision making and policy formulation on location-based development issues, including disasters and humanitarian needs;
- to promote the greater use of geospatial information in sustainable development by supporting the activities under the programme of the Global Map for Sustainable Development (GM4SD) with an initial focus on managing risks of natural disasters to urban populations and developing effective mitigation strategies;
- to affirm the importance of an agreed set of authoritative core global reference datasets that are needed to support global sustainable development activities and to work jointly towards the preparation, improvement and maintenance of these core global reference datasets;
- to work collaboratively to enhance the availability of training programmes at all levels, and to contribute to a global knowledge base that promotes knowledge transfer including the sharing of experiences, best practices, technological trends, supporting legislations, funding strategies, and other technical resources to facilitate and promote capacity development;
- to encourage regional collaboration in the promotion and development of geospatial information management and the establishment of appropriate regional coordinating mechanisms and implementation strategies (as exemplified by UN-GGIM Asia-Pacific), and which include the contribution and ongoing role played by international NGO's, academia and the private sector in supporting this important initiative.

Issued on 6th February 2013