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**Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Statistics Division**

November 2013

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

Report on the First Meeting

*New York
30 October – 1 November 2013*

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Introduction

1. At its forty-fourth session, the United Nations Statistical Commission discussed the Programme Review: “Developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems”. In making decision 44/101 (see E/2010/24, chapter I.C), the Statistical Commission “strongly supported the linking of socio-economic and environmental data to a location in order to enrich and maximize the potential of statistical information”, and “welcomed the proposal of an international conference as a way of outreach and best practices, bringing together both statistical and geospatial professional communities” as well as “the proposal to develop an international statistical geospatial framework”. In this regard, the Commission requested the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) to establish an Expert Group composed of representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities to carry the work on developing a statistical spatial framework as a global standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.
2. At its third session, held in the United Kingdom in July 2013, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) adopted decision 3/107 (see E/C.20/2013/17), which “acknowledged the critical importance of integrating geospatial information with statistics and socio-economic data and the development of a geospatial-statistical framework, especially in the context of the on-going debate on the post-2015 development agenda” and “supported the decision by the Statistical Commission to create an Expert Group on the integration of geospatial information and statistical information, comprising members of both the statistical and geospatial communities”.
3. In pursuance of Statistical Commission decision 44/101 and UN-GGIM decision 3/107 as described above, UNSD has established the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information¹, composed of experts with an even professional mix of statistical and geospatial expertise, and with good geographical representation.
4. 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. A full list of attendees is available at Annex 1.

¹ Upon recommendation of the experts in the field, the naming regarding this Expert Group was changed from “Expert Group on Developing a Statistical-Spatial Framework in National Statistical Systems” to “Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information”.

Opening Session

5. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Acting Director, UNSD, welcomed the participants, recalled the decisions, adopted by the 44th Session of the Statistical Commission and the third Session of UN-GGIM, which led to the establishment of the Expert Group, and reiterated the objectives of the first meeting. In his opening remarks, he emphasized that the establishment of the Expert Group, bringing together global statistical and geospatial experts to discuss and address common issues, reflects the recognition of the importance of the integration of geospatial information and statistics in supporting social, economic and environmental policy decision-making, including at the sub-national level.
6. The modalities of the Expert Group were determined and agreed upon and the co-chairs, from Australia (Mr. Peter Harper) representing the statistical community, and Mexico (Mr. Roland Ocampo) representing the geospatial community, were elected for a term of three years.
7. An agenda, as presented at Annex 2, was considered and adopted as the means to guide the issues and discussions by the experts.

Organization of work

8. The Expert Group Meeting was conducted through a combination of presentations by country experts, representing the national statistical offices and the national geospatial information authorities, UNSD and international/regional organizations, and discussions during topic-oriented sessions. For papers and presentations see http://ggim.un.org/UN_Statistical_Geospatial_EGM.html
9. The contributions of all members were positive and fully supportive of the need to integrate statistical and geospatial information, including through the sharing of knowledge, the building of capabilities and expertise, the importance of common terminology, and the identification of communication and collaboration opportunities. What follows is a summary of salient issues that were discussed during each of the sessions, as well as the major recommendations and the way forward.

Major Outcomes of the Meeting

10. The Expert Group discussed and agreed on a Terms of Reference as shown in Annex 3. The Expert Group seeks the endorsement of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to the proposed Terms of Reference.
11. It was noted that the importance of the integration of statistical and geospatial information goes beyond a population and housing census activities to a broader agenda including agriculture and economic censuses, environmental-economic accounting, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, the Expert Group agreed to review the Terms of Reference every three years or as part of a change of chair.
12. One of the key issues discussed were the various practices and approaches used to determine and represent geographical units for statistical purposes. The

Expert Group agreed to undertake a global consultation on geocoding practices, linking and integration practices, and geographic classification practices. The purpose of the consultation will be to better understand and articulate practices, particularly a comparative analysis of grid-based versus population-based approaches to geocoding, integration and geographic classifications. Australia, Mexico, Brazil and Poland agreed to collaborate with UNSD on the global consultation, building as much as possible on existing global consultation processes.

13. In parallel, the Expert Group agreed to a research programme into the genesis, advantages, benefits, and issues associated with a grid-based approach versus a population/administrative approach to the compilation and dissemination of statistics. The United States, in conjunction with Australia, Brazil, Finland, France, India, and Poland, agreed to contribute to this research activity.
14. A focus on the development of a statistical-geospatial information infrastructure in support of the 2020 Round of Censuses was also discussed, and the Expert Group agreed that all censuses, including population and housing, agriculture, economic and other censuses were important. However, the Expert Group also stressed the importance of prioritisation and focus, and agreed that the forthcoming round of population censuses were a particular opportunity and focus. In this regard, the Expert Group requested UNSD to work with its Demographic and Social Statistics Branch to agree on a course of action that would best deliver an integrated statistical and geospatial solution to the 2020 Round of Population Censuses.
15. The Expert Group discussed and explored at length the terminology and understanding of methodologies and practices including integration, linking, geocoding and geographic classifications. It was acknowledged that in order to meet the objective of providing a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities, with a view to developing and advancing the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, it was important to first share knowledge of existing terminologies and practices. The Expert Group agreed to develop a web-based portal to share knowledge, including a glossary of terminology, and requested UNSD to host this portal.
16. Information was provided about other international initiatives in the statistical community. In particular the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) High Level Group on the Modernisation of Statistical Processes and Products (HLG-BAS), and also initiatives in the geospatial community. This includes the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) which has developed the standard for linking geospatial data, such as census boundaries, with corresponding statistical data. Furthermore, ISO/TC-211, the ISO technical committee on geographic information/geomatics, and OGC are preparing a template of standards needed for the fundamental layers of a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) for presentation at the 4th UN-GGIM session in August 2014. The Expert Group agreed that it was important that both metadata statistical and geospatial communities reach out to each other, and asked the UNSD to make contact with relevant groups dealing with metadata standards to inform them of the establishment of the Expert Group and put in place coordination mechanisms.

17. The contributions and comprehensive discussions enabled the Expert Group to formulate and agree on a work programme as outlined in Annex 4. The participants stressed the importance of an action-oriented programme and that the issues to be addressed should be based on prioritisation, clarity and focus. The Expert Group seeks the endorsement of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to the proposed work programme.

Conclusions and the Way Forward

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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.

² The content of the Report to be submitted to the Statistical Commission will incorporate excerpts from this EG Meeting Report, including the annexes.

Annex 1:

List of Participants

Australia

1. Ms Gemma Van Halderen
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, Australia
2. Mr. Alister Nairn
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Canberra, Australia

Bangladesh

3. Major Md Zulfikar Haider
Assistant Surveyor General
Survey of Bangladesh
Bangladesh

Belize

4. Ms. Carren Williams
Principal Land Information Officer
Land Information Center
Department of Land and Surveys
Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture
Belmopan, Belize

Brazil

5. Mr. Claudio Stenner
Coordinator of Geography
Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística – IBGE
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Egypt

6. Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Kamel
General Manger
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)
Cairo, Egypt

Finland

7. Ms. Marja TAMMILEHTO-LUODE
Senior Adviser
Statistics Finland
Finland

France

8. Mr. Vincent Loonis
Head of Spatial Methods Unit
French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE)
Paris, France

Germany

9. Mr. Bernd Richter
Head of Geoinformation Division
Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)
Frankfurt, Germany
10. Ms. Susanne Schnorr-Backer
Head of Unit
Co-ordination of Regional Statistics, Indicators
Germany

India

11. Dr. Bharat Bhushan Singh
Deputy Director General
Field Operation Division, National Sample Survey Office
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
New Delhi, India

Japan

12. Mr. Naoki MAKITA
Director
Statistics Production Support Division,
Tabulation Department,
National Statistics Center
Japan
13. Mr. Koichiro FURUICHI
Unit Chief
Statistics Information Systems Division, Statistics Bureau,
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Japan

Mexico

14. Mr. Rolando Ocampo Alcantar
Vice-president of INEGI
Aguascalientes, Mexico

Norway

15. Mr. Jørn Kristian Undelstvedt
Statistics Norway
Oslo, Norway

Poland

16. Mr. Jacek Jarzabek
Deputy Head Geodisist
Head office of Geodesy and Cartography of Poland
Warsaw, Poland
17. Mr. Dominik Kopczewski
Coordinator of the Office of Foreign Cooperation
Head office of Geodesy and Cartography of Poland
Warsaw, Poland

Republic of Korea

18. Kwon, Sangdae
Director, National Land Information
Survey Division
National Geographic Information Institute
Republic of Korea
19. Im, Eunsun
Research Fellow
Geospatial Information Research Division
Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
Republic of Korea
20. Lee, Hosang
Associate Research Fellow
Geospatial Information Research Division
Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
Republic of Korea
21. Hwang, Myung-hwa
Research Staff
Dept. of Geography and Geographic Information Science
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Republic of Korea

Saint Lucia

22. Mr. Edwin St Catherine
Director of Statistics
Saint Lucia Government Statistical Department
Central Statistics Office
Castries, Saint Lucia

USA

23. Mr. Timothy Trainor
Chief, Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau
USA

24. Mr. Vincent Osier
Chief of Geographic Standards and Criteria Branch
U.S. Census Bureau
USA

International organizations

25. Mr. Gunter SCHÄFER
European Commission
Luxembourg

UN-ESCWA

26. Mr. Juraj Riečan,
Director, Statistics Division
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)

United Nations Statistics Division:

27. Mr. Stefan Schweinfest
Acting Director, Statistics Division,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
28. Mr. Greg Scott
Inter-Regional Advisor, Global Geospatial Information Management
29. Mr. Amor Laaribi
GGIM Coordinator
30. Ms Cecille Blake
GGIM Secretariat
31. Ms. Alessandra Alfieri
Section Chief, Economic Statistics Branch

United Nations Cartographic Section:

32. Mr. Kyoung-Soo Eom
Chief, Cartographic Section
Division for Geospatial, Information and Telecommunications Technologies (DGITT), Dept.
of Field Support
33. Ms. Ayako Kagawa
Chief, Geospatial Support Unit Cartographic Section
34. Ms. Geraldine Velandria
Geo- Support Unit, Cartographic Section

ANNEX 2: Agenda

First Meeting of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

New York, 30 Oct. – 1 Nov. 2013

Provisional Agenda (and timetable)

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Agenda item and session</i>	<i>Proposed time</i>
Day 1 (30 Oct.)		
Morning (9:15-12:30)		Session 3:15
Item 1	Opening of the Expert Group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening and objectives of the meeting - Introductions - Election of Co-chairs - Opening statement by Co-chairs 	30 mins
Item 2	Agenda and other organisational matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agenda and organization of the meeting (UNSD) 	15 mins
Item 3	UNSC program review ‘Developing a statistical-spatial framework in national statistical systems’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on program review and outcomes of UNSC and UN-GGIM meetings (UNSD) (Discussion) 	45 mins
<i>Morning Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 4	Finalise the proposed Terms of Reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop session (Australia) 	1 hr 30 mins
<i>Lunch (12:30-2:00)</i>		<i>1 hr 30 mins</i>
Afternoon (2:00-5:30)		Session 3:30
Item 5	Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – Overview presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UN-GGIM Trends in Geospatial Information Management, including location and Geospatial Information in ‘big data’ (UNSD) - The Statistical Spatial Framework (Australia, Mexico) 	1 hr 30 mins
<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 6	Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – Geospatially coding statistics: (Eurostat) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National practices in geospatial coding and referencing statistics (Finland, Rep. of Korea) - Geographic data linking, including dynamic linkage (Germany) 	1 hr 45 mins

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Agenda item and session</i>	<i>Proposed time</i>
Day 2 (31 Oct.)		
Morning (9:15-12:30)		Session 3:15
Item 7	Review of Day 1	15 mins
Item 8	Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – Common geographic classifications and boundaries: - National practices in geographic classifications and boundaries, including dissemination geographies (USA, Australia, Mexico, Japan)	1 hr 30 mins
<i>Morning Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 9	Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – Metadata standards and interoperability (location and geo-referencing): - Review of international statistical and geospatial metadata standards and frameworks (UNSD, ESCWA, Australia)	1 hr 15 mins
<i>Lunch (12:30-2:00)</i>		1 hr 30 mins
Afternoon (2:00-5:30)		Session 3:30
Item 10	Towards a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – Overarching topics: - National experiences in managing confidentiality and data access (Australia, India) - Case studies of geospatial capability building programs – geospatial and statistical organisations (Brazil, Poland) - International capacity building programs and funding opportunities (Discussion)	1 hr 30 mins
<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 11	Implementing a Global Statistical Geospatial Framework – 2020 Round of Censuses: - Countries perspectives for the 2020 round of Population Censuses and opportunities for increased application of geospatial information (UNSD, Australia) (Discussion)	1 hr 45 mins

<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Agenda item and session</i>	<i>Proposed time</i>
Day 3 (1 Nov.)		
<i>Morning (9:15-12:30)</i>		<i>Session 3:15</i>
Item 12	Review of day 2	15 mins
Item 13	Expert group photograph	30 mins
Item 14	Develop Expert Group work program - Workshop session	45 mins
<i>Morning Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 14 (cont.)	Develop expert group work program (cont.) - Workshop session	30 mins
Item 15	Finalise expert group work program and determine working group arrangements - Plenary discussion	1 hr
<i>Lunch (12:30-2:00)</i>		<i>1 hr 30 mins</i>
<i>Afternoon (2:00-5:00)</i>		<i>Session 3:30</i>
Item 16	Discuss arrangements for international conference - Timing and location - Conference content (with reference to morning discussion)	1 hr 30 mins
<i>Afternoon Tea</i>		15 mins
Item 17	Other business - Revise Expert Group arrangements with reference to conference discussion.	1 hr 15 mins

Annex 3:

Terms of Reference of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial information

[The establishment of a United Nations Statistical-Geospatial Expert Group was requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 44th Session in March 2013 and endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Third Session in July 2013.]

Objectives and functions

1. The overall objectives and functions of the UN Group of Experts will be:

(a) To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities with a view to developing a global statistical-geospatial framework as a standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information;

(b) To propose workplans and guidelines to advance the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework so that there is increased information to support social, economic and environmental policy decision making, including at the sub-national level;

(c) To address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, especially issues related to confidentiality;

(d) To pursue the implementation of the statistical-geospatial framework in the 2020 Round of Censuses with the understanding it would apply to other initiatives including other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, etc, and global initiatives such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Big Data.

2. To achieve these objectives, the UN Expert Group programme of work will focus on the following:

(a) Undertake activities that foster collaboration between statistical and geospatial communities at national and international levels, including to identify and address common issues to linking socio-economic information to a location and implementing a global statistical-geospatial framework;

(b) Evaluate the statistical-geospatial framework developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and determine if and how this could be internationalised;

(c) Support the development, promotion and sharing of guidance material and best practice documentation in relation to a global statistical-geospatial framework;

(d) Identify existing capability development programmes in National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Geospatial communities that could be leveraged to develop geospatial components suitable for other NSOs and geospatial agencies, including the ability to promote and standardise geocoding processes, methodologies and frameworks (for example: dynamic linking techniques);

(e) Promote and encourage close collaboration between NSOs and their national geospatial counterparts during the 2020 Round of Censuses so that statistical and geospatial integration occurs, and encourage adoption of global statistical-geospatial framework principles in this work.

(f) Encourage the use of existing, and development of new data and metadata standards as well as other standards to enhance the interface of location-based datasets from multiple sources;

(g) Encourage the development of approaches to increase geospatial skills and capabilities within national statistics offices and geospatial agencies;

(h) Encourage the development of communication mechanisms to increase the visibility of geospatial activities, beyond specialist geospatial units that exist in some national statistics offices and other agencies, to help keep the statistical and geospatial communities aware of the developments coming from the Expert Group's programme of work;

(i) Encourage the development of geospatial analytics.

(j) Encourage the work of the geospatial community towards developing Spatial Data Infrastructures, and their potential use for improving integration of statistical and geospatial information.

3. The Expert Group will bring to the attention of United Nations Statistical Commission, the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Statistics Division new developments relating to the integration of geospatial and statistical information, the work on developing a global statistical-geospatial framework, as well as other developments coming from the Expert Group's programme of work.

Membership, composition and terms of office

4. The Expert Group will comprise high-level experts from national governments and international organizations from both the statistical and geospatial communities. In appointing their national representatives, Member States will seek to designate experts with specific knowledge drawn from the fields of statistics and geospatial information. Where only one representative is appointed, Member States will encourage collaboration between representatives at the national level. Member State representatives would also be selected so as to ensure equitable regional representation.

5. The Expert Group will elect two co-Chairs, one from the statistical community and the other from the geospatial community. Each will serve for a 3-year period, renewable once for an additional 3 years.

6. If considered appropriate, the Expert Group will establish a Bureau to assist the two co-Chairs in progressing activities outside of Expert Group meetings. The Expert Group may establish sub-groups to work on particular aspects of the programme under its oversight.

7. The Expert Group will liaise as required with other international groups that may have an interest in linking statistical and geospatial information, including: the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (UNCEEA), the United Nations Cartographic Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Revising the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

8. The Expert Group will review, and if appropriate, revise its terms of reference every three years, and in conjunction with a change in chairs.

Reporting procedure

9. The Expert Group will report to the Statistical Commission and the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM.

Frequency of meetings

10. The Group of Experts will normally operate virtually and try to meet in conjunction with appropriate meetings.

11. The group of Experts will operate with the help of a website to facilitate communication, collaboration, knowledge management and information.

Secretariat

12. The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will serve as the permanent Secretariat of the Expert Group. It will provide the day-to-day management and coordination, host and maintain the website, and undertake all internal and external communication on behalf of the Group of Experts. In cooperation with the co-Chairs, the Secretariat will coordinate, monitor and report on the activities of any sub-groups, organise and develop the agenda for the Expert Group meetings, maintain the Expert Group website and issue notices from the Expert Group.

Annex 4:

Work Programme

Proposed Work Program:

- Form a subgroup (Mexico, Australia, Poland, Brazil, UNSD) to develop a global consultation questionnaire on:
 - * geographical classifications and practices
 - ** geocoding practiceswith a view to preparing a comparative analysis of the grid and population/administrative approaches to the integration of statistical and geospatial information.
- Build on the existing questionnaires from the GGIM process to ensure coordination rather than duplication. Timing - in time to present findings to 4th session of UN-GGIM and the International Conference
- In parallel with questionnaire, research (USA, Finland, European Commission, France, St. Lucia, Brazil) the genesis, pros and cons, etc of the grid based and population/administrative approach to the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics. Timing - in time to present findings at the International Conference
- Form a subgroup to develop the International Conference proposal further (UNSD, Mexico, Australia, Belize)
- Reach out to the metadata standards groups in both the statistical and geospatial communities (UNSD, EC, Poland). Timing – to be determined by UNSD
- Reach out to the UNSD Demographic and Social Statistics Branch to discuss how the EG can best engage with the 2020 Round of Pop Censuses - focus on contributing, not doing (UNSD in first instance). Timing – as soon as possible by UNSD
- Start process of arriving at common terminology - collect existing information on terms, meanings, identify gaps, etc (UNSD, Finland, European Commission)
- Developing a schedule with activities, dates and the responsible for them
- Finalise TOR, and seek endorsement by both the UNSC and UN-GGIM
- Finalise a work program and seek endorsement by both UNSC and UN-GGIM
- Finalise international conference proposal and seek endorsement by both UNSC and UN-GGIM
- Establish website, EG members initiate work on the work program elements they have offered to contribute to, send meeting outcomes/presentation to EG members
- EG to provide feedback within their countries.

Annex 5:

Proposal of the International Conference

International Conference on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information:

- Agreed an August 2014 timing appeared appropriate
 - If a country comes forward and wants to host, then may consider decoupling from the 4th session of the UN-GGIM
- Requested UNSD to investigate logistical and operational issues with hosting an international conference in NY
- Volunteers needed to be part of the International Conference organisation/program committee
- Thematic approach (e.g. like the High Level Forums, plenary, panel sessions, but no parallel sessions) preferred
- Need to ensure strong buy-in from Chief Statisticians.