

Mr President,
Honourable ministers,
Excellences,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Friends,
Good Morning!

I have the great honour to give opening remarks to this High Level Forum of UN GGIM on behalf of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies.

The Chair of the Board Prof Chris Rizos congratulates UN GGIM with bringing 'Good Land Governance for the 2030 Agenda' to the context of geospatial information management.

Good land governance requires good land administration. Land administration documents and informs about who is owning or using what and where. It is an overview of people to land relationships. It is linking people to space. At a global level, 70% of those relations are not documented. Or even more.

Information about who, what and where can only be generated with the support of the geospatial disciplines.

The Joint board of Geospatial Information Societies deals with a broad range of geospatial technologies and applications. They range from satellite and drone imaging and mapping, to geodesy, precise positioning, geo-information science, cartography, spatial data infrastructure and many surveying sub-disciplines. Land administration in support to good governance is one of those disciplines. Land administration has a geospatial component providing overview of parcels or spatial units.

Relationships between people and land may be of a formal, informal or customary nature. Many of those relations are not recognised. There is no inclusiveness for all.

Meanwhile, populations and cities are growing and the pressure on land and natural resources is continuing to increase significantly. This leads to disputes and conflict.

A Fit-For-Purpose approach for Land Administration has been developed by global stakeholders. It is a gender sensitive, transparent and highly participatory approach. With the support of geospatial technologies this approach can be implemented quickly.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Governments need information to govern. Land information is a key data set.

There are costs related to its implementation. The costs of not having such an infrastructure may be higher given the impact of population growth, the urban rural interface, climate change and appearance of disasters.

The challenge for the global land community and for the global geospatial information associations is clear: secure land rights for all people, in all places, at all times. The biggest challenge is to keep the information on those land rights up to date and accessible.

A new era in land administration emerges, one underpinned by a wave of innovative thinking and coupled with quickly maturing, scalable approaches.

Supported by world-leading private companies, modern geospatial technologies and a new professional mindset, the provision of global land administration that supports good land governance now appears to be a feasible objective within the current generation.

It depends now on political willingness and capacity development.

We welcome your contribution, support, comments and observations. Let's make a dynamic event.

I wish you a pro active participation with a lot of energy and motivation.

I wish you a good conference.

Thank you!