

TASK TEAM ON ALTERNATIVE DATA SOURCES

Scope of Work

Background

The IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information (IAEG-SDGs: WGGI) at its First Expert Group Meeting on 12-14 December 2016 in Mexico City established six task teams to consider and work on identified issues, one of which is the consideration of alternative data sources. This particular issue is also identified as a cross cutting issue.

Scope

The Task Team on Alternative Data sources will focus on alternative data sources with a geospatial context (besides official authoritative data), that might be helpful to support the process of acquisition of data and information for the global indicator framework.

By “alternative data” the task team understands that it can be data that is not collected by an official authority or a statistical institution, and might not be available for the entire area or on a regular timely basis. Examples for such alternative data are so called Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI) and Crowd-sourced Data (CSD), cell phone data or data coming from social media. This kind of information can be allocated under the more generic field of Big Data. Satellite imagery can also be seen as a type of Big Data; however, satellite imagery is considered as one key source of information in the context of geospatial information and will be included in the assessment its usefulness, nonetheless. Therefore the task team will confine its focus on the two topics mentioned above (VGI, CSD), and on selective types of Big Data such as from mobile telecommunication.

The task team will identify and assess the different existing forms of alternative data sources that seem to be relevant to the global indicator framework. In so doing, the task team will try to give a statement on the usability. However, due to the given short time line, this assessment cannot cover the entire field of all the kinds of existing alternative data, but will focus on some illustrative examples. Recommendations on how such alternative data sources might be used for a particular indicator shall be part of a follow up work at a later time.

The Task Team Members

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Rules of Engagement

- a) Please include every member of this task team in all of communications related to the task team so that each member is up-to-date on the efforts and always copy the Secretariat (scott12@un.org & teo@un.org)
- b) For any requests for responses, please respond even if you have nothing to add as a confirmation of receipt of the information.



Next Steps

The deadline for the output report is 17 February 2017.

(31 January 2017)

