



**Fifth High Level Forum on
UN Global Geospatial Information Management
First Meeting of the
United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy**

**26-27 November 2017
INEGI, Mexico City, Mexico**

Concept Note

Background and Context

At its seventh session in August 2017, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) adopted decision 7/103, in which it –

- a) endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the Subcommittee on Geodesy,
- b) agreed with the proposed terms of reference and transition plan, and
- c) encouraged Regional Committees of UN-GGIM to come forward with nominations, if yet to do so, particularly from developing countries.

Recognizing the importance of a global geodetic reference frame (GGRF) to society, Member States adopted General Assembly resolution 69/2661 in February 2015, entitled ‘A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development.’ A road map for the enhancement and sustainability of the GGRF was subsequently developed by the Working Group and provided to the Committee of Experts at its sixth session, held in August 2016. At that session, the Committee of Experts endorsed the road map and the establishment of a subcommittee on geodesy, and requested the subcommittee to determine its modalities and methods of work. The Committee welcomed the development of an implementation plan to ensure that the recommendations contained in the road map are linked to national policy developments in geodesy. The Committee of Experts also requested the Working Group to continue its outreach and communication, especially in the regional framework.

The vision for the Subcommittee on Geodesy is to provide “an accurate, accessible and sustainable global geodetic reference frame to support science and society”. The Subcommittee will work closely with the Regional UN-GGIM geodesy working groups, the national geodetic agencies and the global geodetic community to continue the implementation of the road map towards the vision.



In the medium term, the Subcommittee should consider its role to ensure better utilization of GGRF in conjunction with the other foundation geospatial datasets nationally, regionally and globally. An ongoing role is in the provision of geodetic expertise to the Committee of Experts and the broader intergovernmental community, especially relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to hazards, the environment, peace and security, and economic development.

UN-GGIM at its seventh session expressed its support for the planned activities of the Subcommittee, including –

- a) developing the road map and implementation plan,
- b) developing the position paper on appropriate governance arrangements,
- c) building the web of communication experts of the global geodetic reference frame,
- d) developing a five-year strategic plan incorporating its role beyond the immediate and medium-term work program, and
- e) convening its inaugural meeting on the margins of the Fifth High Level Forum on UN-GGIM, to be held in Mexico City in November 2017.

Objective

The Sub-committee on Geodesy provides an intergovernmental forum, with equitable regional representation, for cooperation and exchange of dialogue on issues relating to the maintenance, enhancement and use of a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).

The objective of the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy, in accordance with its terms of reference as agreed by UN-GGIM, will be to discuss, deliberate and collectively work on –

- i) development of the implementation plan for the GGRF Road Map, including an appropriate governance mechanism to effectively implement the road map
- ii) open sharing of geodetic data and information that contribute to the implementation of global, regional and national reference frames, and their inter-relationship
- iii) guidelines and standards to advance the interoperability of geodetic systems and data
- iv) technical, institutional and policy issues related to the implementation of a GGRF
- v) outreach and communication, particularly with appropriate regional initiatives and activities
- vi) capacity development and knowledge transfer in the field of geodesy among Member States
- vii) five-year strategic plan

In addition, the meeting will discuss and deliberate on integrating geodesy into the UN-GGIM fundamental geospatial data themes (Working Group on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes) and the selection of two co-Chairs to serve for 2-year periods as provided in the terms of reference.

Participation

The first meeting of the Subcommittee on geodesy is hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico at its premises in Mexico City from 26 – 27 November 2017. Participation is only for members, associate members and confirmed observers of the subcommittee. The meeting of the Subcommittee is a closed meeting, and all the current nominated members and associate members are invited to participate.



The Subcommittee meeting will be convened immediately before the Fifth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management to be held at the Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel, Mexico City from 28-30 November 2017, also hosted by INEGI Mexico. Participants of the first meeting of the Subcommittee on Geodesy are also invited to participate in the High Level Forum with an overarching theme: "*Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation*". The High Level Forum will provide Member States and geospatial information stakeholders the unique opportunity to exchange knowledge, practices and experiences and afford peer-to-peer learning on strategies, approaches and methods to support sub-national, national and regional initiatives towards increasing availability, accessibility and application of high-quality, reliable and timely geospatial information for sustainable development.

