Recognizing the increasing role of statistical and geospatial integration, particularly with regard to the SDGs and the 2020 Round of Population Censuses, the Statistical Commission agreed that the mandate of the Expert Group be strengthened for it to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information. In this respect, the Commission emphasized the need for the regional statistical bodies to develop and strengthen partnerships with the regional bodies of UN-GGIM, given their growing importance in the context of integration of data from surveys, administrative sources and geospatial information for the SDGs, and also emphasized the need to streamline statistical production processes.

At its seventh session in August 2017, UN-GGIM adopted decision 7/107, endorsing the Statistical Commission’s emphasis on strengthening the mandate of the Expert Group to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and for regional statistical bodies to develop and strengthen partnerships with the regional committees. UN-GGIM encouraged the continued refinement and implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and supported the proposal that the Expert Group should actively contribute to the work of the 2020 Population and Housing Census to promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information and the implementation of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.