



'The Geospatial Way to a Better World'

United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC)

Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China

19-21 November 2018

CALL FOR THEMATIC SESSION PROPOSALS

The United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) will bring together a diverse group of geospatial leaders and actors from all stakeholder groups, including: national and international geospatial agencies and systems; academia; industry; the business community; the private sector; and civil society; to exchange ideas, showcase innovations, identify solutions, discuss future strategies, and provide mutual learning opportunities on a wide variety of topics organized across 6 thematic areas of the Congress.

Over the course of the 3-day Congress, participants will be able to engage in sessions and topics focusing on the opportunities and challenges in geospatial information applications and data production in a changing data landscape, and sharing ideas for solutions and strategies for the way forward. The format of the Congress seeks to debate technology development, test concepts and thinking, stimulate dialogue, exchange experiences, practices and knowledge, and to guide a path to a better world.

The UNWGIC International Advisory Committee (IAC) has been tasked by the UNWGIC Steering Committee to provide the required guidance and advice on the development and implementation of the substantive programme and content of the UNWGIC. The IAC has determined the 6 major Themes of the Congress, and has subsequently developed 36 Topics (separate documents) as an initial guide for Session proposals.

We invite you to submit Session proposals on the Session Application Template provided for consideration by the UNWGIC International Advisory Committee (IAC) for inclusion in the Congress Programme.

NOTE: Please email your completed Session Application Template, with 'UNWGIC Session Application' in the subject title, to Ms. Vima Frani at ggim@un.org by **1 June 2018**.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

- Session organizer* (or Focal point) to be contacted for follow-up on the submission (name, affiliation and email)
- Relevance to the Theme(s) and Topic(s) of the UNWGIC
- Session Title
- Session Description – short description of session, including focus, scope, and objectives.
- Session Format
 - Expected duration of each session is up to 1 hour and 30 minutes.
 - Different modes of delivery are encouraged besides panel discussions, including, mini workshops and data labs, and other session formats that you might wish to propose to encourage an effective interactive exchange with the audience and to ensure that the Congress is as participatory as possible.

- Please describe the requested format for the proposed session, including the IT requirements and room setup. Formats can include panel discussion, hackathon-style/innovation challenge, workshop, data lab, “Ted-talk”-style presentation(s), among others.
- Please note that the Congress Programme may not be able to accommodate all suggested formats.
- Main expected outcome of the Session
- Proposed speakers/panellists, including name, gender, affiliation, country and email for each speaker.
- Proposed Chair/Moderators, including name, gender, affiliation, country and email.

**Session organizers are responsible for:*

- Ensuring contact with the panelists and moderators of their sessions and proper communication of organizational aspects based on the information provided by the Secretariat of the Congress.
- Ensuring that speakers register for the Congress and make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.
- Ensuring that speakers are present at the time of the Session, and to prepare a short summary of the Session to be submitted after the event to the Secretariat.

SELECTION PROCESS

The programme for the UNWGIC is being developed by an International Advisory Committee (IAC) comprised of the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau, including the UN-GGIM Bureau, the Chairs of the five UN-GGIM regional committees, the Chairs of the three UN-GGIM networks, as well as senior representatives of related agencies and regional commissions of the UN system, major governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The proposals will be evaluated by the IAC based on the following aspects:

- Relevance to the Theme and Topic;
- Innovative aspects covered;
- Level or representation of presenters and/or moderators from different stakeholder groups to ensure proper interaction across data communities;
- Level of representation of presenters and/or moderators to ensure adequate geographical representation and gender balance across and within sessions;
- Focus on concrete experiences and outcomes with data production and utilization; and
- Inclusion of concrete recommendations and outcomes, or launch of new initiatives.

Call for Session proposals for the UNWGIC will **close** on **1 June 2018**.

The proposed programme will be approved by the UNWGIC Steering Committee.

All applicants will be informed about the status of their application by **31 July 2018**.

It is anticipated that the draft programme will be available by end of August 2018: and the final programme will be available by the end of September 2018.

PLEASE NOTE: *Neither the International Advisory Committee nor the United Nations offer supporting funds to facilitate the travel and participation of proposed speakers or sessions. The involvement of speakers (and participants) must therefore be completely self-financed, including travel, accommodation and any other related expenses. There are no registration fees to be a participant or speaker at the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress.*