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Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

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Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management for the consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/108, in which it noted the need for continued advocacy and political awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management, urged the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management to continue to address the overarching policy guidance for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems and noted that principles-based guidance should be flexible and recognize the diverse social and economic contexts at the national and subnational levels. In this report, the Expert Group provides information on its activities and progress, including its consideration of an overarching framework for sustainable land administration, taking into account the guidance provided by the Committee of Experts at its seventh session. In this regard, the Expert Group is considering a framework in which are described key elements or principles for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems that can efficiently and effectively document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all their forms. The framework includes references to existing concepts, approaches and mechanisms, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (from the Committee on World Food Security), the continuum of land rights (Global Land Tool Network) and the Land Governance Assessment Framework (World Bank Group). Within the overarching framework, developments in the standardization of land administration domain models will be considered as a means to enable further progress.

* E/C.20/2018/1

I. Introduction

1. At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/108, in which the Committee urged the Expert Group to continue advocacy and raise awareness on the merits and benefits of good land administration system, and address the overarching policy guidance for a sustainable and interoperable land administration and management system which is principles-based, flexible and recognizing the diverse social and economic circumstances at the national and sub-national levels.
2. The Committee of Experts also noted the valuable efforts of the Expert Group in contributing to relevant land indicators of the global indicator framework in support of efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of the global population that had access to secure tenure of land. The Committee also noted the numerous suggestions for the Expert Group to consider in its programme of work, including focusing on issues related to interoperability, partnerships and the exchange of technology for developing countries, and the merits and benefits of a good land administration system that improved and recognized all forms tenure.
3. This report seeks to update the Committee of the Expert Group's progress, including its composition, activities and contributions. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and express its views on the Expert Group's activities and progress. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 23.

II. Membership of the Expert Group

4. During this reporting period, Barbados joined the Expert Group. The Expert Group presently composed of expert representatives from 19 Member States, 4 from the UN System and 6 from relevant organizations from the Committee of Experts' stakeholder community.
5. The Expert Group, at its online meeting on 12 June 2018, discussed item 5.2 of its terms of reference, where the Expert Group will elect two co-Chairs, one from a developing and the other from a developed country, to serve for a 3-year period, renewable once for an additional 3 years. Considering that the first 3-year period expires this eighth session, the Expert Group embarked on a selection process and requested members who are able and willing to fulfil the role as co-Chairs to step forward, and agree on its co-Chairs by consensus. The Secretariat presided over the selection process and the Expert Group expects to achieve consensus before the eighth session of the Committee of Experts.

III. Meetings and activities

6. The sixth session of the Committee of Experts encouraged the Expert Group to address the issue of fit-for-purpose land and geospatial information required to support effective and efficient land administration and management to address the need to secure land and property rights for all. The Expert Group organized a side event at the sixth session of the Committee in August 2017, and engaged delegates from Member States, observers as well as experts. The outcome of this side event was confirmation of the need to consider what are key requirements, including fit-for-purpose land and geospatial information, to support effective and efficient land administration and management, that will allow for efficiency and effectiveness in documenting, recording and recognizing the people-to-land relationships in all their forms.

7. At the First Arab Land Conference held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 26 – 28 February 2018, the Expert Group’s initiative to develop a framework for sustainable land administration and its thoughts on key requirements were shared at a round table session with participants and experts from the region. Participants welcomed the initiative to provide overarching policy guidance for Member States to reference when developing and strengthening their land administration and management.

8. On the margins of the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference held in Washington D.C., United States, on 19 March 2018, a session was organized to review the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) White Paper on Operational Domain Standards for Land Administration. The context and rationale was discussed together with the status in the development of ISO standard 19152 - Land Administration Domain Model. The Expert Group has kept abreast with considerations within OGC and International Standards Organization Technical Committee 211 (ISO TC-211) in their review of ISO standard 19152 – Land Administration Domain Model.

9. On 23 March 2018, the Expert Group convened an open meeting as a side event to the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference to discuss key requirements of a framework for sustainable land administration as an overarching policy guidance for Member States to reference when developing and strengthening their land administration and management, and as a means for raising awareness and improving advocacy.

10. The Expert Group supported the 7th Land Administration Domain Model (LADM) Workshop held from 11 - 13 April 2018 in Zagreb, Croatia in conjunction with the Sixth Croatian Congress on Cadastre, and deliberated on the scope and functionality of a second edition of LADM as an ISO TC-211 New Working Item Proposal.

11. The co-Chair of the Expert Group participated in ISO TC-211 meeting on 30 May 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark to support the adoption of a New Working Item Proposal for the revision of the ISO standard 19152 - Land Administration Domain Model that was prepared by the International Federation of Surveyors. The co-Chair continued to track the status and progress of the proposal for national tenure security atlas. The proposal has had a design document and a demonstrator developed, and was presented and discussed at a conference on land governance in Utrecht, Netherlands, June 2018.

12. The Expert Group has met twice online, the first on 14 February 2018 and the second on 12 June 2018 to attend to the business of the Expert Group as well as to progress its Work Plan.

IV. A framework for sustainable land administration

13. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including the contribution by earth observations and geospatial information to leave no one behind. Given that an estimated 70% of humanity do not enjoy secure land and property rights, the Expert Group believes there is a need to accelerate efforts to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms.

14. In this regard, the Expert Group considered an overarching policy guidance in the form of a framework for sustainable land administration to provide a means for raising awareness and improving advocacy, and a reference and guide for Member States when developing and strengthening their land administration and management.

15. In developing this overarching policy guidance, the Expert Group sought to leverage existing global concepts, approaches, and national geospatial information management systems with their underpinning infrastructure, including the geodetic reference framework and fundamental geospatial data themes; to link people to land; to document, record and recognize people to land relationships in all their forms; and to secure land and property rights for all. This would mean referencing the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (from the Committee on World Food Security), the Continuum of Land Rights (UN-Habitat/Global Land Tool Network), Land Governance Assessment Framework (World Bank Group), the ISO standard I9152 - Land Administration Domain Model, and the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

16. At its online meeting on 14 February 2018, the Expert Group began its discussion on key requirements that included: i) sharing and collaboration; ii) avoiding duplication in data acquisition and management; iii) inclusive in scope, includes all forms of tenure; iv) culture of maintenance; v) adopting internationally agreed standards; vi) easily accessible and transparent; and vii) includes capacity development.

17. At its second online meeting on 12 June 2018, eight key requirements were presented to the Expert Group and were extensively deliberated. They are, in no order of importance:

- (a) collect once, use multiple times, supporting a culture of collaboration and sharing;
- (b) avoid duplication in data acquisition and data management;
- (c) inclusive and recognize all forms of tenure;
- (d) address data security, both in policies and in delivery systems;
- (e) culture of maintenance to ensure sustainability;
- (f) promotes interoperability, applies internationally agreed standards;
- (g) easily accessible and transparent; and
- (h) capacity and capability development.

18. The Expert Group also discussed what could be core pillars of sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems at its second online meeting. This included: i) responsible governance; ii) the concept of continuum; iii) fit-for-purpose; iv) finance; v) assessment and monitoring; and vi) capacity and partnerships.

19. The Expert Group considered documenting the framework for sustainable land administration in two parts. The first, high-level with a vision statement, clear goals and objectives. The second part of the documentation will elaborate on core pillars for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems that will include a series of priority actions as a guidance for implementation.

20. The framework described key requirements and pillars for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems that can efficiently and effectively document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all their forms, and to support efforts to improve and accelerate the proportion of global population's relationship to land that will be documented, recorded and recognised (SDGs Indicator 1.4.2 – Proportion of total adult

population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure).

21. The Expert Group, together with the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, plan to convene a two-day International Seminar on Effective Land Administration back-to-back with a meeting of the Expert Group in the last week of September 2018 in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China. The International Seminar and Expert Group meeting aims to consolidate, review, and agree on the key requirements and core pillars of the framework for sustainable land administration.

22. The Expert Group plans to prepare and ready the documentation for its framework for sustainable land administration for presentation to and adoption by the Committee of Experts at its ninth session in 2019.

Points for discussion

23. The Committee of Experts is invited to:

(a) Take note of the report, express its views and provide guidance to the Expert Group on its progress;

(b) Express its views on the current state of consideration and development on the framework for sustainable land administration; and

(c) Take note that the Expert Group, together with the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, will convene a two-day International Seminar on Effective Land Administration back-to-back with a meeting of the Expert Group in the last week of September 2018 in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China.