



# United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## DEQING INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT *“Effective Land Administration”*

**Deqing International Convention Centre,**  
Zhejiang Geospatial Information Industrial Park  
Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China  
27 – 28 September 2018

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### Background

Considering that an estimated 70% of people-to-land relationships are not documented, recorded and recognized, coupled with the lack of geographic coverage of formal land administration systems, United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has decided to take a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to policy and decision makers the need for timely and fit-for-purpose land administration and management, supported by capacity development, particularly in developing countries and countries in special situations.

2015

The fifth session of the Committee acknowledged the importance of, and the need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, land and property rights, customary land rights, security of tenure, sustainable development and overall social, economic and environmental well-being.

2016

UN-GGIM convened its Fourth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2016 that had as its theme “Good land governance for the 2030 Agenda” and issued the Addis Ababa Declaration that called for the cognizance of both formal and informal people-to-land relationships, and affirmed the importance of effective land administration and management as the pillar of good governance and efficient government to address the challenges and opportunities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.

2017

At its seventh session in August 2017, the Committee of Experts noted in its decision the need for continued advocacy and political awareness on the benefits of effective and efficient land administration and management. The Expert Group on Land Administration and Management was urged to continue to address the overarching policy guidance for sustainable and interoperable land administration and management systems, and that that principles based guidance should be flexible and recognize the diverse social and economic contexts at the national and subnational levels.

The Expert Group believes in the need to accelerate efforts to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms. In this regard, an overarching policy guidance that can be referenced by Member States is needed for better advocacy and improving awareness of the benefits of effective and efficient land administration, enhances partnerships and capacity development, strengthens land administration and management at all levels to effectively link people to land.

To be effective means to be fit, adequate and successful in accomplishing the intended result. Effective land administration must be fit-for-purpose, appropriate and adequate, interoperable and sustainable, flexible and inclusive, and able to accelerate efforts to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms. Effective land administration provides humanity with better access to and security of land and property rights, able to mitigate issues relating to land as a root cause triggering conflict, and to “leave no one behind”, the overarching principle of the 2030 Agenda.

## **Organizers**

The UN-GGIM Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Division with the support of UN-GGIM’s Expert Group on Land Administration and Management, in collaboration with the Government of China through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Zhejiang Provincial Government, and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) will collectively organize and realize the **Deqing International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management** with the theme “**Effective Land Administration**” from 27 to 28 September 2018.

The Deqing International Seminar will be held in conjunction with a two-day expert meeting, the second for the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management.

## **Objectives of the International Seminar**

Deqing International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Effective Land Administration” will provide a platform for deliberating key considerations, elements, and priorities for action, to accelerate efforts to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms. The International Seminar will consider several sub-themes through its sessions that will allow participants to engage, interact and exchange with one another to realize a United Nations overarching policy guidance for effective land administration.

The International Seminar allows national, regional and international experts to consider –

- ❑ Role and contribution of national geospatial information management systems, its underpinning infrastructure, including the geodetic reference framework and fundamental geospatial data themes;
- ❑ Leveraging global concepts and approaches to comprehensively link people to land - to document, record and recognize people-to-land relationships in all its forms;
- ❑ Key elements for an effective land administration system that will build trust and promote - user-centric service accessible by all; multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships; sharing of resources and financial sustainability; open standards and interoperability; scientific and technological advancement; creativity and innovation; and

- ❑ Key requirements and pillars for the overarching policy guidance which will improve and accelerate the proportion of global population's relationship to land that will be documented, recorded and recognised (SDGs Indicator 1.4.2).

## **Participation**

It is expected that up to 100 participants will attend the International Seminar. The objective is to bring together national, regional and international experts from governments, United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions and civil societies to consider key principles and elements for an overarching policy guidance for effective land administration.

## **Expected outcomes**

The International Seminar is envisaged to promote and deliver sound and learned views and observations, inputs and guidance, to the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management in its consideration, development and preparation of an overarching policy guidance for effective land administration that will be sustainable, interoperable, flexible, and recognize the diverse social and economic contexts at the national and subnational levels.

## **Second meeting of the Expert Group on Land Administration and Management**

A two-day expert meeting for members of the Expert Group will be held in conjunction with the International Seminar, on 26 and 29 September 2018 in Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China. The objective of this second meeting is to avail opportunities for members of the Expert Group to meet physically, and together with a few invited experts, review and consider recent activities and progress of the Expert Group, as well as to deliberate in depth, the considerations, development and preparation of the overarching policy guidance for effective land administration. The Committee of Experts expects the Expert Group to table the proposed policy guidance at its ninth session in August 2019.

This two-day physical meeting of the Expert Group is a closed meeting and is by invitation only. All current twenty-nine members of the Expert Group comprising of expert representatives from member states, United Nations systems, and international organizations are invited to participate. Expert observers from UN-GGIM Academic Network, Geospatial Societies, and Private Sector Network as well as representatives of Member States, United Nations system and International organizations that are not a member of the Expert Group but who have subject matter expertise may request to join and participate in this Expert Group meeting. The host may nominate national expert observers to this meeting.