



# 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI)

## UN EG-ISGI Future Plans

**Martin Brady**  
Co-Chair UN Expert Group on the  
Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information  
Director – Geospatial Solutions  
Australian Bureau of Statistics



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# Session objectives

1. Develop future EG-ISGI work plan.
2. Identify resource options to support Expert Group activities.
3. Plan to support Statistical Geospatial interoperability initiatives.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# EG-ISGI focus areas

Six key issues were identified at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting as topics of focus for the future activities of the Expert Group:

1. Need to increase engagement and understanding in the geospatial community of EG-ISGI and GSGF.
2. Elaborate on the details underpinning the five principles of the GSGF so it may be used effectively in national implementations
3. Support the outcomes of the Workshop on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Standards



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# EG-ISGI focus areas

4. Further promote, support, and explain the value and utility of the GSGF by pursuing a broad communications strategy
5. Consider how to engage with partners to promote capacity development to enable the sustainable integration of statistical and geospatial information, in particular to support the 2020 Round of Censuses
6. The scope of the Expert Group will broaden, as it becomes the overall coordination group for the integration of statistical and geospatial information.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Session objectives

1. Develop future EG-ISGI work plan.
2. Identify resource options to support Expert Group activities.
3. Plan to support Statistical Geospatial interoperability initiatives.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# GSGF endorsement program



1. November 2019: GSGF principles definitions final
2. December - February 2019: GSGF principle documents undergo editing and harmonisation
3. March 2019 50<sup>th</sup> session of the UNSC: consolidated GSGF principles document tabled as a draft for comments
4. March 2019: GSGF principles document begins global consultation phase – 3 months



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# GSGF endorsement program



6. June-July 2019: EG-ISGI analyse global consultation comments and finalise the consolidated GSGF principle document
7. August 2019 9<sup>th</sup> Session of UN-GGIM: consolidated GSGF principle document presented for endorsement, then if endorsed
8. March 2020 51<sup>st</sup> session of the UNSC: consolidated GSGF principles document presented for endorsement.
9. Promotion, review and evaluate future plans



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# GSGF endorsement program



## Issues

- Very tight and ambitious time frame
- EG-ISGI member effort available to finalise principle definitions
- Resources for professional editor to edit and harmonise GSGF documents
- Resources to prepare final report professionally
- Resources to promote and build capability



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# Session objectives

1. Develop future EG-ISGI work plan.
2. Identify resource options to support Expert Group activities.
3. Plan to support Statistical Geospatial interoperability initiatives.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# EG resource support

- Resources for professional editor to edit and harmonise GSGF documents
- Resources to prepare final report professionally
- Resources to produce materials to promote GSGF
- Resources to support capability building, particularly with the 2020 Census round



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# EG resource support

Possible options and sources of resource support?



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Session objectives

1. Develop future EG-ISGI work plan.
2. Identify resource options to support Expert Group activities.
3. Plan to support Statistical Geospatial interoperability initiatives.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Interoperability projects

At the Stockholm Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards, convened jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Committee of Experts Regional Committee for Europe:

- Short-term and longer-term statistical-geospatial interoperability projects were recommended
- These were endorsed by the Expert Group at its fourth meeting
- Subsequently presented to UNSC and UN-GGIM and received endorsement
- Needs member country and organisations to participation and support to succeed.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# Interoperability projects

Short-term high impact projects proposed:

- Draft a beginner's guide to using standards from both communities;
- For both the geospatial and statistical communities, develop communication materials that simply describe the interrelationships between their frameworks, models and standards;
- Conduct a pilot to determine options for persistent identifiers to link aggregate statistical outputs to standard geographies;



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Interoperability projects

Short-term high impact projects proposed cont':

- Seek opportunities to work on semantic interoperability issues, such as an ontology for addresses and buildings;
- Improve the discoverability of geospatial tools that are based on standards;
- Develop guidance on how to store geospatial reference objects and links in existing statistical databases;
- Map the data exchange process between statistical and geospatial organizations;



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

unstats.un.org

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Interoperability projects

Short-term high impact projects proposed cont':

- Examine comparative use cases for the application of traditional geography and emerging grid technologies, in particular for the dissemination of statistics;
- Examine pathways and interest within the statistical community to move to formal International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards for models and frameworks, in addition to using existing ones, such as those issued by ISO technical committee 154 on processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration;



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# Interoperability projects

Longer term proposals:

- In the reviews of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model and the Generic Statistical Information Model, consider how geospatial processes and information can be represented;
- Include statistics among the global fundamental geospatial data themes of the Committee of Experts;
- Encourage greater collaboration on activities relating to address and building registers;



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



# Interoperability projects

Longer term proposals cont':

- Consider common core metadata for geospatially enabled statistical data;
- Continue to communicate and collaborate on materials to explain the different models, frameworks and standards across the two communities, using practical projects as the basis.



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# Interoperability projects

## Mechanisms to drive progress

- OGC Statistics Domain Working Group
- UNECE HLG-MOS engagement
- Others?



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom

# EG-ISGI meetings

## 2019/2020 Calendar

- GSGF focused WebEx
- Quarterly WebEx
- UN-GGIM Aug 2019 – side event and meeting
- UNSC March 2018 – side event
- Face to face meeting options



UN-GGIM

United Nations Committee of Experts on  
Global Geospatial Information Management



BETTER DATA  
BETTER LIVES

[unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)

@UNStats #UNStatCom