



Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI)

22-23 November 2018

UN World Geospatial Information Congress, Deqing, China

Announcement

Invitation

The Co-chairs of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Integration (EG-ISGI) are pleased to inform all EG-ISGI members that the Fifth Meeting of the EG-ISGI will take place in Deqing, China from 22-23 November 2018. The EG-ISGI meeting will be held on the margins of the United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (<http://www.ggim.un.org/unwgic>). This meeting is hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, China and the Government of Zhejiang Province, China.

Please mark your calendars accordingly and confirm your participation with Mr. Mark Iliffe (Tel: 1-917-367-3475; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: mark.iliffe@un.org) in the UN-GGIM Secretariat.

We look forward to working with you and seeing you in Deqing.

Martin Brady and Paloma Merodio

Co-chairs of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Background and Context

The EG-ISGI is currently composed of 31 Member States. In addition, the EG-ISGI includes representation from United Nations Regional Commissions and United Nations Agencies. The work of the Expert Group is augmented by experts from five international and regional statistical and geospatial organisations that contribute their expertise and experiences on statistical and geospatial information, and related data methods.

The primary objectives of the EG-ISGI¹ are:

1. To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities with a view to developing a global statistical-geospatial framework as a standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information;
2. To propose work plans and guidelines to advance the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework so that there is increased information to support social, economic and environmental policy decision making, including at the sub-national level;
3. To address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, especially issues related to confidentiality;
4. To pursue the implementation of the statistical-geospatial framework in the 2020 Round of Censuses with the understanding it would apply to other initiatives including other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, and global initiatives such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Big Data.

At the 48th session of the Statistical Commission, the EG-ISGI brought to the five guiding principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) for endorsement. In making decision 48/108, the Statistical Commission expressed its gratitude to the EG-ISGI for the significant progress achieved in the work on the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and for the subsequent formulation of the GSGF. In endorsing the five guiding principles of the Framework the Commission had a view to the full framework being developed as an international standard at an appropriate time.

Furthermore, at the 48th Session, the Commission noted the continuing work of the EG-ISGI and its focus on the consolidation and implementation of the Framework, including in the preparation of country level examples. Recognizing the increasing role of statistical and geospatial integration, particularly regarding the SDGs and the 2020 Round of Population Censuses, the Statistical Commission agreed that the mandate of the EG-ISGI 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 emphasized the need to streamline statistical production processes.

At its 49th Session, the Commission took note of the report of the EG-ISGI. This detailed the further adoption of the GSGF within nations, provided the Statistical Commission with the simple, key message that all statistical

¹ <http://ggim.un.org/UNGGIM-expert-group/>

unit record data should be linked to x- and y- geospatial coordinates, and noted the short-term and longer-term statistical-geospatial interoperability projects proposed by the EG-ISGI within the Annex to the report.

At its eighth session in August 2018, UN-GGIM adopted decision 8/108, encouraging the continued progression, promotion and dissemination of the GSGF, supporting the EG-ISGI in its contribution to the work of the 2020 Population and Housing Census to promote the integration of statistical and geospatial information, and the further implementation of the GSGF. Additionally, UN-GGIM noted the need for elaboration on the five principles of the GSGF.

Objectives

The Fifth meeting aims to take advantage and opportunity of the UNWGIC to convene the EG-ISGI to refine the five principles of the GSGF and consider the wider business of the EG-ISGI, specifically:

- i. **22nd November** will cover the business of the Expert Group including matters related to coordination. This includes:
 - a. Review the outcomes of the 49th UN Statistical Commission and the eighth session of UN-GGIM;
 - b. Consider the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and, inter-alia, the GSGF;
 - c. Discuss linkages with the Open Geospatial Consortium Statistical Domain Working Group, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information, and any other existing or upcoming work programmes of the Committee of Experts and/or the Statistical Commission; and,
 - d. Consider the communication, promotion, and refinement of the GSGF;
 - i. Development of high level slides for promotion of EG-ISGI activities and GSGF;
 - ii. Program, coordination and delivery of regional and national capability development programs;
 - e. Consider resource options for EG-ISGI activities;
 - f. Discuss, formulate, and review the EG-ISGI's future work plan; and,
 - g. Harmonising and finalising the substantive content of the Five Principles of the GSGF for its presentation to the 50th Session of the Statistical Commission in March 2019
- ii. **23rd November** will focus on finalising the Five Principles of the GSGF and consider any other matters for consideration by the EG-ISGI;

Participation

All members of the EG-ISGI comprising expert representatives of either National Statistical Offices or National Mapping/Geospatial Information Agencies, United Nations System and international organizations are invited to participate. Several expert representatives who have subject matter expertise from non-member countries of the Expert Group EG-ISGI, United Nations System, international organizations, and academic and research organizations may be invited to the meeting. A provisional annotated agenda will be developed and shared with the Expert Group.