



United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT *“Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development”*

Tribe Hotel, Limuru Road, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya

6 – 7 December 2018

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is the peak inter-governmental mechanism to make joint decisions and set directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks. In July 2016, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, in which it explicitly recognized the relevance of geospatial information for the various United Nations policy agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ECOSOC strengthened and broadened the mandate of the Committee and invited UN-GGIM to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018 was released on 20 June 2018, and reviewed progress in the third year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the foreword of the Report, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that “Without evidence of where we stand now we cannot confidently chart our path forward in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, this report also reflects on the challenges faced in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely, accessible and sufficiently disaggregated data, and calls for better evidence-based policymaking. Today’s technology makes it possible to collate the data we need to keep the promise to leave no one behind. But, we need political leadership, resources and commitment to use the tools now available.”

The Report continued, noting that “Among the different categories of disaggregation called for in the 2030 Agenda, “place”, or geographic location, is critical for ensuring that no one is left behind. Geographic location is needed to know where a situation is present or where an event has occurred, and to allow decision makers to respond. The integration of geospatial information with data and statistics for SDGs is also instrumental in enabling data interoperability across data ecosystems and linking data sets within and across countries”. In addition, “new data sources and technologies for data collection and for the integration of different sources of data will need to be explored, including through partnerships with civil society, the private sector and academia. The integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be particularly important for the production of a number of indicators”.



The outcome declaration of the Fifth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management held in Mexico City, Mexico in November 2017 with the theme “Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation”, confirmed the duty and role of the global geospatial information community to ensure that the expectations from citizens all over to make real development progress can be met with easily accessible and affordable geospatial technologies, digital transformation and innovation, including enabling developing countries to have universal access to these fundamental capabilities.

Objectives

UN-GGIM has acknowledged that the global geospatial information environment is dynamic and innovative, the emergence of new technologies, methodologies and processes, and, in that regard, agreed that data availability and data quality for sustainable development remained one of the bigger challenges for Member States. Data, when available, must also be accessible, consistent and sustainable for the production of indicators to provide information on the agreed goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with national priorities and needs.

This International Seminar will provide a platform for the geospatial information management community and a diverse group of stakeholders to engage one another, exchange knowledge and experiences, and discuss priority issues related to disaggregation by geographical location and production-ready earth observation time series for the production of SDGs indicators. The International Seminar will consider several sub-themes through its sessions that will allow participants to engage, interact and exchange with one another to ensure that the contributions of the global geospatial information community to the 2030 Agenda remain rigorous and relevant.

The International Seminar allows national, regional and international experts to consider, vis-à-vis, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development –

- ❑ Availability and accessibility of data, particularly earth observations time series;
- ❑ Means to share, integrate and use traditional and new sources of data and information for sustainable development;
- ❑ Disaggregation by geographic location and aggregation of geocoded unit level data;
- ❑ Approaches to leverage production-ready earth observation time series for the production of indicators; and
- ❑ Collaboration and partnerships with different stakeholder groups with the aim to improve data availability, data flows and global reporting on the SDGs.

Expected outcomes

National, regional and international experts from governments, United Nations system, international organizations, the private sector, academic and research institutions and civil societies are expected to engage, share and discuss on appropriate and applicable sciences and knowledge, practices and experiences, and consider priority issues and actions to –

- ❑ address the challenges faced in the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely and accessible geospatial data and earth observations for better evidence-based policymaking and the 2030 Agenda; and
- ❑ leverage national geospatial information management, its systems and infrastructures and today’s geospatial technologies to collate and integrate the data needed to keep the promise to leave no one behind.



Organizers

The UN-GGIM Secretariat, United Nations Statistics Division with the support of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (Working Group) and the Global Urban Observatory/Data and Statistics Unit, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) will collectively organize and realize the **International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management** with the theme “**Geospatial information for sustainable development**” from 6 to 7 December 2018.

This International Seminar will be convened in conjunction with the fifth expert meeting of the Working Group held on 5 and 8 December 2018.

Participation and registration

The International Seminar is open to national, regional and international experts from governments, United Nations system, international organizations, academic and research institutions, civil societies and the private sector. However, prior registration is required for all interested to participate. Please complete the registration form and send it to:

Ms. Vilma Frani
UN-GGIM Secretariat, Statistics Division
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Email: frani@un.org

and to

Mr. Dennis Mwaniki
Global Urban Observatory/Data and Statistics Unit,
Research and Capacity Development Branch, UN-Habitat
Email: dennis.mwaniki@un.org

Ms. Mary Dibo
Global Urban Observatory/Data and Statistics Unit,
Research and Capacity Development Branch, UN-Habitat
Email: mary.dibo@un.org

The organizers will consider your request and inform you accordingly via email. Generally, participation will be on a first-come-first considered basis.

Language

The International Seminar will be conducted in English only.

Venue

The International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with the theme “Geospatial information for sustainable development” will take place at the Tribe Hotel, located approximately 1.5 kilometre from the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya.

