



United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT: Licensing of Geospatial Information Nuku'alofa, Tonga, 10 – 13 April 2018

Background

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), at its seventh session, called for the development of mechanisms for Member States to develop capacity to address the legal and policy matters that have an impact on the collection, dissemination and application of geospatial information. In this context, UN-GGIM, having undertaken the development and preparation of the Compendium on the Licensing of Geospatial Information, has initiated a series of peer-to-peer learning events that will allow both providers and consumers of geospatial information at the national level to be better aware and informed, thus improving the capacity of Member States, in addressing legal and policy considerations in geospatial information management to support the sharing and dissemination of data, to significantly increase the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information.

UN-GGIM is cognizant that the need to address legal and policy issues that impact geospatial information management has become more critical as innovative and creative applications arising from new and emerging technologies and devices can be challenging within existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. Examples include, the acquisition and application of geospatial information in or near real-time, from unmanned aerial systems, pervasive mobile applications, and “smart” initiatives. These technologies and applications are being used to consume and produce location-based information and services at an increasing volume and pace.

Geospatial information, technologies and services, a crucial component of any national data and information systems, have become critical tools to support national development, social wellbeing, environmental management, economic growth, improved evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making, and have enhanced the ability of governments to analyse, monitor and report social, environmental and economic development challenges. This include data and information for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ultimately, sustainable development.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development demands the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches, including exploiting the contribution to be made by earth observations and geospatial information. In Goal 17, in the area of data, monitoring and accountability, the 2030 Agenda will, “By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”.



About the International Workshop

This UN-GGIM peer-to-peer learning event will be a four-day workshop with a program designed to raise awareness, introduce and inform participants from Small Islands Developing States in the Pacific on concepts and practical approaches which the participants should find helpful in their normal work. The workshop will be participatory, where the participants are expected to be active; engage in discussions and to interact with one another. To ensure the effectiveness of this International Workshop, there will be no more than 40 participants. The workshop is so designed offering peer-to-peer engagement, networking and learning opportunities that may lead to co-operation or partnerships that go well beyond the conclusion of this workshop.

The goal of this International Workshop is to make both providers and consumers of geospatial information at the national and local levels better aware and informed on how a country's legal and policy framework impact geospatial information management, improve the capacity of Member States in addressing legal and policy considerations in geospatial information management, including the licensing of geospatial information to improve data sharing and dissemination, and increase the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information.

This learning event will consider the concepts and approaches outlined in the UN-GGIM Compendium on Licensing of Geospatial Information. The Compendium seeks to provide guidance on standard legal and licensing terms as they relate to geospatial information licenses, or arrangements or agreements or terms of use. It is also intended to help foster understanding on the rights and obligations that organizations are agreeing to abide by when entering a geospatial information licensing arrangement. The Compendium provides geospatial information management practitioners with useful guidance on legal considerations relating to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop are -

- (a) To raise awareness on how an evolving legal and regulatory environment concerning geospatial information will impact the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information;
- (b) To afford professionals within the geospatial information community who do not have legal training a better understanding of legal and policy considerations concerning geospatial information management and the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information; and
- (c) To discuss the purpose and usefulness of a geospatial information licensing arrangement, and the role of the licence that is relevant in national contexts.



Topics

The topics that will be discussed in the International Workshop are –

- (i) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the unprecedented demand for data and information that is needed for follow-up and review;
- (ii) Data availability and accessibility; open data, the range of geospatial information considered available, accessible and open, and licensing of geospatial information;
- (iii) Unique aspects of geospatial information and key considerations when entering a licensing arrangement that is relevant in national contexts; and
- (iv) Purpose, structure and elements of a geospatial information licensing arrangements, and the relevance to national laws and regulations.

Language

The Workshop will be conducted in English.

Participants

This International Workshop is a closed event. Participation is solely by invitation only. Participants are expected to be Director-Generals/Chief Executives, Directors or senior level officials from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping of both terrestrial and marine environment. Participants are senior officials who need to address and improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information nationally, consider legal and policy issues related to the sharing and dissemination of geospatial information.

Organisers

The United Nations Statistics Division of DESA as the Secretariat for UN-GGIM in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources of Tonga will jointly organise this International Workshop, supported by the Secretariat for the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific (UN-GGIM-AP) and UN-GGIM-AP Working Group 1 – Geodetic Reference Frame.

Venue

Nuku'alofa,
Tonga

