

Second Expert Consultation and Meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

22 – 25 April 2019, United Nations Conference Center, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides the global policy to guide the way countries collectively manage and transform the social, economic and environmental dimensions of people, planet and prosperity. The broad and transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also provides tremendous opportunity for the geospatial community to meet the unprecedented need for more and new sources of data covering all aspects of sustainable development. It demands new data acquisition and integration approaches and the need for “high quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, including earth observations and geospatial information”, and with commensurate new and innovative data sources and methods.

Geospatial information provides the integrative platform for all digital data that has a location dimension to it. All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development and decision-making. Geospatial information is forming a new and emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development in which collaborative information systems, that are comprehensive and coordinated, able to provide evidence on the state of place, people, events and activities, and to deliver timely information necessary for citizens, organizations and governments to build accountable actions and make informed and evidenced-based decisions. There is a need to significantly support, particularly developing countries, to work towards national integrated information systems through the formulation of appropriate frameworks, guidelines and methodologies which can be piloted and implemented within and across countries and regions.

At its seventh session, convened in August 2017, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was informed of a Collaborative Agreement between the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the World Bank’s Global Practice on Social, Urban and Rural Development and Resilience (GSURR). The basis of this important collaboration was a reflection and recognition of the growing need to explore and develop possible mechanisms for geospatial information, infrastructure and policies to be embedded more holistically within the Bank’s concessional financing, technical assistance and knowledge sharing services, and their subsequent implementation in developing countries. The Collaborative Agreement envisages a joint vision to assist Member States to take practical actions to bridge the geospatial digital divide in the implementation of national strategic and development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In making Decision 7/112 at the seventh session (E/2017/46) the Committee of Experts: *“welcomed and expressed support for the collaboration and the need to develop an overarching geospatial framework that went beyond just technical matters and that countries could reference when implementing integrated evidence-based decision-making solutions that maximized and leveraged national systems tailored to their own situations, and welcomed the numerous offers of cooperation and support by Member States to develop the initiative further.”*



A key deliverable of the collaboration is an overarching geospatial information framework that Member States can reference when developing and strengthening their geospatial information management arrangements nationally, including its systems and infrastructures, tailored to their own national situations. The framework would include strategic pathways and guides for action that can lead to national or sub-national action plans as means for implementation.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

The Committee of Experts at its eighth session in August 2018 adopted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/2018/46, Decision 8/113) that provide a basis, a reference and a mechanism for Member States when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national arrangements in geospatial information management and related infrastructures. The Framework aims to translate concepts to practical implementation guidance for use by Member States and does this by leveraging **seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways** as a means for governments to establish more effective geospatial information management arrangements (see figure below). The objective of the **nine strategic pathways** is to guide governments towards implementing integrated geospatial information systems in a way that will deliver a vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

| UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| Strategic Enablement | Transparent and Accountable | Reliable, Accessible and Easily Used | Collaboration and Cooperation | Integrative Solution | Sustainable and Valued | Leadership and Commitment | | |
| GOALS | | | | | | | | |
| Effective Geospatial Information Management | Increased Capacity, Capability and Knowledge Transfer | Integrated Geospatial Information Systems and Services | | Economic Return on Investment | | | | |
| Sustainable Education and Training Programs | International Cooperation and Partnerships Leveraged | Enhanced National Engagement and Communication | | Enriched Societal Value and Benefits | | | | |
| STRATEGIC PATHWAYS | | | | | | | | |
| Governance and Institutions | Legal and Policy | Financial | Data | Innovation | Standards | Partnerships | Capacity and Education | Communication and Engagement |
| Governance model Institutional structures Leadership Value proposition | Legislation Implementation and accountability Norms, policies and guides Data protection and licensing | Business model Investment Partnerships and opportunities Benefits realization | Fundamental data themes Data supply chain interlinkages Custodianship, acquisition and management Data curation and delivery | Technological advances Promoting innovation and creativity Process improvement Bridging the digital divide | Legal interoperability Semantic interoperability Data interoperability Technical interoperability | Cross-sector and interdisciplinary cooperation Community participation Industry partnerships and joint ventures International collaboration | Awareness raising Entrepreneurship Formal education Professional workplace training | Stakeholder identification Planning and execution Integrated engagement strategies Monitoring and evaluation |

The Framework comprises three parts as separate, but connected documents:

Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework presents a forward-looking Framework built on national needs and circumstances and provides the overarching strategic messages and more expansive and integrated national framework, particularly focusing on policy, perspectives and elements of geospatial information.

Part 2: Implementation Guide is the detail document that provides the ‘what’, the specific guidance and actions to be taken in implementing the Framework. Expanding on each of the nine strategic pathways, aimed at providing guidance for governments to establish ‘nationally’ integrated geospatial information arrangements in countries.

Part 3: Country-level Action Plans will provide templates and guides to operationalize the Framework in a national and sub-national context. Providing the ‘how, when and who’ approach, this document will assist countries to prepare and implement their own country-level Action Plans taking into consideration national circumstances and priorities.



The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its Part 2 – Implementation Guide will provide the specific guidance and recommends actions to be taken by Member States to improve and strengthen their national geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures. UNSD has commissioned a body of work to outline and develop an initial draft of the Implementation Guide comprising a series of component documents aligned with the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

This Expert Consultation and Meeting (consultative meeting) is an activity under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund¹ of the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development². It is the second of four programmed consultations and meetings contributing and leading to the finalization of the Implementation Guide. This consultative meeting seeks to continue the discussion, consideration and review key elements of the zero-draft Implementation Guide with a group of invited experts and national representatives from the region.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project, the Framework focuses on improving and strengthening national geospatial information management, systems and infrastructure, capacities and capabilities towards achieving national strategic and development priorities and national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to leave no one behind in a world free of want and fear.

¹ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project “Strengthening National Geospatial Information Management Capacities towards Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

² Established in 2016, following the pledge by the Government of the People's Republic of China to contribute to the United Nations over a ten-year period with the aim to work together to achieve the goals of the Charter of the United Nations through implementation of innovative, forward-looking and pro-active projects and activities financed by the Trust Fund.

Objectives

The second expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework aims to provide expert representatives from Member States to further review, refine, improve and ready the zero-draft Implementation Guide for the Committee of Experts' information and consideration at its ninth session from 7 to 9 August 2019, and in readiness for a final global consultation with all Member States and key stakeholders.

About the Expert Consultation and Meeting

This consultative meeting convened by United Nations Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, seeks to bring together a group of expert representatives and resource persons from Member States and related stakeholders to consider, deliberate, review and revise where needed the zero-draft Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. The zero-draft Implementation Guide comprises a series of component documents align with the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The meeting will have a program that will consider and consult, review and feedback as appropriate, the zero-draft Implementation Guide in preparation for continuing consultation and review, before its launch as a useful resource.

This consultative meeting will be highly participatory and interactive including break-out group exercises, where invited participants are expected to constructively contribute to the process of discussing, debating, suggesting and providing feedbacks. The outcome of considerations, comments, suggestions, and reviews will result in improvements to the Implementation Guide's concepts and content that reflects revision as necessary, contributing to the overall development and preparation of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

Language

The second expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework will be conducted in English only.

Participants

This expert consultation and meeting are a closed event and participation is strictly by invitation only.

Participants are expected to be Director-Generals or Chief Executives, Directors or senior level officials or expert representatives from Ministries, Agencies or Departments responsible for geospatial information management, surveying and mapping in Member States.

Participants may include regional and international experts recognized as leading professionals in geospatial information management, having broad working knowledge and experience at senior levels in geospatial information management. Invited experts and resource persons will also have a working understanding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the contribution of geospatial information management in the implementation of the SDGs, and awareness of the geospatial digital divide, the importance of capacity and capability development as part of efforts to bridge this divide by leveraging the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

Organisers

The Global Geospatial Information Management Section, Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs will organize this second expert consultation and meeting together with the Geospatial Information Management Systems Section, African Centre of Statistics of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Outline Programme

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| Monday 22 April | 08:30 a.m. – 09:30 a.m. | Arrival of invited participants and registration |
| | 09:30 a.m. – 17:30 p.m. | Second expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #1: Welcome and introductions; Setting the scene – the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and its Implementation Guide; and Interactive general discussion on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as a basis and a mechanism to develop and strengthen geospatial information management arrangements nationally |
| Tuesday 23 April | 09:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m. | Arrivals of invited participants |
| | 09:30 a.m. – 17:30 p.m. | Second expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #2: Consult, review and seek comments as appropriate, on the zero-draft Implementation Guide; The Implementation Guide with the three key influences and nine strategic pathways; and Interactive discussion on the overall concept, structure, and contents of the Implementation Guide |

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| Wednesday 24 April | 09:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m. | Arrival of invited participants |
| | 09:30 a.m. – 17:30 p.m. | Second expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #3: Consult, review and seek comments as appropriate, on the zero-draft Implementation Guide; Examples of national operationalization approaches; and Development and implementation of related infrastructures |
| Thursday 25 April | 09:00 a.m. – 09:30 a.m. | Arrival of invited participants and registration for the side event |
| | 09:30 a.m. – 16:30 p.m. | Second expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #4: Consult, review and seek comments as appropriate, on the zero-draft Implementation Guide; Interactive discussions on national operationalization approaches and the development and implementation of related infrastructures; and Summarize results of the consultation and review, wrap up and way forward |

Venue

The venue for the second expert consultation and meeting is:

The United Nations Conference Centre
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
Menelik II Avenue, P.O. Box 3001, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: 251-11-544-5000
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Participants of this consultative meeting will need to request and be registered for the event to receive identification badges to gain access to the venue.

Points of Contact

Logistical and registration matters:

Ms. Aster Denekew
Geospatial Information Management Systems Section
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Phone: +251 - 115 443271

Fax: +251 - 115 510 512
Email: Denekewa@un.org

Administrative:

Ms. Vilma Frani
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
Phone: +1 (917) 367-2903
Email: frani@un.org

Substantive matters:

Mr. Andre Nonguierma
Geospatial Information Management Systems Section
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa |
Phone: +251 - 115 444 718
Fax: +251 - 115 510 512
Email: Nonguierma@un.org |

Mr. Greg Scott
Global Geospatial Information Management Section
Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
Phone: +1 (212) 963 8578
Email: scott12@un.org

