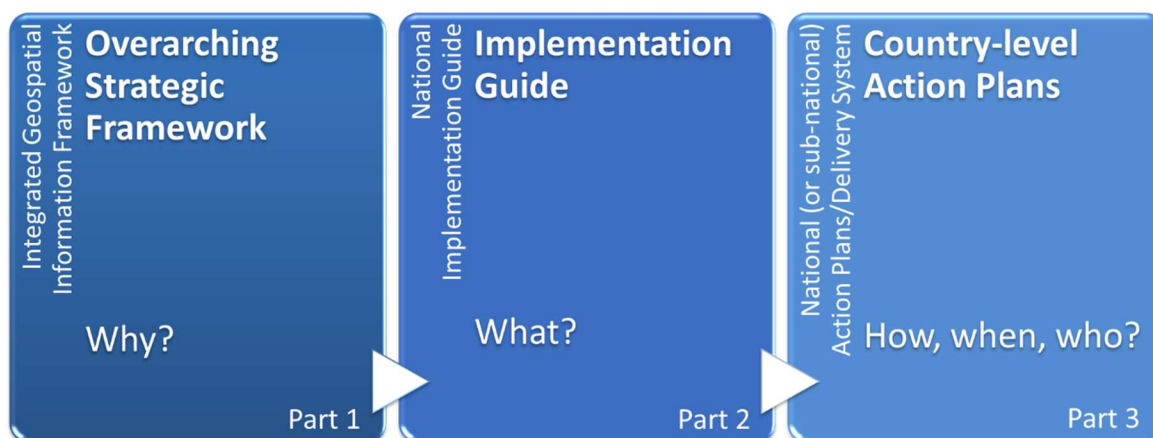


**Fourth Expert Consultation and Meeting on the  
Development of the Implementation Guide  
of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)  
Hotel Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 June 2019**

**Summary Report**

In August 2018, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) adopted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which was jointly developed by the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank under a collaborative arrangement. The IGIF comprises three separate but connected, documents as shown below. The Overarching Strategic Framework has been completed and adopted by UN-GGIM at its eighth session in August 2018.



The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides a basis, a reference and a mechanism for countries when establishing or strengthening their national geospatial information management arrangements and related infrastructures, or to coordinate activities to achieve alignment between and across existing national capabilities and infrastructures. The Framework aims to translate high-level concepts to practical implementation guidance and does this by leveraging seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways as a means for governments to establish and maintain more effective geospatial information management arrangements. The Implementation Guide will provide the specific guidance and recommends actions to be taken by Member States to establish, improve or strengthen their national arrangements in geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures.

This was the fourth and final expert consultation and meeting programmed as an activity under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund<sup>1</sup> of the United Nations Trust Fund for Peace and Development<sup>2</sup>. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project, the IGIF focuses on establishing, 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.

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

The Fourth Expert Consultation and Meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), was convened in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 18-21 June 2019. Aply hosted by the Department of Survey and Mapping, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources of Malaysia, the expert consultative meeting, with 48 participants from Member States<sup>3</sup> and related stakeholders - 36 are expert representatives from 21 Member States (14 from Asia and the Pacific and primarily the UN-GGIM-AP Executive Board). The expert consultative meeting included a one-day International Seminar on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management focusing on the IGIF. The Seminar was attended by an additional 400 participants, the majority being national delegates. The Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Honorable Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, officially opened the Seminar and also the expert consultation and meeting. In his official opening statement, the Minister noted:

*“As the contribution of geospatial information in decision-making increases, maintaining trust and confidence in the information being used will be vital and will continue to form a critical part of the role of the government. I also believe the government must play the role in driving and supporting cross-sector collaboration for reliable and timely data and information for evidence-based responses. Effective collaboration within the surveying disciplines, improving interoperability and integration between geospatial and other disciplines such as statistics and the private sector and scientific and research community. The lack of such collaboration will hamper the timeliness of evidence-based responses.*”

*The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework adopted by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is most timely. The Government of Malaysia commends the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank and the many actors within the Committee of Experts for this important effort and look forward to the practical guidance being developed. This Framework will similarly provide the basis, reference and mechanism for Malaysia to develop its integrated location-based information management, to deliver our nation building and sustainable development priorities. Malaysia wishes to improve its services to citizens and communities, improve capacity to deploy location-based services, enhance informed policy and decision-making processes, and timely evidence-based responses.”*

In the expert consultation and meeting, participants reviewed the recommended guidance and actions aligned with the nine Strategic Pathways of the IGIF towards readying the Implementation Guide for the ninth session of UN-GGIM and subsequent global consultation. The energetic and robust discussions, extensive and valuable inputs and perspectives from the experts continue to support and assist in developing the Implementation Guide. Of particular note was recognition of the IGIF’s ability to elevate the message, perspectives, value proposition for growing political knowledge and understanding in integrated geospatial information management.

The implementation guidance aligned with the nine strategic pathways were presented to the expert consultative meeting, each with its level of maturity in its preparation and development. Each of the nine components was considered and discussed, and the expert meeting provided additional perspectives, contexts, feedbacks and suggestions to further improve the implementation guidance and the overall development of the Implementation Guide.

The expert consultative meeting agreed that there is a need for success stories to bring the IGIF to life and to be able to communicate its importance. Why it is important to strengthen geospatial information management – and what it can achieve. There needs to be a targeted and defined strategy to communicate and sell the value and importance of the IGIF more broadly. Throughout the discussions, it was recognized that resource and

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<sup>3</sup> Australia, Brunei, China, Denmark, Fiji, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tonga and United Kingdom.

financial implications are important variables that need to be considered for all of the Strategic Pathways. It was suggested that given the technical nature of the documents, a glossary of terms should be considered. It was also recognized that national geospatial information agencies will need to own everything that has to do with managing a national geospatial programme. This will require being aware, knowledgeable, and having sufficient resources to implement and sustain the programme.

A notable accomplishment of the expert consultative meeting was the agreement to progress on the first component document of the Implementation Guide, the “opening chapter”. This component document of the Guide will have an introduction that elaborates: What is the IGIF, the Implementation Guide and what are the relationships with Part 1 and Part 3? What is the purpose of the Implementation Guide and what is it to be used for? How we got here? It will contain nine sections, namely, Executive Summary; Introduction, Describing the Guide; Examples of How the Guide will be Used and Managed; Describing the Strategic Pathways; How to Use the Guide; Country-level Action Plans; Benefits and Interlinkages.

The UN Secretariat, at the subsequent working meeting after this expert consultative meeting considered all the contributions, feedbacks, comments and suggestions, discussed and developed its work programme with timelines towards readying the Implementation Guide for the ninth session of UN-GGIM and subsequent global consultation with Member States and related stakeholders.

*Kuala Lumpur  
26 June 2019*

