



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

22 – 25 March 2019, World Bank HQ, Washington DC, United States of America

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 national geospatial information management, 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. This expert consultation and meeting is the first of four programmed consultations and meetings contributing and leading to the finalization of the Implementation Guide. This first consultative meeting will be hosted by the World Bank at its premises in Washington DC, seeking to discuss, test and review key elements of the initial draft Implementation Guide with a group of invited experts and resource persons that include national representatives to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

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 objective of the first expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is to ready the draft Implementation Guide for subsequent and broader consultations with expert representatives from Member States and other key and related stakeholders. These subsequent consultative meetings will seek to further review, refine, improve and ready the draft Implementation Guide for the Committee of Experts' information and consideration at its ninth session from 7 to 9 August 2019 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 World Bank, seeks to bring together a group of expert representatives and resource persons from Member States and related stakeholders to consider, deliberate, review and re-write where needed the initial compiled draft Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. The initial compiled draft Implementation Guide³ is expected to comprise of component documents aligning with the nine strategic pathways of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

The meeting will have a program that will consider and consult, review and revise as appropriate, the initial draft Implementation Guide in preparation for broader consultation and review, before its launch as a useful resource. This first consultative meeting has two segments. The first segment from 22 – 23 March 2019 will aim at consulting and reviewing the initial draft Implementation Guide. This will be followed by the second segment on 25 March 2019 which will be an open consultation and information session as a side event of the 20th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty that has as its theme “Catalyzing innovation”. The open consultation and information session seeks to socialize the draft Implementation Guide, to consult and receive feedback, suggestions, comments and concerns.

In conjunction with this consultative meeting, UNSD will be convening a small team of resource persons to review, revise and re-write as appropriate the initial compiled draft Implementation Guide from 19 – 21 March 2019. The initial compiled draft comprises the separate component documents aligned with the nine strategic pathways. This will be a working meeting with break-out “write-shops” to prepare and deliver the initial draft Implementation Guide for the first consultative meeting from 22 – 23 and 25 March 2019.

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 revisions to the Implementation Guide's concepts and content that reflects re-writing as necessary, contributing to the overall development and preparation of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework.

³ All chapters or component documents of the Implementation Guide are being developed separately and will be consolidated into one document by the time of the expert consultation and meeting

Language

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

Outline Programme

Friday ⁴ 22 March Room MC6-860	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants, Registration and Building Passes
	09:00 a.m. – 18:00 p.m.	First expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #1: Welcome, introductions, and setting the scene; and Consider, consult and review the initial draft Implementation Guide
Saturday 23 March Room MC6-860	08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.	Arrivals of invited participants
	09:00 a.m. – 18:00 p.m.	First expert consultation and meeting on the Development of the Implementation Guide – Day #2: Consult, review and seek comments as appropriate, on the initial draft Implementation Guide; and Summarize results of the consultation and review, wrap up and way forward
Monday ⁵ 25 March Room MC7-860	08:30 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.	Arrival of invited participants and registration for the side event
	09:30 a.m. – 16:00 p.m.	20th Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty with the theme “Catalyzing Innovation”. Side event on draft Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - an open consultation and information session

⁴ UNSD will bring together a small team of resource persons to review and consolidate, revise and re-write as appropriate the initial compiled draft Implementation Guide from 19 – 21 March 2019

⁵ This small team of resource persons convened by UNSD will review the results of the consultation, and will further revise and re-write as appropriate the draft Implementation Guide on Sunday 24 March 2019

Participants

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

Participants are expert representatives of Member States, and 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 first expert consultation and meeting on the development of the Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework together with the Global Land and Geospatial Unit of the World Bank.

Venue

The venue for the first expert consultation and meeting is:

The World Bank
Main Complex (MC) Building
1818 H Street, Washington D.C, 20433
United States of America

Access to Main Complex (MC) Building

Participants of this consultative meeting will need to request and be registered to receive a Building Pass to gain access to the venue for. Participants should send their name and organization information before 6 March 2019 to Mr. Caleb Johnson.

The World Bank Building Passes may be obtained at the 18th Street entrance (corner of 18th Street and Pennsylvania Ave), identification is required, and participants will need to go through security screening to have access the Main Complex (MC) Building of the World Bank.

Points of Contact

Logistical and registration matters:

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