

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

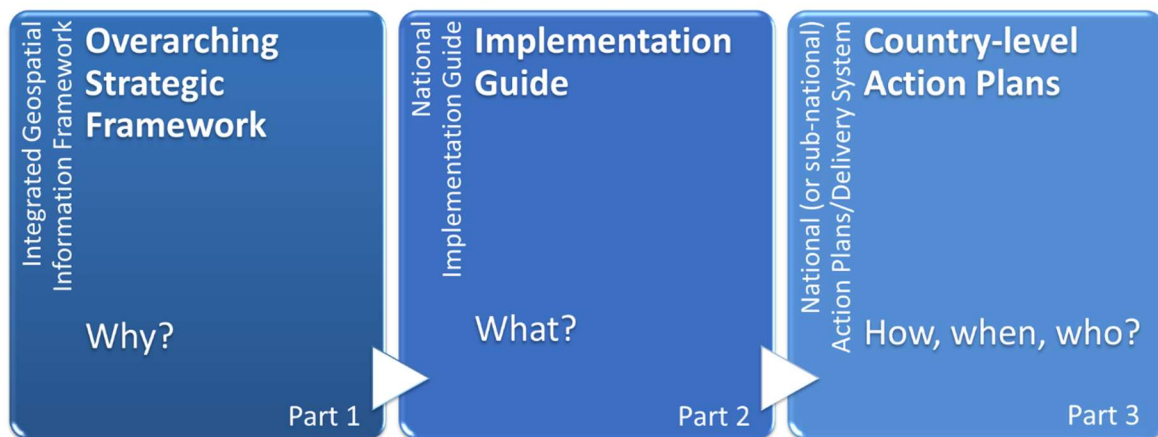
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SUMMARY REPORT

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 World Bank and the United Nations Statistics Division. The IGIF comprises 3 separate, but connected, documents as shown below. The Overarching Strategic Framework has been completed and adopted by UN-GGIM in August 2018, the structure and main elements of the Implementation Guide were initiated in the lead-up to this first expert consultation and meeting and will be reviewed, while the Country-level Action Plans are being developed through several national and sub-national case studies.



The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides a basis, a reference and a mechanism for countries when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national arrangements in geospatial information management and related 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 improve and strengthen their national geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures.

The objective of this first expert consultation and meeting was to review the initial compile draft Implementation Guide document, and to improve and ready the first 'zero-draft' iteration of the Implementation Guide documents for subsequent and broader consultations with expert representatives from Member States and other key and related stakeholders within the global UN-GGIM community. Subsequent expert consultations and meetings will seek to further review, refine, and improve the draft Implementation Guide over the coming period in preparation its presentation to UN-GGIM at its ninth session from 7 - 9 August 2019. These activities aim to ready the IGIF Implementation guide for global consultation with all Member States and key stakeholders. The expert consultation and meeting included an open Information Session as a special event at the World Bank's annual Land and Poverty Conference,

this year, the theme is “Catalyzing Innovation”. This information session provided participants with an overview of the IGIF journey and documents, including an update on the Implementation Guide and showcased a number of case studies of country-level Action Plans that demonstrated the implementation and operationalization of the IGIF.

This first expert consultation and meeting was 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 was the first of four programmed consultations and meetings contributing and leading to the finalization of the Implementation Guide. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund Project, the IGIF 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.

This first expert consultation and meeting was hosted by the Global Land and Geospatial Unit of the World Bank at its premises in Washington D.C., and was highly participatory and interactive, including break-out group exercises. Participants constructively contributed to the process of professional review, discussion and improvement of the Implementation Guide documents – in both structure and content. UNSD commissioned a body of work to outline and develop an initial draft of the Implementation Guide document comprising a series of component documents aligned with the nine strategic pathways.

The first expert consultation and meeting was participated by 33 expert representatives from Canada, Chile, Denmark, Guyana, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America, experts representing UN-GGIM Academic and Private Sector Networks, experts and resource persons from Open Geospatial Consortium, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Bank and UN Secretariat. Participants were welcomed to the World Bank Headquarters by Ms. Anna Wellenstein, Director of Strategy and Operations, Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice of the World Bank and reiterated that the objective of the consultation and meeting was to review the initial compiled version of the Implementation Guide documents of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and to improve and ready it for subsequent and broader consultations with expert representatives from Member States and other key and related stakeholders within the global UN-GGIM community.

The participants agreed that the provisional agenda was acceptable and served to guide the consultation and meeting, discussed and agreed to the organization of work that included breakout groups, and very quickly proceeded with their tasks after the initial update, context and scene-setting presentations and discussion including initial discussion on the “structure, shape and form” of the Implementation Guide documents. Participants worked together in three breakout groups and reported back to the main meeting where there were further debates and discussions.

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.

Discussions were rigorous, and participants achieved consensus on next steps including additional consultations and expert review in the lead-up to the presentation of the draft Implementation Guide to UN-GGIM at its ninth session.

Participants agreed that:

- Integrated Geospatial Information Framework is for all (high-level concepts), the 9 Strategic Pathways provided a sound foundation to be built upon, including each of its 4 elements.
- While the Framework intended to benefit developing countries, it became evident in the discussion that the Framework and its Guide can be used to establish and/or strengthen national geospatial information management arrangements as well as to coordinate activities nationally (or sub-nationally) to achieve alignment between existing national agency capabilities and infrastructures.
- The Guide provides the 'what' - the guidance and options to be taken in implementing the IGIF at the country-level.
- The Guide will provide guidance for governments to establish 'nationally' integrated geospatial information frameworks in countries in such a way that transformational change is enabled, visible and sustainable.
- The Guide will be more descriptive and not prescriptive, noting the participants collective emphasis on providing guidance and thus, there should be flexibility.
- There will be an opening chapter - the Index to describe and explain the flow and structure of the Guide in addition to the nine chapters aligned with the nine strategic pathways.
- The remaining chapters of the Guide will begin with a Summary (to articulate the value proposition the pathway can offer), an Introduction that includes a flow diagram.

Participants agreed to be the 'Implementation Guide Reference Group' going forward and that this Reference Group comprising of expert representatives from Member States, key and related stakeholders provided a solid governance platform, as well as a great mix of dedicated professional resources and knowledge, an immense contribution and resources leading-up to the presentation of the draft Guide at the ninth session.

There was consensus on the roadmap for furthering this work:

- 22-25 April: Second expert consultation and meeting on the draft Implementation Guide with UN-GGIM: Africa and UN-GGIM: Arab States
- 5-6 June: Third expert consultation and meeting on the draft Implementation Guide with UN-GGIM: Europe.
- 18-21 June: Fourth expert consultation and meeting on the draft Implementation Guide with UN-GGIM: Asia and the Pacific to include the "Reference Group" for the expert review of the consolidated draft Implementation Guide.
- 7-9 August: Ninth session of UN-GGIM and a UN-GGIM Forum to further socialize the Implementation Guide on 6 August.
- August: Global consultation for the Draft Implementation Guide commences.
- September - November: Regional consultations on the Draft Implementation Guide with UN-GGIM Regional Committees.
- 15 November: Global consultation for the Draft Implementation Guide expected to conclude.

*Washington D.C.
25 March 2019*