



Sixth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

The Stanley Room, Midland Hotel, Manchester, United Kingdom
8 – 9 October 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT

Invitation

The Co-chairs of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (EG-ISGI) are pleased to inform all EG-ISGI members and other relevant stakeholders that the sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI will take place in the Stanley Room, of the Midland Hotel, Manchester, United Kingdom on 8-9 October 2019. The sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI is kindly organised by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Ordnance Survey GB (OS) of the United Kingdom with support from the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat) and the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)¹.

Please mark your calendars accordingly and confirm your participation with Mr Mark Iliffe (Tel: 1-917-367-3475; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: mark.iliffe@un.org) in the UN-GGIM Secretariat. We look forward to working with you and seeing you in Manchester.

Mr. Martin Brady (Australia) and Ms. Paloma Merodio (Mexico)
Co-chairs of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information

Objective

The objective of the sixth meeting is to: Review the EG-ISGI's progress, including the GSGF's development, consultation, subsequent endorsement, and other progress achieved since its last meeting (including the ninth session of UN-GGIM and the 50th Statistical Commission) consider its ongoing modalities of organisation, establish a Work Plan for the biennium of 2020 - 2021, and discuss other matters pertaining to statistical and geospatial information.

Background and Context

Since its inception, the EG-ISGI has worked to support global efforts in geospatial-statistical integration. Requested by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 44th Session in March 2013 and endorsed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its Third Session in July 2013, the primary objectives of the EG-ISGI² are:

¹ The sixth meeting of the EG-ISGI will immediately precede the European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference 2019 (<https://www.efgs2019.uk/efgs2019/>),

² As denoted in its Terms of Reference:

http://ggim.un.org/documents/TOR_Statistical%20and%20Geospatial%20Information.pdf

1. To provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among representatives of both statistical and geospatial communities with a view to developing a global statistical-geospatial framework as a standard for the integration of statistical and geospatial information;
2. To propose work plans and guidelines to advance the implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework so that there is increased information to support social, economic and environmental policy decision making, including at the sub-national level;
3. To address various technical, institutional and information policy issues related to implementation of a global statistical-geospatial framework, especially issues related to confidentiality; and,
4. To pursue the implementation of the statistical-geospatial framework in the 2020 Round of Censuses with the understanding it would apply to other initiatives including other censuses, such as agriculture censuses, economic censuses, and global initiatives such as the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Big Data.

The EG-ISGI has responded to the request and mandate regarding a statistical-geospatial framework through the development of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF). A Framework for the world, the GSGF enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities and, through the application of its five Principles and supporting key elements, permits the production of harmonised and standardised geospatially enabled statistical data. The resulting data can then be integrated with statistical, geospatial, and other information to inform and facilitate data-driven and evidence-based decision making to support local, sub-national, national, regional, and global development priorities and agendas, such as the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN-GGIM adopted the GSGF at its ninth session in August 2019, in making decision 9/106, which recognised that the GSGF is an important bridge that enables a range of data to be integrated from both statistical and geospatial communities. With this adoption, the GSGF will be tabled for consideration and hopeful endorsement by the Statistical Commission at its 51st session in March 2020. As such, the EG-ISGI now turns to the task of raising awareness, supporting capacity building, and the implementation of the GSGF (including through the various regional geo-statistical frameworks and initiatives), to plan its upcoming work plan and activities, and to identify the pathway towards the production of materials that will enable national, regional and global efforts in geo-statistical integration.

Draft Agenda

For the sixth meeting, we are considering the following:

- Review and deliberate its future Work Plan, for the biennium of 2020 – 2021, noting UN-GGIM’s decision 9/106;
- Discuss work to support the promotion, awareness-raising, and implementation of the GSGF and its work on statistical geospatial integration and coordination, in particular pertaining to the SDGs and the 2020 round of Population and Housing Censuses;
- Consider its ongoing modalities, including reviewing its leadership, membership, and its Terms of Reference; and,
- Consider global efforts regarding interoperability within the statistical and geospatial communities.

A detailed agenda will be finalised and provided closer to the date of the meeting.