

Sixth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), México City, México
9 – 11 March 2020

CONCEPT NOTE

Preamble

To meet the ambitions and demands of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is necessary for the Global Indicator Framework to adequately and systematically address the issues of alternative data sources and methodologies, including geospatial information and Earth observations in the context of geographic location. At the forty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission in March 2016, the IAEG-SDGs noted that the integration of geospatial information and statistical data will be key for the production of a number of the indicators. As a means to address these issues, a Working Group on Geospatial Information, reporting to the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), was established.

In July 2019, the IAEG-SDGs updated the terms of reference of the Working Group, taking into consideration a number of new working modalities seeking to strengthen the coordination, interactions and working methods between the IAEG-SDGs, custodian agencies and the Working Group. Subsequently, the membership of the Working Group was reconstituted, and co-Chaired by Ireland (Central Statistical Office) and Mexico (National Institute of Statistics and Geography – INEGI).

The co-Chairs presented the Working Group's draft work plan to the IAEG-SDGs at its tenth meeting in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia from 21-24 October 2019. The proposed activities sought to: identify and share common standards, national and regional experiences and practices on the use of geospatial information in the production of statistics and the integration of statistical and geospatial information; showcase how geospatial information contributes to the production of indicators; work in close cooperation with custodian agencies in undertaking methodological development and improvement works; and continue the review of the indicators and metadata through a 'geographic location' lens.

The Working Group has also noted the IAEG-SDGs keen interest in the application of geospatial information for visualization and dissemination of statistics, monitoring of the SDGs, data disaggregation, and the integration of statistical and geospatial information.

About the Sixth expert meeting

The main objective of the sixth expert meeting is for members of the Working Group and invited experts to review options, develop and provide guidance and advice as to:

- a) How geospatial information, Earth observations, and other data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production and dissemination of the SDGs indicators;
- b) How to apply geospatial information for visualization, dissemination and monitoring of the SDGs, and data disaggregation;

- c) Apply the integration of statistical and geospatial information for the production of indicators; and
- d) Articulate the common standards, proven national and regional practices, and experiences on the application of geospatial information in the production of statistics and the SDGs indicators.

The Working Group is to consider focusing, initially, on a few indicators, develop story-telling documents and guidance on the use of existing frameworks and standards to apply geospatial information for the production of indicators, including for the visualization and dissemination of statistics, and data disaggregation.

The meeting may also consider strengthening collection, access and effective use of geospatial information for the SDGs, and harnessing geospatial science, technology and innovation with a greater focus on digital geospatial transformation for sustainable development, reviewing the Working Group's progress and results of its current work plan and activities, considering new and emerging opportunities, and updating its work plan.

Participation

The sixth meeting of the Working Group is a closed meeting and participation is strictly by invitation only. All current members of the Working Group comprising expert representatives of Member States from national statistical offices and national geospatial information authorities, and the United Nations system and international organizations are invited. A number of subject matter experts from non-member countries of the Working Group, United Nations System, international organizations, and academic and research organizations who are able to substantively contribute to the objectives and tasks of the Working Group, are also invited to the meeting.

Expert representatives of Member States that are not members of the Working Group may request to participate in this sixth expert meeting of the Working Group (please email: frani@un.org attention Ms. Vilma Frani).

Language

The working language of the sixth expert meeting is English.

Outline programme and agenda

Monday, 9 March 2020	<p>Sixth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the IAEG-SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome, agenda and organization of work for the sixth expert meeting, introductions of members of the Working Group; ▪ Setting the scene, clarifying terms of reference, working modalities, strengthening coordination, interactions and working methods with the IAEG-SDGs and custodian agencies; ▪ Report of the co-Chairs and the Secretariat on progress and results of current activities; ▪ Review draft work plan, initial discussion and outline tasks and deliverables.
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<p>Tuesday 10 March 2020</p>	<p>Sixth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the IAEG-SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the shortlist of indicators, discuss and determine the few indicators to focus on, including review of the methodology, data sources and application of geospatial information for the production of the indicators ▪ Story telling documents and guidance on the use of existing frameworks and standards to apply geospatial information for the production of indicators and also for statistics; ▪ Consideration of proven practices and experiences in the application of geospatial information for visualization, dissemination and monitoring of the SDGs, integration of statistical and geospatial information, and data disaggregation;
<p>Wednesday, 11 March 2020</p>	<p>Sixth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information of the IAEG-SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing and providing guidance and advice to the IAEG-SDGs, custodian agencies and the larger statistical community as to how geospatial information, earth observations and other new data sources can reliably and consistently contribute to the production and dissemination of the indicators; ▪ Work plan of the Working Group – review outcomes of discussions and deliberations, consider new and emerging opportunities ▪ Updating the work plan of the Working Group – agreed tasks, deliverables, task leads, timelines and milestones.

Dates

9 – 11 March 2020

Host and venue

The sixth expert meeting of the Working Group on Geospatial Information will be held at the México City Headquarters of **Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía** (National Institute of Statistics and Geography), located at:

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