

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Tenth session

New York, 26- 27 August 2020 and 4 September 2020

Item 3 of the agenda

Strengthening of geospatial information management (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa (UN-GGIM: Africa)

Statement:

1. The Africa region continued its effort to strengthen geospatial information policies in African nations; striving to put in place the necessary frameworks that will help respond at systemic level to the challenges of developing geospatial information services in support of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. UN-GGIM: Africa strongly believes that putting first in place the appropriate mechanisms can yield more greater achievements on which every country can build the appropriate geospatial information resources for its government and communities day to day business.

2. Under this reporting cycle, the Region has generated several policy materials that can help Member States fast track progress in the implementation of national spatial data infrastructures and their integration into other strategies as well as the synergistic integration of statistical information and the geospatial component for sound decision making. The following documents were produced by the Region: Policy guidelines for the establishment of spatial data infrastructures; Assessment of African countries readiness in implementation of national spatial data infrastructures; Manual on standard guiding principles on the integration of geospatial and statistical information in Africa; Spatial data taxonomy and matrix identifying the geospatial datasets requirements for the SDGs in Africa. matrix of geospatial datasets for the SDGs. These policies guidelines were further augmented with an assessment of the level of maturity and ingestion of geospatial information technology in African countries.

3. Through a survey the Region has carried out an assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on geospatial activities in Africa was carried out. The preliminary finding informs that most of the countries are heavily impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak with in most instances disruption and stopping of geospatial activities. Although they are witnessing an increase in spatial data demand from government and other national stakeholders, they were not well-prepared for the utilization of geospatial datasets for combatting the COVID-19.

4. The Africa region commends the work done by the Secretariat on the Strengthening geospatial information management and thereby endorses the report. The region further recommends the adoption of the third edition of the Future Trends Report on Geospatial Information Management (the 5- to 10-year vision).

5. In moving forward, as regard to the geospatial response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Africa Region recommends the Secretariat to continue working with Member States and other interested bodies :

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- a. To define what practical and feasible steps national mapping authorities can take to lead the national efforts in responding to such a crisis; given that geospatial technology and geo-referenced data can play a central role in Africa effort to combat the pandemic and noting that the collaboration, partnership and togetherness in delivering the relevant information that is required were not always in place in many countries.
- b. To develop interactive spatial analytics. The COVID-19 crisis made it clear that maps and visuals are good but not sufficient to respond effectively to the pandemic challenges. The UNCE must look at how the geospatial community can develop more real time analysis to reveal patterns and insights that better inform decision-making.
- c. To share views on how to develop a financial appropriation framework that will serve as a strategy for resource mobilization by countries in their efforts to geospatial responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Submitted on:

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