



# Economic and Social Council

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Tenth session

New York, 5–7 August 2020

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

### Global geodetic reference frame

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### Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Subcommittee on Geodesy, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the Subcommittee in its efforts to address specific requests from the Committee, and ongoing progress in developing a plan to achieve the long-term sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame by delivering improvement in five focus areas.

### Summary of the report

At its ninth session, held in New York from 7 to 9 August 2019, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 9/104, in which it supported the adoption of the International Terrestrial Reference System and the International Terrestrial Reference Frame as the standard for scientific, geospatial and operational geodetic applications. It commended the efforts of the Subcommittee to explore a number of modalities to balance the longer-term vision, stability and operational requirements of the global geodetic reference frame, including the establishment of a global geodetic centre of excellence in cooperation with the Committee. The Committee noted requests for the Subcommittee to continue to ensure broad consultation on the progression and modalities of the position paper on governance, to establish global cooperation and to acquire a better understanding of how the practical and operational requirements of the frame could be implemented. The Subcommittee was encouraged to consult further on the practical implementation of the centre, including modalities, function, financial arrangements and programme of work, in direct coordination with the Committee and in coordination with other relevant geodetic stakeholders to avoid duplication of effort.

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\* [E/C.20/2020/20](http://E/C.20/2020/20).



In the report, the Subcommittee provides information on its activities, including its progress on the position paper on governance in considering the sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame in an increasingly location-based world, and the complex issues associated with it. The issues include a lack of geodetic infrastructure, poor accessibility in some regions, a reliance on in-kind contribution and insufficient collaboration and coordination. In that regard, the Subcommittee provides its consideration with a view to achieving the long-term sustainability and quality of the frame by delivering improvement in the following five focus areas: governance, including collaboration and coordination; policies and standards; geodetic infrastructure; education training and capacity-building; and outreach and communication. It outlines a range of work packages to ensure short- and medium-term stability, quality and accessibility of the frame across the five focus areas. In the report, the Subcommittee also updates the Committee on the modalities for the establishment of a global geodetic centre of excellence.

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