

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Tenth session

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

Item 12 of the agenda

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

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Statement:

The United Kingdom acknowledges the efforts of the working group since the last meeting and notes the progress that has been made in this important topic. We support the general conclusion in the White Paper on Legal Aspects of Availability of Geospatial Information that there are no general solutions that will solve all types of legal and policy issues.

The report notes that there are many policy and legal considerations that impact the effective use of geo-location data. We suggest that there is also merit in recognising the importance of ethical use of geospatial data and would encourage the Working Group to consider these aspects alongside policy and legal considerations going forward. In so doing, the Working Group may be interested to draw upon the published experiences of the UK's Benchmark Initiative (www.benchmarkinitiative.com). The UK's Geospatial Commission, has made a commitment to publish new guidelines for the ethical use of location data and technology – making sure that the benefits which location data can bring in the urgent challenges of today are realized in a way that retains the trust of citizens.

We welcome the intention from the Working Group that the next period of work will be focused on transitioning from theory to practical application. We specifically note the comments from the Working Group that the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework serves as a useful guide to address some of the complex legal and policy issues. In this regard we support the concept of working with candidate countries to develop the Policy and Legal aspects of their IGIF Country-level Action Plans.

We recognise the rationale behind the proposed name change of the Working Group to the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management, and support and endorse the name change.

Submitted on:

8/20/2020