

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:

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The United Kingdom and UN-GGIM: Europe has been pleased to author the Third Edition of the Future Trends Report on behalf of the global geospatial community. As reflected in the session documentation, contributions were received from 124 Member States, Observer States, organisations and expert contributors from across the world. The diversity of contributions has enabled the report to reflect a wide set of emerging and developing trends that can be harnessed by any nation to increase the use of geospatial information for societal, technological, and economic growth. We wish to thank all the contributors who shared their collective insight which helped to shape and evolve this report, and hope that you find the content engaging. We look forward to your adoption of this report.

With regards to the geospatial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to draw attention to the joint session hosted by UN-GGIM: Europe and the Conference of European Statisticians which was held virtually on 23rd June 2020. A key component of the session saw presentations from the Economic Commission for Europe, the United Kingdom, and Mexico on how they approached the use of geospatial and statistical information to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the UK's Geospatial Commission have recently published a series of blog posts on the topic, including one on 'How geospatial data is supporting the UK's response to the coronavirus pandemic (<https://geospatialcommission.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/20/how-geospatial-data-is-supporting-the-uks-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>) which serves as a useful reference document.

We express our thanks to the Expanded Bureau and Secretariat in the practical and strategic action that have taken place over the last year, especially with the added complication of the COVID-19 pandemic which has forced a radical rethink of the way global events are hosted. One impact of the pandemic has been the move to virtual events which enable more participants to take part, an example of which was the Virtual High Level Forum hosted by Ordnance Survey on behalf of the United Kingdom which attracted 887 unique participants to the event. We suggest that hosts of future events consider how to include a virtual aspect to physical events to enable more delegates to benefit from the event.

Submitted on:

8/20/2020