

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Tenth session

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

Item 9 of the agenda

Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management (for discussion and decision)

Statement provided by:

GERMANY

Statement:

GERMANY welcomes the draft version of FELA that should serve as strong aide memoire for all policy makers in the land sector. The definition of a series of priority actions to be taken under the umbrella of the nine pathways is well-drafted and is an excellent starting point for further advice. Having said this beforehand, some suggestions are provided to strengthen the document:

GERMANY encourages the Expert Group to amend the introduction of the FELA document with explanations where the added value of the new document really is, as the document lists many references to a larger number of already existing publications which are accepted and in practical use. These references deal with the overall benefits of land administration from various stakeholders in this field, amongst them UN-bodies such as UNECE, UN HABITAT, The World Bank and UN FAO.

GERMANY proposes to significantly shorten in particular the first 15 pages (besides the executive summary) that more or less describe the contextual background and the existing land administration gap only, considering the general recommendations in the FELA document that are already much more specified in other publications. This is probably easy to reach, as many of the explanations refer to the IGIF to which the FELA is supposed to be aligned to – a short reference to IGIF should be sufficient, in particular as E/C.20/2020/29 Add. 1 already explains the necessary background for the FELA.

GERMANY acknowledges that FELA should be a separate document apart from IGIF, as in many cases different target groups are addressed by IGIF and FELA. However, the nine pathways of FELA are to a very large extent the same as in the IGIF, and future developments in the geospatial data sector do not really distinguish large and small scale geospatial data. Therefore, GERMANY proposes to avoid repetition of the nine pathways and provide a reference to the IGIF instead. GERMANY also proposes to distinguish between the very positive and urgently required positive consequences arising from appropriate land policies and adequate ownership and cadastre records on one hand and the role of cadastre information as integral part of geospatial data on the other hand. For the geospatial data part (pathways IV, V and VI), the IGIF applies to a very large extent. For the land policy part (pathways I, II, III), the general recommendations given do not suffice and further advice or reference to existing documents should be given (see 6.) to justify a separate document.

GERMANY encourages the Expert Group to explicitly align the FELA document (Addendum 2) to the four main areas as laid out in document E/C.20/2020/29 Add. 1 (contextual background and drivers, the relation to the UN SDGs, the high-level vision statement and the nine pathways including priority action to be taken) – this would be helpful for implementing the FELA.

GERMANY encourages the Expert Group to not only mention ISO 19152 (LADM) as a single standard both in Document E/C.20/2020/29 Add.1 and Add. 2, but, given the more land policy-oriented character of the FELA, to possibly shift this to a FELA implementation guide still to be drafted.

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Thank you.

Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities
of the Laender of the Federal Republic of Germany (AdV)

Submitted on:

8/18/2020