

## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Tenth session

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

Item 5 of the agenda

### Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (for discussion and decision)

***Statement provided by:***

Saudi Arabia/UN-GGIM: Arab States

***Statement:***

IGIF is a broad road map aimed at maximizing the value of geospatial information to national socio-economic as well as environmental development.

UN-GGIM Arab States organized a 2 day workshop on “Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework” during our 7th plenary meeting held in Algiers in February 2020. One of the recommendations of the 7th plenary meeting was to encourage UN-GGIM Arab States members to consider adopting the IGIF as a key input in the development of their respective national geospatial strategies.

A key takeaway from our discussions was that while IGIF is a sound framework, there is a need to adapt it to particular national circumstances and priorities in the context of its implementation to obtain the desired socio economic benefits. In this context, there is a need for establishing and promoting ongoing dialog about the understanding and operationalization of the IGIF as well as the Legal and Policy aspects.

The situation of adoption of IGIF is similar to that of the implementation of standards, while everyone agrees with their need and importance it is still a challenge to adopt them due to a number of constraints as nations, around the world, chart their course of implementing IGIF they face their own unique sets of challenges. Support from partner international agencies like the World Bank would go a long way in supporting their efforts. However, it is encouraging to note that some of the nations having well established Geospatial Information Management capabilities have started adopting IGIF.

To conclude, I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the members of UN-GGIM Arab States to the UNGGIM Secretariat for having organized this event in these difficult times.

Thank you.

**Bandar Almusmani (Chair, UN-GGIM Arab States)**

Submitted on:

Oral delivered at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 26 August 2020