Thank you for the opportunity to present the World Bank perspective on a journey which began 3 years ago at the seventh session of the Committee of Experts with the signing of the World Bank-UN collaborative agreement and the launch of an ambitious work program which achieved adoption of the IGIF and piloted implementation at the country and sub-national levels.

We are pleased to see the progress on finalizing the IGIF Implementation Guide and appreciate the work that has been done to conclude the global consultation in the face of the COVID crisis. The World Bank supports approval of the Implementation Guide with the recognition that it is a living document.

The World Bank and other development partners should now focus attention on Part 3 of the IGIF, country level engagement. At the first World Geospatial Congress in Deqing China in November 2018 we set an ambitious target, for the global community to support 30 countries in 3 years to prepare and finance the implementation of country level action plans. We are currently supporting more than 10 countries to prepare and finance country level implementation. The experience from this work and approval of the Implementation Guide will facilitate a larger scale up and identification of funding mechanisms to help countries bridge the geospatial digital divide.

Thank you.