

# Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

## Tenth session

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

Item 10 of the agenda

### Geospatial information and services for disasters (for discussion and decision)

***Statement provided by:***

Alison Rose, Head of Delegation, Australia

***Statement:***

Australia welcomes the report of the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters, and thanks Jamaica and Japan for their leadership of this Working Group and its alignment with other disaster information frameworks such as Sendai.

In the last 12 months, Australia experienced one of its worst bushfire seasons on record, which occurred after a prolonged drought. The widespread extent of the crisis highlighted gaps in the availability of, and access to, fundamental geospatial information such as the extent of where fires had burnt. As much of the data was managed by our states and territories, there were many data access barriers to be overcome in order to compile and publish a national view of the disaster and who was being impacted. Geoscience Australia has submitted reports to various inquiries highlighting the importance of openly available, trusted geospatial information to improve preparation, accelerate response, and monitor recovery.

Because data access issues were so significant during this crisis, Australia encourages the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters to work closely with the Working Group on Legal and Policy Frameworks. The two Working Groups have much complementary learnings to share which will help overcome geospatial information management issues and strengthen the overall implementation of the IGIF, which in turn will make our Member States safer, more resilient and more responsive to future disasters.

Submitted on:

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