

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:

Jamaica

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Jamaica welcomes and takes note of the report prepared by the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and commends the good work executed and achievements accomplished during the period. Of particular note, are the continued efforts of the Working Group to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and the global administering of the Strategic Framework's Assessment tool. Jamaica's support of this initiative is evidenced by its completion and submission of the survey.

Jamaica also takes note of and endorses the Working Group's urging of Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework, as the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic as a global disaster, provides a unique opportunity for the monitoring and tracking of our progress across the five priorities for action. As Jamaica continues our extensive use of geospatial information and services in our national response to COVID-19, via the National Emergency Response GIS Team (NERGIST), the Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management, the Ministry of Health & Wellness and the Jamaica Defence Force, we commit to determining our level of progress across the Strategic Framework. Jamaica congratulates the Working Group on the various COVID-19 response collaborations and initiatives pursued as timely, relevant and needed pursuits.

Additionally, Jamaica wishes to indicate our endorsement of the revised terms of reference developed to govern/guide the activities of the Working Group. Of particular note, is Section 4.1 vi), whereby the Working Group has as its function to "motivate Member States to improve regional and international collaboration on disaster-related geospatial information matters". Jamaica is very proud to have collaborated with the Working Group in hosting the "Jamaica Virtual COVID-19 Geospatial Forum" on 28 May 2020, under the theme 'Mapping COVID-19 in the Caribbean - Opportunities for the Future', with the support of presentations delivered by the Working Group.

Additionally, Jamaica takes note that the Strategic Framework is aligned with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) as per the detailed assessment presented in the Working Group's Background Document "Review of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters comparison".

Jamaica remains committed to continued Co-Chair leadership of the Working Group with Japan, as we encourage greater awareness and increased use of geospatial information and services for disasters among all member states and UN Bodies.

Submitted on:

8/21/2020