

27 July 2021

**Subject: Eleventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
23, 24 and 27 August 2021**

Excellency,

We are pleased to enclose the proposed modalities and the organization of work (E/C.20/2021/2/Rev.1) for the eleventh session, scheduled to be held in a scaled-down virtual format, consisting of three informal two-hour meetings on **23, 24 and 27 August 2021**, from 13:00 to 15:00hrs. (UTC) which is 09:00 to 11:00 a.m. (EDT/New York) each day. We also take this opportunity to update you of our progress towards convening the eleventh session.

We thank all Member States and the global geospatial community for their continued flexibility and understanding throughout the process. The ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic makes it more necessary than ever to work together and find possible ways to give solutions to the challenges we face. In reflection of this tenth year of UN-GGIM, notwithstanding the immense and continuing impact of COVID-19, we have demonstrated that we, as a professional community, are strong and are going from strength to strength.

Given the prevailing conditions and guidance received from the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), we believe that the proposal we present, if not ideal, is the best possibility to move forward with our work, while making the participation of all Member States and observers from across geographical capitals possible. The proposals outlined in the attached modalities paper will only be applied as a temporary one-time measure during the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and would not, in any way, create a precedent for the work of the Committee of Experts.

Continuing with our practice of engaging the membership throughout this process, we share with you this proposal for information and consideration. Should you have any concerns, you are most welcome to contact us directly and, latest by Friday 30 July 2021. For questions relating to substantive matters, please contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. Chee Hai TEO: teo@un.org), and for questions of procedural nature please contact the Committee of Experts conference secretariat (Mr. Irfan Soomro: soomroi@un.org and Ms. Sangeeta Sharma: sharma7@un.org).

As with the tenth session, we will also report on all agenda items for the eleventh session. We note that a number of items on the Committee's continuing work will be for 'information' only. Key items for consideration are (i) the progress on strengthening geospatial information management (which includes the steps towards reporting back to ECOSOC on the Committee's progress since the Council adopted Resolution 2016/27 "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management" on 27 July 2016), (ii) progress towards implementation and operationalization of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, (iii) the global geodetic reference frame, and (iv) geospatial information for sustainable development.

We wish to share with you that the growing demand and scope of the Committee’s substantive work has had a constraining, cascading impact on the substantive secretariat’s existing resources. As such, the secretariat is still working with the functional groups of the Committee to finalize the substantive reports, which is beyond the previously announced date of 16 July 2021. When the reports are finalized, these will be progressively uploaded on the Committee’s eleventh session website, along with background documents, on the following link: <http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/11th-Session/documents/>. In this regard, we seek your kind understanding and cooperation.

Please note that details related to the preparation and submission of written statements, side events, and the Global Chat amongst other logistical arrangements are included in the modalities paper attached.

Finally, and as a means to ensure that the experts are prepared to participate ahead of the first meeting of the eleventh session, the UN-GGIM Secretariat has assured that it will continue to provide relevant, practical and timely updates on session preparations. We encourage you to visit the website of the eleventh session regularly for updates. Thank you for your continuing support and commitment. We look forward to working with you in the weeks ahead to ensure a successful eleventh session.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration

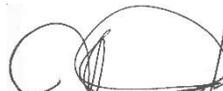
Yours sincerely,



Ms. Rosamond Bing
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Kingdom of Tonga



Mr. Fernand Guy Isseri
National Institute of Cartography
Cameroon



Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe
National Geographic Institute
Kingdom of Belgium

Co-Chairs of the UN Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management
at its tenth session

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York