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Strengthening geospatial information management

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Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present paper contains the report of the Secretariat on strengthening geospatial information management for consideration by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

In July 2016, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2016/27 on strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management, in which it recognized that the Committee of Experts had operated effectively and was well placed to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations. In the resolution, the Council decided to strengthen and broaden the mandate of the Committee and invited the Committee to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics. It also stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building and norm-setting. The Council noted the increasing role and relevance of the Committee in streamlining the bodies of the Council on geospatial information management matters and requested that the Committee report back to the Council, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of the resolution. This report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the Bureau of the Committee of Experts, and cognizant of the request of the Council to report back within five years, informs the Committee of its efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement the resolution and strengthen geospatial information management for Member States. In the report a strategic framework is presented and described as a starting point for discussion towards a strategic plan and road map that will enable the Committee to be better supported by the regional committee architecture and the UN Regional Commissions and to continue to work on global policies for geospatial information management in tandem with producing tangible outputs such as norms, handbooks, methodologies, standards and guidelines.

I. Introduction

1. The global importance of geospatial information was recognized by the United Nations in July 2011 when, at its 47th plenary meeting, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), recognizing the urgent need to take concrete action to strengthen international cooperation in the area of global geospatial information management, adopted resolution 2011/24 establishing the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the resolution¹. The Committee of Experts makes joint decisions and sets directions on the production and use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks; promotes common principles, policies, methods, mechanisms and standards for the interoperability of geospatial data and services; and provides a platform for the development of effective strategies on how to build and strengthen national capacity concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries.

2. ECOSOC resolution 2011/24 stipulated that the Committee of Experts be (at least initially) “established and administered within existing resources and organized accordingly” and requested it to present to the Council in 2016 “a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness.”

3. In July 2016, and following a comprehensive review of the Committee of Experts², ECOSOC adopted resolution 2016/27 entitled “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management”³. This resolution acknowledges the considerable achievements of the Committee over its first five years including: its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries; the efforts to streamline the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the field of geospatial information management; and its role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework, and other global development agendas within the purview of the United Nations.

4. Noting the increasing role and relevance of the Committee of Experts and its acknowledged efforts in streamlining the subsidiary bodies of the Council on geospatial information management, the Council has requested that the Committee report back within five years on the implementation of resolution 2016/27, and to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee.

5. The present report informs the Committee of efforts by the Expanded Bureau and Secretariat to take practical and strategic actions to implement ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 in order to strengthen geospatial information management for Member States. The report discusses the multiple aspects of the resolution and presents a strategic framework as a starting point for discussion towards the future modalities and programme of work of the Committee of Experts, including the

¹ ECOSOC resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011 on the “Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management”, <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011.24.pdf>.

² Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, E/2016/47. http://ggim.un.org/docs/Programme%20review_E-2016-47_en.pdf

³ ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 of 27 July 2016 entitled “Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management”. http://ggim.un.org/docs/E_RES_2016_27_en.pdf

provision of support by the regional committee architecture and the UN Regional Commissions. The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for strengthening geospatial information management. Points for discussion and decision are provided in paragraph 37.

II. Strengthening the global coordination and coherence of geospatial information management

6. ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 recognized that the Committee of Experts has operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by the Council over the 2011-2016 period, producing tangible outputs, and that the Committee was well placed to continue to contribute more to the work of the United Nations. In making its decision, the Council stressed the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms. This includes strengthening capacity-building in the area of geospatial information and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries. In this regard, the Council decided to broaden and strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts, and to report to the Council on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics under a renewed item on the Council's agenda: 'Geospatial information'.

7. The Council has further recognized that sustainable funding and support, particularly for the operations of the Committee that focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is needed to strengthen and ensure the continued progress and effectiveness of the Committee. However, at this time no additional budgetary resources have been made available for the Committee's operations. The Council has encouraged Member States to provide voluntary contributions, and otherwise requested the Secretary-General to try to mobilize extra budgetary resources, including through the means of trust funds and other sources as appropriate to support the activities of the Committee. It is specifically intended that such additional resources extend to covering the cost of participation in the annual Committee sessions by developing countries, and in order to ensure full and effective participation of countries in special situations.

8. The Committee of Experts is mindful that a number of the achievements and capacity building outcomes for Member States, including participation in technical forums, workshops, and annual Committee sessions, were made possible by an international cooperation project on geospatial information management capacity development (China Trust Fund) provided by the People's Republic of China (2013-2017). This contribution is greatly appreciated by the Committee, but more remains to be done. The mobilization of extra budgetary resources will be key to strengthening the coordination and coherence of geospatial information management, particularly for assisting the developing countries to measure and monitor the SDGs.

9. From the outset, a major objective of the Committee of Experts was to build consensus towards a global regional UN-GGIM architecture, and strongly linked to the mandates of the Committee. This architecture was completed during the Committee's fifth session, when the regional committee for Africa was formally established. A strong and operational regional infrastructure, composed of the five regional technical geospatial information committees that report to the Committee

of Experts, encapsulates the importance of strengthening coordination, capacity building and coherence of global geospatial information management, especially in developing countries.

10. The Committee of Experts has recognized the integral role of the academic, research, industry and private sector stakeholders in achieving its goals of promoting the global use and delivery of geospatial information and solutions for evidence-based decision making, and more recently exploiting the role of geospatial information in assisting with the measurement and monitoring of the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A collaborative partnership is required to address global issues and contribute collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns.

11. The Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, renamed 'UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies' by the Board in May 2017, is a coalition of the senior leadership representatives of global organizations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardization or regulation of geospatial information and related matters, and has contributed to the activities of UN-GGIM since 2011. However, academic, research and private sector stakeholders were not well represented. Therefore, at its sixth session in 2016, in making decision 6/101, and noting that the 2030 Agenda calls for stronger public-private partnerships in order for new data sources and technologies to be harnessed, the Committee of Experts agreed to the establishment of the UN-GGIM: Academic Network and the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network. Each of these thematic groups now report formally to the annual sessions of the Committee as a practical means to harness their good will, knowledge and contribution.

12. Noting that ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 provides a basis for Member States to ask for better and improved coordination of geospatial information activities within the United Nations system, the Bureau and Secretariat have made concerted efforts to complete the missing link within UN-GGIM's architecture, those entities within the United Nations system engaged in geospatial information activities. The Secretariat has prepared a separate report, inclusive of proposals and options for coordination, to be presented and discussed at this seventh session of the Committee of Experts.

III. Strengthening the regional coordination and coherence of geospatial information management

13. With resolution 2016/27, ECOSOC welcomed the efforts by the Committee of Experts to streamline the work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council in the field of geospatial information, agreed with the cessation of the Regional Cartographic Conferences, and decided that the substantive mandates and obligations of the Regional Cartographic Conferences be assumed by the Committee of Experts at the global level, and that their technical and substantive activities at the regional and national levels be assumed by the regional committee architecture established by the Committee.

14. With each playing a vital role in advocacy efforts, the regional committee architecture is becoming a strong mechanism to promote, discuss and enhance coordination among Member States within the regions on issues of importance to the Committee and Member States, and to liaise with the Secretariat and UN Regional Commissions on major developments in the intervening periods between annual sessions of the Committee of Experts. This was recognized in 2015 by the

Committee at its fifth session when, in making decision 5/112, the Committee agreed to elevate the regional and thematic groups in the annual agenda of the Committee of Experts so that they might inform other areas of the work of the Committee.

15. In order to effectively strengthen geospatial information management holistically, and through leveraging existing United Nations system mechanisms and structures, ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 requested that the UN Regional Commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional technical geospatial information committees of the Committee of Experts, and that the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region.

16. At its sixth session in 2016, in making decision 6/101, the Committee of Experts further encouraged the strengthening of inter-regional collaborations between relevant working groups and tasks and of linkages with their respective UN Regional Commissions and with regional statistical committees.

17. The 48th session of the UN Statistical Commission, in making decision 48/108, continues to recognize the increasing role of statistical and geospatial integration, particularly with regard to the SDGs and the 2020 Round of Population Censuses. In this regard, the Statistical Commission agreed that the mandate of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information be strengthened for it to become the overall coordination group for all activities in the area of the integration of statistical and geospatial information. While this item will be discussed by the Committee in a separate report at this seventh session, it is relevant to mention that the Statistical Commission emphasized the need for the regional statistical bodies to develop and strengthen partnerships with the regional bodies of the Committee of Experts.

18. Each of the UN Regional Commissions are now considering, and in some cases implementing, mechanisms as to how to respond to the above decisions and the Council's request for support, as these have a number of mutual national to regional benefits that then channel up to the global level. Greater coordination and collaboration between the regional committees of UN-GGIM and the UN Regional Commissions will facilitate an increased involvement of all Member States, regionally and globally, in the work of the Committee of Experts. Moreover, this will be a key communication and implementation mechanism towards achieving the Committee's goals of promoting the global use and delivery of geospatial information and solutions for evidence-based decision making. More explicitly, it will institutionally support the role of geospatial information in assisting with the statistical measurement, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs where the global indicators have a strong geographic dimension. This is a key priority for the Committee of Experts. Such engagements would also build on the (Council's) importance of strengthening capacity-building in the area of geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries, as well as the Committee's continued efforts to work with the Statistical Commission and with the entire United Nations system, and to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems.

IV. UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau – strategic actions

19. At its meeting convened immediately prior to the Third High Level Forum on UN-GGIM in Beijing, China in October 2014, the Bureau agreed to convene a face-to-face expanded Bureau meeting, including the Chairs of the regional committees once established, in the first half of 2015. Convened in Hangzhou, China, from 4-6 May 2015, the first UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting provided a unique opportunity to “set strategies and an agenda for a sustainable global geospatial information management mechanism that will continue to support the work program, directions, and implementation strategy of UN-GGIM for 2016 and beyond”. This was an important and watershed strategic meeting for the future direction and vision of UN-GGIM and, led by the Bureau and regional committee Chairs, was seen as a model to be adopted and continued in the future.

20. Following this first successful meeting, the Expanded Bureau agreed that it would be valuable to include the Chairs of the thematic groups in future meetings. Therefore, the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau now comprises the Bureau, the five regional committee Chairs, the Secretariat, and the Chairs of each of the thematic groups; UN-GGIM: Geospatial Societies, UN-GGIM: Academic Network and the UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network. The Expanded Bureau has since convened annual meetings at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in December 2015 and December 2016. The December 2015 meeting⁴ was focussed primarily on reviewing and finalizing inputs into the Committee’s Programme Review Report prior to its submission in January 2016 for tabling in April 2016 to ECOSOC.

21. At its third annual meeting, convened from 7-9 December 2016⁵, the Expanded Bureau, under the theme "Strategies for closer collaboration and connecting our global community", focused on practical and strategic actions to implement the decisions from ECOSOC resolution 2016/27 and those from the report of the sixth session of the Committee of Experts. Emphasis was placed on the need to anchor the Committee more institutionally through the regional committee architecture and the UN Regional Commissions; and to continue working on global policies for geospatial information management in tandem with producing tangible outputs such as norms, handbooks, methodologies standards and guidelines. A number of the elements discussed by the Expanded Bureau will not be repeated in this chapter, as they have already been captured elsewhere in this present report.

22. The Expanded Bureau considered the need to improve communication and increase awareness, including at the political level, of UN-GGIM and connecting the political - technical levels in more tangible ways within Member States and among relevant stakeholders. A practical means to assist this need is to ensure that the national and regional geospatial agendas are in alignment with the global geospatial agenda set by the Committee, particularly those in support of the global

⁴ UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting, 7-9 December 2015:

<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM%20Expanded%20Bureau%20meetings/Report%20UN-anneGGIM%20Extended%20Bureau%20Dec2015.pdf>

⁵ UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau Meeting, 7-9 December 2016:

<http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/UN%20GGIM%20Expanded%20Bureau%20meetings/Bureau%20Meeting%20Report%20Dec%202016%20Final.pdf>

development agendas. The Expanded Bureau agreed that more emphasis should be placed on ensuring that the activities of the regional committees, UN Regional Commissions, and statistical bodies, are aligned with the global agenda. Although acknowledged as being difficult, ensuring effective coordination and linkages across the various expert and working groups, both regionally and globally, will be critical to successfully achieving and maintaining these alignments.

23. The Expanded Bureau also suggested that the Committee of Experts, as the peak inter-governmental mechanism, should primarily concern itself with global policy and strategy, global norm setting, concepts and frameworks, global principles and standards, etc. and not be involved in detailed implementations at the national level. It was noted that implementation can be a very local matter and hence more feasible via the regional committees and commissions through “Plans of Action” that can translate global needs and outcomes down to the regional, national and local level implementations. This is particularly relevant for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24. During the Expanded Bureau meeting, common terms captured included: reaching maturity and moving from GGIM 1.0 to GGIM 2.0; determining our value proposition to ECOSOC in the next 2-3 year horizon; determining the strategy and roadmap on the ECOSOC resolution and how we implement the new and strengthened mandate; extra-budgetary and funding options, including ways of implementation; and more capacity development for countries in the next 5 years – developing guides, standards, methods and norms. The Expanded Bureau noted the diverse interests and demands, particularly considering the aspirations of developing and developed states, and acknowledged that all are essential.

25. In terms of capacity development, it was observed that relatively little attention has been paid to the challenges countries face in effectively collecting and producing data, and in building and strengthening their capacities within the national mapping and geospatial information agencies. The beneficiaries of improved country capacity to build geospatial infrastructures and use geospatial data and information will comprise national governments, regional and international agencies, the development research community and the public at large. In particular, integrating statistical and geospatial information, and strengthening and standardizing geospatial data exchange capabilities of countries, will contribute to improve the availability and timeliness of national information.

26. Therefore, a major objective is to substantively improve and strengthen the production and use of timely, reliable and official geospatial data and information which meet the needs of national implementations of the 2030 Agenda, are policy relevant, and provide government users, decision makers and researchers with data, tools and methods to make appropriate and evidence-based decisions.

V. 2017-2021 Strategic Framework

27. Cognizant of the Expanded Bureau’s requirement to determine the value proposition, strategy and roadmap for ECOSOC in the next 2-3 year horizon, a high-level one page draft UN-GGIM strategic framework was tabled at the December 2016 Expanded Bureau meeting by the Secretariat as an initial starting point for discussion towards a strategic plan. Included in the one-page framework were UN-GGIM’s mission, vision, strategic objectives, global policy framework, geospatial challenges and drivers, benefits and efficiencies, operating principles

and working activities. The strategic framework has since been further refined and consolidated with, and subsequently agreed by, the Expanded Bureau.

28. The ‘2017-2021 Strategic Framework’, as presented in Annex I, is designed as an overarching global policy framework for the Committee of Experts to communicate and reference the importance of integrating geospatial and other key information into global development policies and to contribute to national implementations of the 2030 Agenda. It firstly comprises the high level global mandate, relevance and context for the Committee, inclusive of a vision, mission and strategic objectives. The UN-GGIM global context is then framed by the global development policy framework, anchored by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to subsequent national development drivers and benefits. This forms the ‘value proposition’ for many countries, whether developed or developing.

29. In order to align the global development policy framework and national development needs to the more specific working activities and outputs of the Committee, an initial set of geospatial information operating principles, with commensurate benefits, have been identified to guide the future development of enabling national geospatial strategic frameworks by countries. The principles were identified following a review of existing geospatial information management standards and principles. It is anticipated that further work to road test and refine these principles will need to be undertaken, possibly by a sample of Member States in collaboration with stakeholder agencies. These seven principles set out the central values of sharing and integrating geospatial information and set the foundation for the implementation of geospatial information strategies across national governments; but can also be applied at the global level. The seven principles should be considered with and supported by the ‘Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management’⁶, a more high-level and generic set of geospatial information ‘organizational’ principles adopted by the Committee of Experts at its fifth session in 2015.

30. The Strategic Framework is intended to be a living document and updated and revised at regular intervals as the work of the Committee evolves. This Framework presents a strategic overview of the Committee of Experts and its mandates, its focus on the global development agenda, the value proposition for Member States, and the working activities and outputs of the Committee. The Expanded Bureau encourages the global and regional expert and working groups to ensure that their work is aligned with the objectives of the Framework, and that any national action plans are similarly cognizant of these objectives to support and serve the national interests, and enable the value of geospatial information to be realized for sustainable development at the regional and global levels.

VI. Considerations going forward

31. ECOSOC has explicitly recognized the relevance of geospatial information for the various United Nations policy agendas and has permanently anchored the Committee in the regular UN conference calendar. However, in adopting resolution 2016/27, ECOSOC did not elaborate as to what ‘broaden and strengthen’ the mandate of the Committee of Experts should entail, or how the Committee should implement the resolution and strengthen geospatial information

⁶ Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management:
<http://ggim.un.org/docs/statement%20of%20shared%20guiding%20principles%20flyer.pdf>

management for Member States. Rather, the Council, recognizing the progress made and maturity achieved, has deferred to the Committee to determine; to report back to the Council within five years on the implementation of its resolution, and to further examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements. The Committee now has an opportunity over the coming 2-3 years to ensure its activities and efforts contribute more to the unique local to global value in developing frameworks, guides, norms, standards and methodological development along with normative strengthening, capacity building and the implementation of global geospatial information management for Member States. Led by the Expanded Bureau, this report provides the initial discussion for the Committee to consider efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement the Council's resolution.

32. A key consideration for the Committee going forward is its role in supporting and informing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda poses tremendous challenges for all countries, but it also provides tremendous opportunity when it comes to the unprecedented demand for more, and new sources of, data covering all countries and all aspects of development. The 2030 Agenda has recognized the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, benefiting from the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress.

33. Achieving sustainable development will require transformative change, not only in delivering on such a broad and ambitious agenda, but also in how the right data is brought to bear to measure and monitor progress. The professional geospatial, statistical, and other related communities, should be ambitious and aspire to have the needed data – social, economic and environmental – to ensure that the world can “count” everyone and leave no one behind. This is at the core of being able to measure and monitor in order to make progress, particularly for the developing countries.

34. The situation with the global development agenda will not remain static and will evolve quickly in the years ahead. This will be driven by a need for robust reporting systems on the SDGs that will have applicability and benefit from the local sub-national to the national level; while still allowing for global reporting that builds directly on the integrated data shared by countries. It will be important, likely a requirement, to address means to create an opportunity for countries to directly contribute to the global reporting within a geospatial context. While the challenges are immense, the digital technology that is available today allows the necessary transformation. Therefore, an aspiration for the Committee of Experts, to ‘strengthen geospatial information management,’ should be to strengthen countries’ geospatial and statistical information capabilities towards integrative national information systems that facilitate and enable a growing ‘data ecosystem’ that leverages an accessible, integrative and interoperable local to global system-of-systems.⁷

⁷ Sustainable development and geospatial information: A strategic framework for integrating a global policy agenda into national geospatial capabilities: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10095020.2017.1325594>

35. The Expanded Bureau and the Secretariat, and within existing resources, is now looking at means to facilitate the strengthening and normative capacity building of global geospatial information management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Efforts include: promoting the use of geospatial information and services for modern mapping and information systems; methodological development; national and regional capacity-building; standards-setting; data collection, dissemination and sharing; and better integration of geospatial and statistical information systems for Member States. While there remain a number of further considerations to make this achievable, including identifying and unlocking funding streams to support much-needed capacity building efforts across Member States, and managing the many relevant collaborative projects within a small Secretariat with limited resources, continuing to leverage the expertise and available resources of the Committee of Experts and its global-regional architecture and thematic groups will be vital.

36. With the Committee's global-regional architecture and thematic groups now in place and well anchored, it will be important to ensure that each of the regional efforts are as aligned as much as possible to the global efforts, ensuring that they are collectively working together in a coordinated way to strengthen geospatial information at all levels – from local to global – and ensuring the best use of limited resources. Therefore, the regional committees and thematic groups should seek to link and align their priorities and activities with the mandates and strategic framework adopted by the Committee of Experts, fostering a synergistic relationship with one another to further strengthen and enhance inter and intra-regional coordination and coherence of geospatial information management. This synergistic relationship should also be extended to the respective UN Regional Commissions of the United Nations and that the UN Regional Commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional technical geospatial information committees of UN-GGIM.

VII. Points for discussion

37. The Committee is invited to:

- (a) Take note of the present report and express its views on the Expanded Bureau's efforts to take practical and strategic actions to implement the Council's resolution and strengthen geospatial information management for Member States;**
- (b) Express its views on the 2017-2021 Strategic Framework as a tangible means to communicate and reference the work of the Committee;**
- (c) Express its views on practical means for greater coordination and collaboration between the Committee of Experts, the regional committees, the UN Regional Commissions, and regional statistical bodies;**
- (d) Express its views on the mobilization of extra budgetary resources for the Committee's operations and to cover the cost of participation in the annual Committee sessions by developing countries; and**
- (e) Provide guidance on further strategies and pathways the Committee may need to consider in its preparations to report back to ECOSOC within five years.**

ANNEX I: UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2017 – 2021

CONTEXT	VISION	<i>Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges</i>					
	MISSION	<i>Operating within agreed policies and institutional arrangements, and as an interconnected global community of practice, the Committee of Experts will ensure that geospatial information and resources are coordinated, maintained, accessible, and able to be used effectively and efficiently by Member States and society to address key global challenges in a timely manner</i>					
	MANDATED STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Provide leadership in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges	Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States and relevant international organizations on enhanced cooperation	Provide a platform for the development of effective strategies to build and strengthen national capacity and capability concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries	Propose work-plans, frameworks and guidelines to promote common principles, policies, methods, standards and mechanisms for the interoperability and use of geospatial data and services	Make joint decisions and set the direction for the production and use of geospatial information within and across national, regional and global policy frameworks	
REQUIREMENTS	GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORK	Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development					
		Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	HABITAT III Urban Agenda	
	GEOSPATIAL CHALLENGES & DRIVERS	Environmental management Urban planning Land management Legal & policy	Disaster management Humanitarian assistance Climate change Health & welfare	Sustainable development Food security Water scarcity Poverty reduction	Education Oceans & marine Sustainable cities	Population National security Institutional governance Socio-economic metrics	
	DIRECT NATIONAL BENEFITS & EFFICIENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced duplication of effort in the capture, management, and delivery of fundamental geospatial information • Authoritative, reliable and maintained geospatial data available nationally, regionally, and globally • Increased return on investment through better coordination, use and reuse of data, information and systems • Better evidence-based decision making, supported by good data, science and policy • More open, accountable, responsive and efficient governments • Presentation and delivery of timely and 'fit for purpose' data in times of need • Increased collaboration and integration of national data and information systems across all levels of government • Best practices and use cases for enriching national processes on geospatial information management 					
	OPERATING PRINCIPLES	Sound Nat. Policies, Legal Frameworks & Institutional Arrangements	Provision of Fundamental Authoritative Data and Information	Agreed Standards, Methods, Guides and Frameworks	Principles on Geospatial Information and Open Data	Integration and Interoperability of National Information Systems	Information Sharing and Knowledge Transfer
DELIVERABLES	WORKING ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geospatial Information for Sustainable Development: 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework, etc. • Integration of Geospatial & Statistical Information: Implement the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework • Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters: Implement Strategic Framework • Global Geodetic Reference Frame: Roadmap to Implement • Determination of global fundamental data themes • Marine geospatial information • Land administration and management • Legal and policy frameworks • National institutional arrangements • Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community • National geospatial data and information systems 					