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17 April 2017

Dear Colleagues,

**Seventh Session of the UN Committee of Experts on
Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
New York, 2-4 August 2017**

I am writing to inform you that the Seventh Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2-4 August 2017. The official announcement of the seventh session has been issued through a Note Verbale which was communicated to all the Permanent Missions to the United Nations on 27 March 2017. A copy of the Note is attached for your reference.

As you may recall, the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, held in New York from 3-5 August 2016, addressed several emerging and critical issues related to geospatial information management globally. Numerous substantive activities have since been undertaken and as follow-up, they will be reported back and deliberated upon at this seventh session. These include progress on: the transition of the Working Group on Global Geodetic Reference Frame to a Sub-committee; how geospatial information will support and inform the sustainable development goals; determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes; the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management; geospatial information and services for disasters; legal and policy frameworks; the implementation and adoption of global geospatial standards; trends in national institutional arrangements; and the integration of geospatial and statistical information. The full provisional agenda, as well as other information on the seventh session will be gradually posted on the Committee's website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html. The substantive reports to be discussed during the Committee session will also be loaded as soon as they become available, no later than 3 July 2017.

In July 2016, the week before the sixth session of the Committee of Experts, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted resolution 2016/27 entitled "Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management" stressing the continued need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management. At this seventh session of the Committee of Experts, the UN-GGIM Bureau and Secretariat will report back on considerations towards strengthening global geospatial information management, including proposals to address substantive issues on marine geospatial information; national geospatial data and information systems; and closer collaboration with the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN).

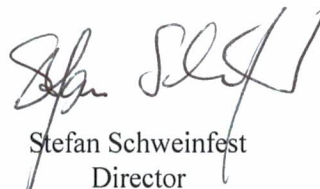
In order to assist your planning for the seventh session of UN-GGIM, we would also like to inform you that several important side events related to the substantive issues that the Committee is engaged in, and meetings of UN-GGIM Expert Groups, Working Groups and Networks, will be convened on the margins of the seventh session, particularly from 31 July – 1 August. A draft overview of the side events and meetings for the week can be referred to on the Committee's website in due course.

If you are planning to attend the seventh session of UN-GGIM, you will need to comply with the formality of requesting your Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York to advise the UN-GGIM Secretariat in writing of your intention to participate in the meeting, and provide the name(s) of all members of your delegation. You can find the contact information for your Permanent Mission on the following website: <http://www.un.org/en/member-states/index.html>. Your Mission will then request a grounds pass to the United Nations premises for you. Arrangements for hotels need to be made by individual participants (or their Mission) at hotels of their own choice. Practical information and updates will be made available to confirmed participants in due course.

Should you have any further questions or need any assistance regarding the forthcoming session of the Committee of Experts, please do not hesitate to contact the UN-GGIM Secretariat (Mr. CheeHai Teo, Tel: 1-212-963-4904; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: teo@un.org and Ms. Vilma Frani, Tel: 1-917-367-2903; Fax: 1-212-963-9851; Email: frani@un.org).

I look forward to seeing you in New York and welcoming you and your country's delegation to this Seventh Session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management.

Yours sincerely,



Stefan Schweinfest
Director

UN-GGIM Secretariat
United Nations Statistics Division/DESA

cc: Kyoung-Soo Eom,
Chief, Geospatial Information Section, ICTD/DFS