



## **UN-GGIM: AFRICA**

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

# **UN-GGIM: Africa Report To the 8th Session of the CE of UN-GGIM**

**By**

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# Introduction & Background

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- The African caucus of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Africa) was set up to address the issues of developing the capacities of African nations in the generation and dissemination of authoritative, accurate and maintained geospatial information in the continent.



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# Key Pillars Highlights

1. ARSDI: African Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure: Frameworks and Policies
2. FDS: Fundamental Geospatial Datasets
3. AFREF: African Geodetic Reference Frame
4. SALB: Second Administrative Level Boundaries
5. GeoNyms: Geographic Names
6. Integration of Geospatial Information and Statistics:
7. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063



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## Activities, Areas of Work – achievements

### 1. Convening of the Third meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa.

- ▣ The Third Meeting of the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Africa was held as a parallel event with the AfricaGIS 2017 Conference held from 20-24 November 2017 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by over 50 participants, including delegates from 14 African countries, as well as observers from international organizations including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the UN-GGIM Secretariat, academia, industry organizations and the private sector.



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# Activities, Areas of Work – achievements

## 2. Third meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa, Outcome

- ▣ The meeting offered the opportunity to officially launch the **African Action Plan on Global Geospatial Information Management**, entitled Geospatial information for sustainable development in Africa (**GI4SD**). The document outlines the essential actions with related responsibilities, timescales and costs that will guide the future implementation of the initiative in Africa. This puts us at the for-front of regions in developing an action plan under the auspices of UN-GGIM.



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# Activities....

## 3. Formulation of the African Geospatial Information Policy

- Pursuant to the resolution made by UN-GGIM: Africa Second Session held in Côte d'Ivoire in 2016, ECA has provided support to develop a background paper on the formulation of geospatial information overarching policies for Africa. The document, outlining the common geospatial vision, strategy and goals for Africa, was circulated and tabled for comments during the third session of UN-GGIM: Africa.
- The participants made valuable recommendations to enhance the overall quality of the document in terms of structure and content; and the revised version is expected to be discussed and endorsed during the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> session of UN-GGIM: Africa.



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# Activities....

## 4. Capacity Development

- ❑ To fully leverage the “enabling” capabilities of geospatial information for sustainable development, capacity building requires immediate attention so as to ensure that **no one is left behind** in this regard. However, in Africa, it is recognized that the **geospatial information divide is growing and an urgent intervention is required** to reverse this trend and to enable the continent to reap the benefit of geospatial information as a critical development infrastructure
- ❑ With the Support of the UN-GGIM Secretariat, the Regional Committee has organized an international Workshop on Fundamental Geospatial Datasets for Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals on 25-27 April 2018 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.



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# Activities....

## 4. Capacity Development...

- ▣ The Workshop provided a unique opportunity for members of the statistical and geospatial data communities in Africa to exchange knowledge and experiences, and to strengthen cooperation towards the implementation of the Global Fundamental Data Themes as a framework to foster efforts to harmonize and thereby to improve the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information in support of sustainable development in Africa.





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# Challenges and Remedial Actions

- UN-GGIM: Africa faces a lot of challenges that hamper the full implementation of the activities outlined in the continental Action Plan. Taking cognizance of the recommendations that stemmed out from the third meeting, UN-GGIM: Africa is called to give close attention to the following matters:
1. Foster the engagement of Member States to participate to their fullest extent in the meetings and activities of UN-GGIM: Africa.
  2. Identify alternative methods for communication and conducting meetings, taking into account the available electronic communication channels in Member States.



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# Challenges & ...

3. Determine appropriate mechanisms for the participation of academia and the private sector in the activities and meetings of UN-GGIM: Africa, taking note of such arrangements already in place in UN-GGIM.
4. Encourage ECA, regional and specialized institutions, and Member States to participate actively in Geospatial Information related meetings and activities, and to create a mechanism to disseminate the relevant lessons learnt to the geospatial information community in Africa.



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# UN-GGIM: Africa 4<sup>th</sup> Session

- The region plans to organize the fourth meeting of UN-GGIM: Africa in conjunction with the StatCom Africa Meeting. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.
- The fourth session will continue to discuss on issues related to sharing knowledge and best practices on the development of geospatial information in the continent; raise awareness on the benefits to be derived through the utilization of geospatial information for sustainable development; look at policies, measures and steps that African countries could take to ensure a successful implementation of the UN-GGIM initiative in the region.



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# Thank You!