

Work Plan 2019/2020

1. Introduction

The objectives of the Working Group are to:

- (a) Play a leading role in raising awareness and highlighting the importance of sound policy and legal framework for geospatial information management at the highest levels in order to promote development, innovation, production, consumption, distribution of geospatial information in the midst of rapidly changing societal norms towards access to Big Data and other types of information;
- (b) Explore appropriate policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management proactively, taking into consideration that good policy and legal frameworks will evolve over time, and respond to societal progress and technological developments; and
- (c) Support the Committee of Experts in the development of norms, principles and guides, including any regional capacity development initiatives, to significantly increase the availability and accessibility of geospatial information so as to create high quality, timely and reliable products and services from geospatial information to address the Sustainable Development Goals and other critical local, national, regional and international issues.

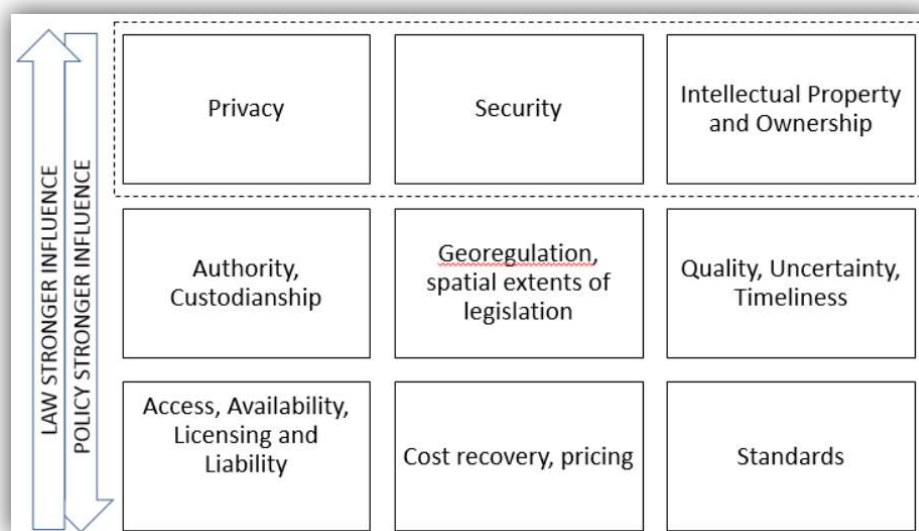
Global Policy Framework	The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development					National development agendas and transformation programs
	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	New Urban Agenda (Habitat III)	

Geospatial information is presented in many forms and mediums, provides the integrative platform for all digital data that has a location dimension to it. All countries and all sectors need geospatial information for national development, policy and decision-making. There is a new and emerging “data ecosystem” for sustainable development in which collaborative information systems, that are comprehensive and coordinated, able to provide evidence on the state of place, people, activities and occurrences, and to deliver timely and reliable information necessary for citizens, organizations and governments to build accountable actions and evidenced-based decisions.

Digital transformation of society and economy is truly underway, disrupting conventional practices and is fast changing the economic, societal and personal landscape. Geospatially enabled reliable, timely and quality information is leading the way in this transformation and many of the innovative applications. However, there are issues and challenges regarding the availability, accessibility, exchange, application and management of geospatial information, and these are common and experienced across various levels of society, governments and economy. In addition, there is increasing demand for advice on custodianship and governance frameworks within Member States, and beyond Member States for regional and international applications and collaborations beyond Member States’ jurisdiction.

Appropriate legal and policy frameworks on geospatial information management can address these issues. Furthermore, legal and policy frameworks can proactively support the development of geospatial information management so that decisions lead to the needed public good in a more efficient way. The ultimate goal for any well working legal and policy framework is to maximize the utility of geospatial information but protect a country or agency against potential business and security risks. The United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework includes the building of robust legal and policy frameworks as the second of nine strategic pathways to achieve goals around enriched societal value and benefits, effective geospatial information management, and an economic return on investment.

The present scope of consideration of the legal and policy frameworks is limited to law and policies on licensing, privacy and security of geospatial information. Overall this scope is a part of following focus areas.



2. Goals

The development of a digital infrastructure for geospatial information management consists of many development processes. The “business development process” is the key process where technical and other components are being developed to meet a specific need. This process is usually controlled by a legal and policy framework. However, the legal and policy framework sometimes impose unnecessary obstacles, slowing down the development. For example, agreements/licenses that are too complex, difficult, different or detailed for the user of the data, can prevent the user from reaching the intended need. Lack of legal and policy frameworks often have the same effect. The use of new technology in data management creates new situations and risks to personal privacy or national interests. In such cases, a “legal and policy development process” should be initiated.

Taking this into consideration the goals for the Work Plan should focus on the interaction between these two development processes and the effects of legal and policy frameworks on the development.

	Effect/Goals	Description
E1	Sound license terms and conditions that limit use of geospatial information to protect economic or other interests	Promote standardized terms and conditions for specific user needs, recognizing the need to account for cultural differences, economic diversity and jurisdictional circumstance

	Effect/Goals	Description
E2	Legal and policy restrictions that limit the use of geospatial information to protect privacy or national security interests	Promote development of sound legal and policy frameworks, in relation to all focus areas, to build trust with the public concerning how data is managed by agencies especially when using new technologies
E3	Legal profession participates as early as possible in the business development process	Promote development of a strategy and guides that enables collaboration between lawyers, legal professionals, business and technical developers
E4	Effective legal and policy considerations within mechanisms to strengthen national geospatial information management	Leverage the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework that translates concepts to practical implementation with specific guidance and recommended actions.

The goals of this work plan are for the Working Group to:

- develop capacity in this field by raising awareness and supporting learning events;
- explore and monitor legal and policy frameworks and the related issues raised by emerging technologies, the evolving innovative and creative use of geospatial information;
- support the Committee of Experts in the development of the implementation guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework;
- support the operationalizing of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework through guidance and recommended actions; and
- develop a strategy for advocacy and engagement processes on legal and policy issues with related stakeholders.

3. Deliverables and activities

A legal and policy framework is sound when it creates balance between competing interests. This balance may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and case to case. Some of the activities of this work plan are therefore focused on a bottom's up approach, by examining specific user needs.

	Deliverables	Activities
E1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compendium on licensing geospatial information • Resource materials • Learning events 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare, conduct or support learning events (regional and sub-regional) 2. Promote translations of the compendium into languages other than English
E2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper on legal issues and challenges, and probable solutions to address privacy and security considerations, and to consider views of and guidance from the Committee of Experts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with the use case, and to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) involve more countries; ii) monitor changes arising from national circumstances including in legal and policy frameworks; iii) consider overarching guiding legal and policy principles. 2. Arrange a side event to discuss the draft white paper at the ninth session of UN-GGIM 3. Analyze and conclude what measures are needed to address legal and policy issues identified cognizant of different levels of digital information management and development context

	Deliverables	Activities
E3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategy to engage and cooperate with legal and other relevant professions in a business development process at the national level 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compile experiences and examples on engagement and involvement of legal and other professions in the business development process 2. Address the importance of involving the legal profession in development process in events of the working group 3. Prepare and conduct a workshop to analyze the need of legal advice in a development process 4. Develop a strategy based on 1-2 above and informed by the result from E2
E4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation Guide of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the development of the component document of the Implementation Guide aligned with Strategic Pathway 2 – Legal and Policy 2. Participate in the consultation and review process for development of the Implementation Guide with the legal and policy expertise lens 3. Develop guidance and recommend actions in legal and policy aspects to implement the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework at country level

4. Reporting and proposed meetings

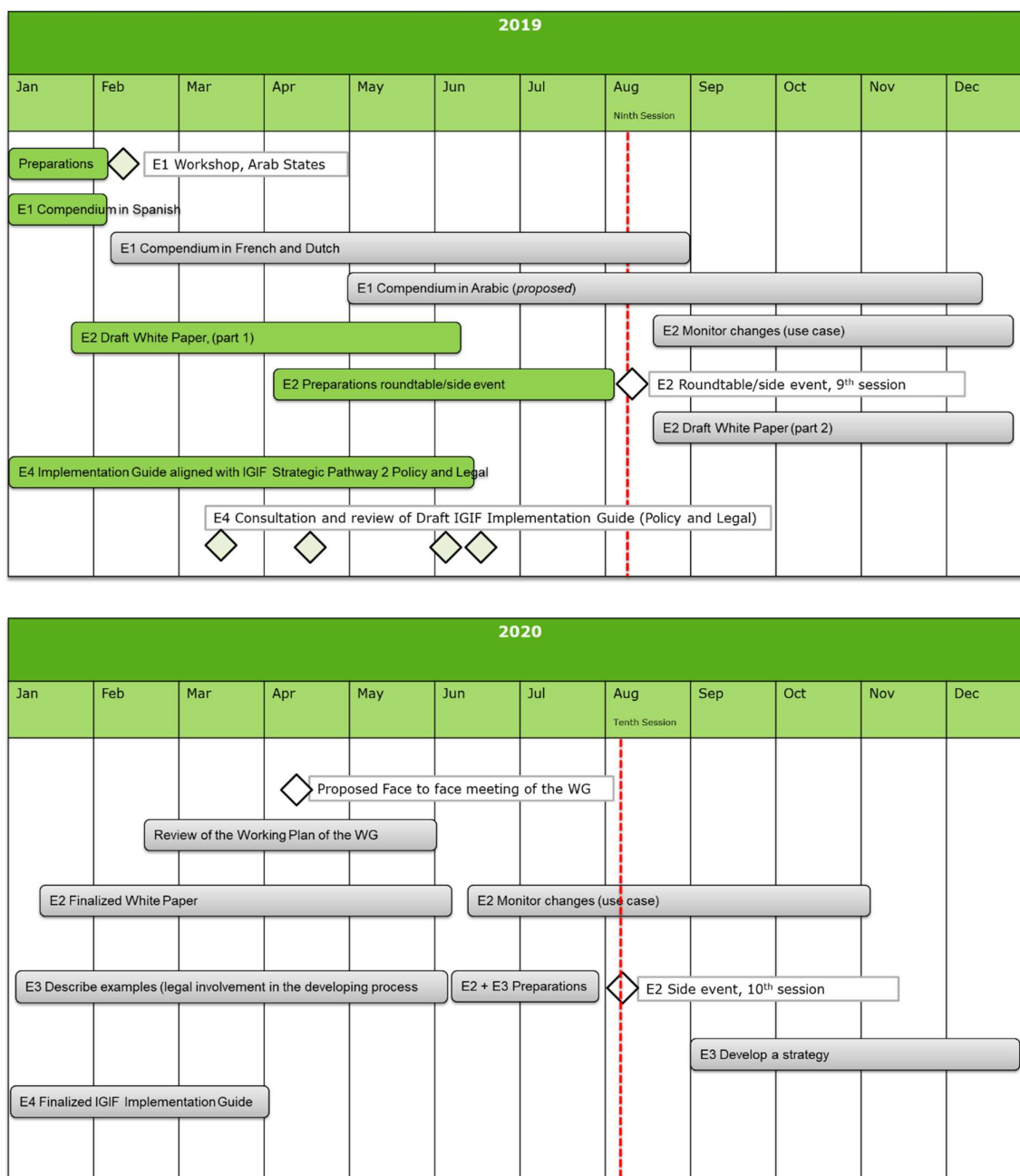
The indicative timings and deadlines based on known reporting opportunities and activities under the Committee of Experts are:

2019	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative timing and Deadline</i>
Reporting to the Committee of Experts	Summary	Second week of May
	Report	Last week of June
	Side event and an open meeting during the week of the ninth Session	5 - 9 August 2019
Meetings of the working group	Fifth meeting (Virtual)	Second week of February
	Sixth meeting (Virtual)	Second half of May
	Seventh meeting (Virtual)	Second half of September
2020	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Indicative timing and Deadline</i>
Reporting to the Committee of Experts	Summary	Second week of May
	Report	Last week of June
	Side event and an open meeting during the week of the tenth Session	3 - 7 August 2020
Meetings of the working group	Eighth meeting (Virtual)	Second half of February
	Ninth Meeting (face-to-face) (<i>proposed</i>)	April on the margins of the sixth High Level Forum
	Tenth meeting (Virtual)	Towards end of June
	Eleventh meeting (Virtual)	Second half of October
Forums	Sixth High Level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management	20 – 22 April 2020, United Kingdom (Royal Holloway College, University of London, Windsor)

The need for a second face-to-face meeting¹ on the margins of the sixth High Level Forum in April 2020 will be discussed by the Working Group during its virtual meetings

5. Timelines

The proposed timelines for the activities identified under this work plan is:



¹ The first face-to-face expert meeting of the Working Group was held from 17 – 18 November 2018 in Deqing, China (<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2018-WG-Legal-Policy-Framework/>)

Annex**The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

The Committee of Experts at its eighth session in August 2018 adopted the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (E/2018/46, Decision 8/113) that provides a basis, a reference and a mechanism for Member States when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national arrangements in geospatial information management and related infrastructures. The Framework aims to translate high-level concepts to practical implementation guidance for use by Member States and does this by leveraging **seven (7) underpinning principles, eight (8) goals and nine (9) strategic pathways** as a means for governments to establish, strengthen or organize effective geospatial information management arrangements (see figure below). The objective of the **nine strategic pathways** is to guide governments towards implementing integrated geospatial information systems in a way that will deliver a vision for sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

UNDERPINNING PRINCIPLES								
Strategic Enablement	Transparent and Accountable	Reliable, Accessible and Easily Used	Collaboration and Cooperation	Integrative Solution	Sustainable and Valued	Leadership and Commitment		
GOALS								
Effective Geospatial Information Management	Increased Capacity, Capability and Knowledge Transfer		Integrated Geospatial Information Systems and Services		Economic Return on Investment			
Sustainable Education and Training Programs	International Cooperation and Partnerships Leveraged		Enhanced National Engagement and Communication		Enriched Societal Value and Benefits			
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS								
Governance and Institutions	Legal and Policy	Financial	Data	Innovation	Standards	Partnerships	Capacity and Education	Communication and Engagement
Governance model Institutional structures Leadership Value proposition	Legislation Implementation and accountability Norms, policies and guides Data protection and licensing	Business model Investment Partnerships and opportunities Benefits realization	Fundamental data themes Data supply chain interlinkages Custodianship, acquisition and management Data curation and delivery	Technological advances Promoting innovation and creativity Process improvement Bridging the digital divide	Legal interoperability Semantic interoperability Data interoperability Technical interoperability	Cross-sector and interdisciplinary cooperation Community participation Industry partnerships and joint ventures International collaboration	Awareness raising Entrepreneurship Formal education Professional workplace training	Stakeholder identification Planning and execution Integrated engagement strategies Monitoring and evaluation

The Framework comprises three parts as separate, but connected documents:

Part 1: Overarching Strategic Framework presents a forward-looking Framework built on national needs and circumstances and provides the overarching strategic messages and more expansive and integrated national framework, particularly focusing on policy, perspectives and elements of geospatial information.

Part 2: Implementation Guide is the detail document that provides the 'what', the specific guidance and actions to be taken in implementing the Framework. Expanding on each of the nine strategic pathways, aimed at providing guidance for governments to establish 'nationally' integrated geospatial information arrangements in countries.

Part 3: Country-level Action Plans will provide templates and guides to operationalize the Framework in a national and sub-national context. Providing the 'how, when and who' approach, this document will assist countries to prepare and implement their own country-level Action Plans taking into consideration national circumstances and priorities.



The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework with its Part 2 – Implementation Guide will provide the specific guidance and recommends actions to be taken by Member States to improve and strengthen their national geospatial information management, systems and infrastructures.