



**Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM**  
**Side Event Summary**

Name of Side Event:	Participants @ Start	Participants @ End
<p>Gender and Geospatial Research and Analysis</p> <p><b>Questions and Discussion: Summary</b></p> <p>The Gender and Geospatial Research and Analysis side event brought together members of the UN-GGIM and geospatial community, the UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector to discuss opportunities for using geospatial data and tools to fill critical knowledge gaps around gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS), a ground-breaking partnership between UN Women and INEGI, through its Innovation Lab is exploring the potential uses of geospatial information to yield new insights on gender statistics as well as contribute to building a multidisciplinary network of experts in this field, in the effort to make this work more visible and widely available. Participants reinforced that research on gender and geospatial is very limited and in many cases not available nor disseminated. However, it was noted that there are opportunities further exploring how spatial data and tools can contribute to improving global understanding on gender issues, such as unpaid care work, women’s economic empowerment and prevalence of violence against women. Network building, such as Women in GIS network and WeCAN, present an important opportunity to bring women practitioners together and have a dialogue on important gender issues. GIS tools for data visualizations, such as gender statistics story maps – a collaboration through Esri and UNSD - can further shed light on important was highlighted. Participants also emphasized the need to empower women working in the field of GIS and encourage more women to work in STEM. Lastly, it was recommended that: 1) the creation of a formal expert group on GIS and Gender will be explored through the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Gender Statistics to bring together statisticians and geographers; 2) contribute to UN-GGIM Americas efforts to create a mapping of women working in GIS to further strengthen women’s voices within the global geospatial community and 3) the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) will organize a Global Forum on Gender and Geospatial Research in 2020 to disseminate and showcase current gender &amp; GIS research initiatives and contribute towards building a strong multi-disciplinary network of experts.</p>		<p><b>Presenters (Name / Affiliation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Papa Seck, Chief Statistician, UN Women</li> <li>• Paloma Merodio, Vice President, INEGI</li> <li>• Linda Peters, Global Business Development Manager, Esri</li> <li>• Allison Williams, Research Chair in Gender, Work and Health, McMaster University</li> <li>• Saskia Cohick, President, Women in GIS (WiGIS) Network</li> <li>• Margarita Paras, Research, INEGI – CEGS</li> <li>• Luis Gonzales, Statistician, UNSD</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key Messages</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) can be used as a platform to foster collaboration through a network to bring together experts working in GIS and Gender to share experiences and increase the visibility of gender and geospatial research and analysis. In 2020, the CEGS will host a Global Forum on Gender and Geospatial Research to further showcase the work of practitioners and experts in this field.</li> <li>2. There is an inherent lack of gender research using spatial data and GIS tools and very little is known in this regard. However, this presents an important opportunity to further explore and unlock the potential of GIS to help fill knowledge gaps on gender equality and women’s empowerment, particularly related to unpaid care and domestic work, disaster risk reduction and women’s</li> </ol>		



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economic empowerment, etc. There are few efforts being done, such as through McMaster University, to analyze how GIS data can shed light on important gender differences related to women's unpaid care work, particularly related to caregivers assisted transport.

3. There is a need to foster greater collaboration between the statistical and geographic communities. GIS creates opportunities to work across siloes, to integrate statistical and geospatial information that can benefit countries abilities to monitor the SDGs from a cross-cutting gender perspective. The IAEG on Gender Statistics could be an important space to explore how to better foster this collaboration to bring gender statisticians and geographers together.
4. Strong urge to empower women working in GIS and STEM and to provide a platform, such as a network, to share experiences and strengthen women's voices within the global geospatial community. Network building, such as Women in GIS network and WeCAN, present an important opportunity to bring women practitioners together and have a dialogue around how to empower women in the field and around important gender issues.
5. Overall, gender and geospatial research is of high interest within the UNGGIM community, but more work needs to be done to further explore how GIS can be used to advance gender research. This event was the first step in creating a dialogue around gender within the UNGGIM formal sessions.
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Date: \_\_5\_ August 2019