Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Third session
Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
24-26 July 2013
Item 9 of the provisional agenda*
Linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on the linking of geospatial information to statistics and other data. The report is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the way forward for the global geospatial information community, including in considering the recommendations of the Statistical Commission; encouraging Member States to participate in the expert group to be established on the integration of statistical and geospatial information; and organizing an international conference on the topic.

Summary of the report

At its second session, held in August 2012, the Committee of Experts discussed an inventory of issues (see E/C.20/2012/5) relevant to a number of national geospatial information authorities and noted that the issue of linking geospatial information to statistics needed to be considered in greater detail.

The Committee of Experts concluded that the mechanisms to support the integration of geospatial information and statistics and other data, in particular through geocoding, did not exist in the global geospatial community in general. As an initial step towards establishing such mechanisms, it was suggested that the Statistical Commission undertake a programme review to support the development of a statistical geospatial framework in national statistical systems.
The report addresses the need to integrate geospatial information with statistics and other data; the programme review on developing a geospatial-statistical framework, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on behalf of the Statistical Commission; and the decision on the issue adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session, held from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (see E/2013/24, decision 44/101). It summarizes the consultations and deliberations leading to the recommendations and proposes points of discussion for the Committee of Experts.