

Coordination of United Nations Activities related to Geospatial Information Management



UNITED NATIONS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WORKING GROUP

THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT (4TH SESSION)

NEW YORK (2014)

UNGIWG introduction

- The United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG) is a voluntary network of UN professionals working in the fields of cartography and geographic information science.
- Since 2000 UNGIWG has been able to facilitate inter-agency cooperation and coordination on specific issues in the fields of cartography and geographic information science and to promote the use of geographic information within the United Nations System.

UNGIWG introduction

UNGIWG Aims to:

- Improve the efficient use of geographic information for better decision-making
- Promote standards and norms for maps and other geospatial information
- Develop core geospatial data to avoid duplication
- Build mechanisms for sharing, maintaining and assuring the quality of geographic information
- Provide a forum for discussing common issues and emerging technological advances

UNGIWG introduction

Modus Operandi:

- UNGIWG functions in a task-driven, goal-oriented and flexible manner
- The Chair or Co-Chairs : the focal point(s), elected by the voting members every two years
- UNGIWG works through:
 - Annual Plenary Meetings
 - Time-bound ad-hoc Task Groups (TG)
 - Long-term Special Interest Groups (SIG)

Activities on geospatial information management within the United Nations system

14th UNGIWG Plenary Meeting:

- Date: 14 to 16 May, 2014
- Location: United Nations Headquarters in New York
- Organized by: UNDSS and UNOOSA
- Participants: Fifty-seven (57) geospatial information experts from the UN entities, academic, government agencies and industry leaders
- Main discussions:
 - Collaboration with UN-GGIM
 - UNSDI action plan
 - Core Datasets
 - Satellite Data

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14th UNGIWG Plenary Meeting Resolutions:

- *Agreed* to build on the existing collaborative relationship with UN-GGIM and strengthen it. As an initial collaborative effort, the UNGIWG Secretariat prepared the report for the Fourth Session of Committee of Experts meeting and submitted the UNGIWG 14th Plenary meeting report as a background paper.
- *Agreed* to collaborate closely with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) Secretariat to foster increased geospatial data interoperability, one of the key focus areas by the UNGIWG community.
- *Agreed* that the UNSDI will from now on refer to the “United Nations Spatial Data Initiative”, as an indication of the refocused approach in implementing this project by building on collaboration and data sharing on a priority basis.
- *Agreed* to continue implementation of a United Nations Spatial Data Initiative (UNSDI) as a project within UNGIWG to further foster collaboration and improve geospatial data sharing within the United Nations System.
- *Agreed* that two Special Interest Groups: Core Datasets and Remote Sensing will continue their work in the upcoming period.

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Efforts in developing Core-Datasets

- **SALB datasets:** in reviving efforts to continue the development of SALB, DFS, DESA, ECA and OCHA are working closely to collect, update and maintain the SALB datasets; any external support (also through GGIM) in this effort is also welcome
- UNGIWG's **Core-Datasets Special Interest Group**

Efforts in improving shared access to very high resolution satellite imagery and global digital elevation model (DEM)

- Organized a join session with **UN-Space** during the UNGIWG Plenary Meeting
- **Special UNGIWG meeting (2103) for global high resolution DEM** organized by ITU and UNOOSA to identify possible ways for cost sharing and data sharing
- UNGIWG's **Remote-Sensing Special Interest Group**

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Efforts in developing UNSDI

- Refocusing UNSDI as a “**United Nations Spatial Data Initiative**” : focuses on data sharing and collaboration so that tangible outcomes can be achieved
- Creating a Task Group to establish a data sharing platform and to revisit the past data cataloging efforts
- Focusing on geospatial data interoperability among UNGIWG members

Collaboration, cooperation and coordination of geospatial activities with external partners, in the context of UNGIWG

Collaboration with UN-GGIM:

- Establishing a regular reporting process from UNGIWG to UN-GGIM
- Establishing a regular and closer interaction with UN-GGIM Secretariat

Coordination and collaborative efforts with other entities:

- Participating in regional GIS meetings: GSDI 14 and Africa GIS 2013 conference
- Continued active engagement between UNGIWG and OGC (Principal membership)
- Maintaining class A liaison status with ISO/TC211
- Other (GEO, CEOS, JBGIS etc.)

Points for Discussion

“Take note of this report, of the challenges and possibilities identified, and provide view or comments on the **elaboration of better coordination and clarifications of roles and responsibilities** in geospatial information management activities both within and outside the UN System”

“Consider means to concretely support the **SALB dataset development** through geospatial information provision, faster validation of the SALB dataset and other in-kind contributions”

“Consider supporting the UNGIWG efforts in **building up its authoritative global geospatial datasets** (Core Datasets), to further address operational requirements”