



**UN-GGIM**

## **4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee of Experts on UN-GGIM SIDE EVENT**

### **Legal and Policy Workshop**

**Tuesday, 5 August 2014, 16:00-17:45  
UN Headquarters, New York, Conf. Room B**

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#### **Objectives**

Participants will obtain an overview of current and emerging legal and policy challenges facing geospatial information. A number of expert panelists will discuss some of these challenges, the International Bar Association's (IBA) proposed Convention on Geoinformation, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) approach to data sharing, and national approaches to legal and policy developments impacting geospatial information management.

#### **Organizers**

The workshop is being coordinated by the UN-GGIM Secretariat and the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy.

#### **Workshop Outline**

- 1. Introductions and overview of legal and policy challenges***  
*Mr. Kevin Pomfret, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, USA*
- 2. Overview of the Convention on Geoinformation***  
*Mr. Kevin Pomfret, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, USA*
- 3. GEO's efforts to address legal/policy issues in international data sharing***  
*Ms. Barbara Ryan, GEO Secretariat Director, Geneva*
- 4. National perspectives on legal and policy challenges in geoinformation management***  
*Mr. Peter ter Haar, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom*
- 5. Open Data initiatives***  
*Mr. Robert Deakin, Geospatial Custodian, Land Information New Zealand*
- 6. Questions and interactive discussion***

***"This is an open workshop and all Session Attendees are invited"***



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## Format

The workshop will be moderated with a panel of 3-4 speakers. Each speaker will speak for 10 minutes. This will be followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

## Background

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has noted the importance of legal and policy frameworks that promote, facilitate and enable the use and dissemination of geospatial information at the national, regional, and global levels.

There continues to be a number of emerging developments around the globe that are having an impact on the authority of these legal and policy frameworks. These developments relate to **privacy concerns, open data initiatives, regulation of remote sensing satellites, and the proliferation of UAVs around the world for commercial use**. In addition, the International Bar Association (IBA) continues to promote the adoption of its proposed **Convention on Geoinformation**.

The UN-GGIM Secretariat and the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy have monitored these important developments and have had discussions with both the IBA and the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) on these issues, and will discuss these in detail at this workshop.

## Expected Outcomes

The following workshop outcomes are envisaged:

1. Participants discuss and consider what role UN-GGIM should play regarding the IBA's efforts to have the Convention on Geoinformation adopted.
2. Participants provide recommendations on how UN-GGIM should work with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to address legal/policy issues that impact international sharing of geospatial information.
3. A discussion on future steps UN-GGIM should take to keep the Member States informed on legal and policy developments that could impact the collection, use, storage and distribution of geospatial information.

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